

**Association of Asia Pacific GDLN Centers  
Governing Committee Meeting  
Videoconference: August 4, 2009  
Canberra and Tasmania, 11.30; Tokyo, 10.30; Bangkok and Jakarta, 8.30; Colombo,  
7.00; Washington D.C., 21.30 (August 3)**

**Governing Committee members:**

Present: Phillip Karp, Maree Tait, Dr. Pimrumpai Premssmit, Nizam

Apologies: Ryu Fukui

**Others present:**

Shalika Subasinghe, Distance Learning Center Ltd, Sri Lanka

Nishantha Kamaladasa, Distance Learning Center Ltd, Sri Lanka

Elizabeth Ingram, Training Coordinator, GDLN Australia

Eiko Wataya, Program Coordinator, Tokyo Development Learning Center

Lucy King, Deputy Manager, Tokyo Development Learning Center

Mirei Nishimura, Program Assistant, Tokyo Development Learning Center

Ivia Martinez, GDLN Asia Pacific Organization and Development Coordinator

**Proceedings:**

Meeting called to order at 11.50 AET by acting Chairperson: Maree Tait.

*Request from Ministry of Finance, Indonesia*

The Ministry of Finance's Finance Education and Training Agency Secretariat has sent a letter to the GDLN Asia Pacific Governing Committee expressing their interest to become a GDLN Affiliate and to explore possibilities of collaboration in the areas of training and education, locally and internationally. The Ministry of Finance has requested that a center is set up before a new cabinet is formed in October 2009.

- Nizam has clarified that they propose to finance the investment, and that initially they seek to know if the existing infrastructure will be technically compatible with the GDLN.
- Phil has requested input from the Lead Economist at the World Bank Jakarta office, focusing on synergies with ongoing Bank projects.
- The Governing Committee has requested further clarification of MOF's expectations of availability of content and timeline. Phil will follow up with Rimta and Nizam to obtain this clarification.

*World Bank sectoral programs*

The Governing Committee requested an update on the World Bank's 2009-10 fiscal year process to identify, develop and allocate sectoral programs involving the GDLN.

- Phil indicated that the processes to identify and develop sectoral programs is being reviewed by the Bank.
- He will give a presentation in Washington DC summarizing the 2008-09 fiscal year experience and report back to the Governing Committee. His presentation will recommend that the 2009-10 programs focus on:
  - ASEAN priority areas
  - Dissemination of major regional flagship programs, Analytical and Advisory Activities' reports including education, health, and others.
  - Work of 'practice groups' in the East Asia region evolving from activities such as Disaster Risk Management, Financial Crisis, Climate Change, Environment, and a few others.
- Also, he mentioned that the budget allocation is 50% more than last year's and that there should be approximately six programs with allocated funding.
- Governing Committee members expressed an interest in assisting with the allocation process in the region.

#### Payment of Thai solicitor's invoice

The Thai solicitors helping establish the GDLN Asia Pacific as a legal entity in Thailand have invoiced the World Bank for handing in the application for the GDLN Asia Pacific to be established as a Foundation to the Thai Government. The solicitors currently hold the GDLN Asia Pacific start-up capital of 400,000 Baht in their escrow account on behalf of the GDLN Asia Pacific. The proposal is for them to deduct the invoiced amount from the escrow account.

- Governing Committee members agreed that the main responsibility resides with the GDLN Asia Pacific and that there is payment capacity, therefore a request will be made for the solicitors to deduct the amount from the escrow account.

#### Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore

- The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy has confirmed their interest in being part of the GDLN Asia Pacific and regret that they were unable to join the General Meeting in Mongolia.
- They have been informed that there is interest in collaborating with them on a program with Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka DLC will follow up with the School.
- For the time being we will continue engaging the School in discussions and programs.

