

**Association of Asia Pacific GDLN Centers
Governing Committee Meeting
Videoconference: May 6, 2010**

**Canberra, 11.00; Tokyo, 10.00; Ulaanbaatar, 9.00; Hanoi and Jakarta, 8.00; Colombo, 6.30,
Washington DC, 21:00 (May 5th, 2010)**

Governing Committee members:

Present: Maree Tait, Sunjidmaa Jamba, Phil Karp, Ryu Fukui, Nizam, Sri Lanka Distance Learning Center Ltd. represented by Shalika Subasinghe

Others present:

Ivia Martinez, GDLN Asia Pacific Organization and Development Coordinator
Didi Rustam, Nizam's proxy
Arist Caruana, GDLN Asia Pacific Treasurer

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 9.00 GMT/UTC + 08:00 by acting Chairperson: Sunjidmaa Jamba.

GDLN Asia Pacific Professional Management Program: Capacity Building Workshop for Distance Learning Centers

- Following a request from the Indonesia participants, the workshop's length has been reduced by one day and will be conducted from June 23rd to the 25th
- As of May 6th, there are 42 participants in total. 37 participants from Indonesia including GDLN Indonesia (INHERENT + DLCs), Ministry of Finance, and ASEAN; and 5 expressions of interest from other DLCs in the region including South Asia (2 Timor Leste, 1 International Poverty Reduction Center, China and 1 from Ho Chi Minh City) for a total of 42 potential participants as of May 6th. The registration deadline is May 15th.
- A draft program has been distributed to managers and key staff in the region and the workshop's content is being developed in a consultative manner, taking into consideration the needs of all participants. The content will be shared with the GDLN Global Secretariat for comments and possible inputs prior to the workshop.
- A request was made to use the workshop as an opportunity to learn more about INHERENT operations and affiliates, given the interest of many international partners in delivering programs in Indonesia, and to inform the Governing Committee after the workshop.

Requirement of a Thai Director to the GDLN Asia Pacific Foundation

- As per the Governing Committee's request, the solicitors working to establish GDLN Asia Pacific as a Foundation in Thailand were consulted on three topics: the Thai Government's one-off versus potentially recurrent requirements that are not specified by the law, the possibility of Foundation holding operations outside of Thailand, and the ease of transferring funds to and from the GDLN Asia Pacific bank account once it is opened.
- In the solicitors' opinion, adding requirements that are not specified by the law is a recurrent behavior of Thai Government Officers. Dr. Pimrumpai Premssmit, ex Governing Committee

member and Chulalongkorn University colleague, was also asked to comment on this topic and she deferred to the solicitors' opinion.

- The solicitors' feedback regarding the GDLN Asia Pacific Foundation holding operations outside of Thailand was: "the Foundation can hold operations outside of Thailand as long as they are operations along the objectives' of the Foundation. Of course, this would have to be dependent on the rules and regulations of the overseas country."
- In regards to the ease of transfers of funds they added the following: "Please be advised that the restriction and requirement regarding financial transfers between the Foundation's future bank account and other countries is under the Exchange Control Act. Subject to the Exchange Control Act, the fund transfers to public for donation are allowed up to USD 1 million per person per year for each purpose and any person purchasing, selling, depositing, or withdrawing foreign currencies with an authorized financial institution in an amount USD 20,000 or above shall be required to report such foreign exchange transactions to the authorized financial institution in the form as prescribed by the Competent Officer."
- Governing Committee members were also informed that Dr. Pimrumpai Premssmit indicated that she would be willing to become a Director of the GDLN Asia Pacific Foundation.
- After hearing all these updates, some Governing Committee members and Directors expressed the desire to move forward with the nomination of Dr. Pimrumpai Premssmit as the Thai Director and continue the Foundation's registration process. Other members and Directors expressed that perhaps it would be prudent to obtain additional information about the financial transferability risk related to the future GDLN Asia Pacific bank account before deciding whether to further progress the registration process in Thailand.
- Governing Committee members agreed to obtain additional information regarding the ease of transferring funds to and from the future GDLN Asia Pacific bank account. Members expressed that they would like this assessment process and decision take no longer than two months and that it should be completed before considering any other potential locations for the headquarters. The information on financial transferability risk will be gathered and reported back to the Committee during their next meeting.
- The second document that had been requested by Governing Committee members describing current versus planned roles of GDLN Asia Pacific and current costs of running the GDLN Asia Pacific secretariat (March 29th meeting) is being developed and will be circulated to Governing Committee members before their next meeting.

GDLN Asia Pacific member to the GDLN Global Board

- WBI management has approved the GDLN Global Steering Committee's proposal to, amongst other points, move forward with a GDLN Global Secretariat and Global Board. The Global Board will be composed of six members from the WB, a Chairman with a strong advocacy role, and six members representing each of the GDLN regions.
- GDLN Asia Pacific has been asked to elect its member to the Global Board by the end of May, with the view of it becoming an example to other regions on how the election process could be conducted.
- As per the Governing Committee's request, Maree Tait, the current GDLN Global Steering Committee member from GDLN Asia Pacific, had circulated the Steering Committee's proposal explaining the roles and responsibilities of the Global Board amongst Governing Committee members.
- Phil Karp participated in a meeting of GDLN Regional Coordinators where the topic of membership to the GDLN Global Board was discussed. Two agreements were reached: that the initial term for each GDLN Global Board member should be one year and that the nominees would be proposed as individuals rather than representatives of an institution.

- Ryu Fukui requested additional details on the composition of GDLN Global Board members from the World Bank before making a decision.
- Phil Karp commented that composition of the World Bank members to the GDLN Global Board has not been finalized yet, although the general direction is to select three people from the World Bank and three from outside the World Bank and the GDLN Regional Coordinators.
- In regards to moving forward with a nomination, Phil noted that during the GDLN Asia Pacific Regional Meeting in Manila, the membership agreed that the nominee from the GDLN in the East Asia and Pacific region should be a member of the Governing Committee. He also commented that in his opinion and since there is a tight deadline, the Governing Committee would be authorized to make a nomination on a no objection basis from the GDLN Asia Pacific membership.
- Phil Karp nominated Maree Tait as the GDLN Global Board member representative from the GDLN in the East Asia and Pacific region.
- There were no objections to this nomination and at the end of the May 6th GDLN Asia Pacific Governing Committee meeting Maree Tait accepted the nomination.

South Asia member to the GDLN Asia Pacific Governing Committee

- The South Asia GDLN region has agreed that the Sri Lanka DLC Ltd. as an organization will be their member to the GDLN Asia Pacific Governing Committee.
- The Sri Lanka DLC Ltd. will be the representative until such time that the GDLN South Asia region decides differently.

Sri Lanka regional meeting dates

- During the GDLN Asia Pacific regional meeting in Manila, Philippines the Sri Lanka DLC kindly offered to host the next regional meeting. The dates proposed to host the meeting were: October 18-22, 2010.
- Governing Committee members responded favorably to the proposed dates. DLCs and affiliates in the region were consulted on those dates via an email sent on the discussion list. We received three favorable responses and no objections by the response deadline of April 23rd.
- However, after that first email was sent, the Governing Committee was alerted to the likelihood of GDLN Asia Pacific's involvement in a high-profile activity in late October which will probably occupy time and resources of several of our affiliates.
- Therefore, the Sri Lanka Distance Learning Center, Ltd. has proposed new dates for the meeting. The week of November 15th as the first option and the week of November 8th as the second option.
- An email will be sent out to the GDLN Asia Pacific membership via the discussion list to ask if the week of November 15th is suitable.

Next meeting: Date to be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 11.00 GMT/UTC + 08:00.