#### Follow up items from Mongolia meeting

## A. Clarification of working groups: GDLN AP MIS and GDLN Global Operations

### *GDLN AP MIS:*

- This is the first working group proposed in Mongolia and during the TDLC Technology Update session.
- Le Vu has circulated a draft concept paper which will be the basis for a TOR and the formation of a working group looking into practical and systematic ways to manage work programs, projects and to mitigate risks in the region by strengthening control and accountability mechanisms.
- The working group will lay out practices and options to consider in the design and implementation of MIS. The working group will look into the possibility of expanding (Xytech Systems' array) of Web services to meet GDLN Asia Pacific's business needs including (i) workflow/project management, (ii) accounting, (iii) resource scheduling, (iv) asset management (v) DLCs portals etc., and to recommend a way that could enable easy access over the Internet for DLCs and external affiliates' use, and/or new applications to be developed to support GDLN Asia Pacific operation.
- The Governing Committee proposed the following next steps:
  - That the TDLC confirms if Le Vu can continue leading the group.
  - That the working group consists of four to five members, amongst them: one World Bank co-located DLC, one non World Bank co-located DLC, one GDLN South Asia DLC, one World Bank Information Solutions Group (ISG) representative, and one GDLN Secretariat representative.
  - That the working group lead presents his/her recommendations for group composition to the Governing Committee during their next meeting.
  - That the selected members of the working group develop a Terms of Reference document.

### *GDLN Global Operations:*

- This is the second working group proposed in Mongolia. It is being temporarily referred to as "GDLN Global" or "GDLN Global Operations" and was proposed during the GDLN Global session and by Han Fraeters.
- The group will be led by Rama from the GDLN Global Secretariat. Three members of GDLN Asia Pacific and one member from the GDLN South Asia Region were nominated in Mongolia to be part of the group.
- Among its proposed areas of work, the following were mentioned either during the meeting in Mongolia and afterwards via email:
  - GDLN infrastructure, operating procedures, information management.
  - Collaboration between DLCs, extranet, distribution lists, communication materials.
  - Use Africa and AADLC as models or apply learning.

-Look into whether a shared Asia Pacific /South Asia communication platform, in content and technical realization, should be global or 2-regional in nature.

-Establishment of a 'collaboration' website. Start with aggregating all contact information.

- Governing Committee members commented that the work areas were broad, that they could apply to all regions, and that therefore this could potentially influence the working group member composition.
- The Governing Committee proposed the following next steps:
  - To ask Han Fraeters for an indication of the Terms of Reference for this working group and how he would prefer the designation of members to be.

#### B. GDLN Asia Pacific 10% charge models and procedures

- Regional program discussions during the Mongolia meeting generated several questions regarding the GDLN Asia Pacific 10% charge.
- Ivia is drafting a document that explains the 10% GDLN Asia Pacific charge on regional programs to Lead DLCs.
- Governing Committee members will review the document before its dissemination to Lead DLCs.

#### C. Governing Committee's role and regional programs

A draft 'Regional Program Data Sheet' to be completed by each Lead DLC for each existing and new regional program has been sent to Governing Committee members for review. The data sheet currently includes a section for a program assessment by the Governing Committee. The Committee discussed its role in relation to regional program assessment.

- The Governing Committee agreed that it will not approve or decline regional program proposals. The regional programs' list is reviewed during regional meetings and revisions to the list are made by consensus with the entire membership.
- The Governing Committee will monitor the progress of regional programs through time, this includes but is not limited to, tracking the 10% charge to the GDLN Asia Pacific.
- The Governing Committee will assist Lead DLCs with major challenges related to their regional programs.

#### D. Regional program Lead DLC designations: (This item will continue to be discussed at the next Governing Committee meeting.)

- GDLN Australia gave a progress update to the Governing Committee on its new regional programs.

- Both programs: ‘Blended Learning Courses for Small and Medium Enterprises’ and ‘GDLN Asia Pacific Professional Management Program’ will be co-lead by GDLN Australia and the VDIC. The collaboration with VDIC, particularly on the GDLN Asia Pacific Professional Management Program, is related to Linh’s proposed lead role in Mongolia for GDLN Asia Pacific capacity building programs.
- They will begin planning for the GDLN Asia Pacific Professional Management Program by developing a survey of capacity building needs of DLCs in the region. This survey will be circulated amongst Governing Committee members prior to the next meeting.
- Lead DLCs will continue to be invited to Governing Committee members to update on regional program progress.

**Next meeting:**

Date to be announced.

**Meeting adjourned at 13.00 AET.**