

**Association of Asia Pacific GDLN Centers  
Governing Committee Meeting  
Video Conference: August 08, 2012**

**Canberra and Sydney: 12 noon, Colombo: 7:30 AM, Dhaka: 8.00 AM, Hanoi: 9:00 AM,  
Seoul: 11:00 AM, Tokyo: 11:00 AM, Washington DC: 10:00 PM (Tuesday, August 07)**

**Governing Committee members:**

Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury  
Dr. Hye-Kyung Chung  
Mr. Phil Karp  
Mr. Tomoyuki Naito  
Ms. Linh Nguyen

**Apologies:** None

**Others present:**

Mr. Arist Caruana  
Ms. Maree Tait, Director, GDLN Asia Pacific (audio)  
Mr. Nishantha Kamaladasa and Mr. Chanuka Wattagama

**Proceedings:**

Meeting called to order at 11:00 JST by Chairman: Mr. Tomoyuki Naito.

**Agenda:**

*DLC-Sri Lanka' proposal to refine the Regional Programs*

- As a follow up to the discussion at the Shanghai GDLN Regional Meeting, DLC-Sri Lanka has presented a proposal to further structure and refine the regional programs offered by the centres. Some of the programs offered and discussed in Shanghai were not fully developed. They would benefit from refinement and provision of additional details prior to delivery. DLC-Sri Lanka has listed the important common parameters in a checklist.
- Benefits of having this arrangement is three fold.
  1. It provides a checklist for program organizers.
  2. Easy reference to recipients.
  3. Ensures the success of the programs.
- This checklist should be filled by each centre that plans to offer a program. Once done, it will be published on the web. The information need not be complete. The centres can present whatever they can and fill the rest later.
- The Governing Committee principally agreed to the idea. This is subject to further improvements of the checklist. Following are the suggestions:
  - It should be possible to input information in piecemeal and not all at once because of the practical difficulties faced when designing programs.
  - Language/structural changes: For example, the checklist numbers 3 and 19 looks similar. They may be combined. Similarly the checklist numbers 6, 8, 9 and 15 can be combined as they all are related to the schedule.

- Terminology, which may not be clear to all should be modified and/or definitions should be provided.
- As the programs are different and some information is not relevant for some programs, the information should be sought under two categories: mandatory and optional. In some cases only limited information can be published on the web with a contact number for those who show an interest to call.
- Information on the cost of programs (to recipients) should be included. This can be grouped with item no. 7 in the checklist
- Clarification for the term ‘Business Model’ is given by DLC-Sri Lanka. This means whether a program is fully sponsored, partially sponsored (‘Cost Sharing’) or fully marketable (the cost is covered fully by the participant fees) The business model is to be decided by the centres in consultation with the partners, including World Bank.
- The information can be published at both GDLN AP and Global AP Ning sites. It was suggested to publish only in the GDLN AP site for the moment, as expanding the audience can create other issues regarding offering them across different time zones and co-ordination. This is not intended to discourage cross-regional programs, but to avoid misunderstandings. Distinction between regional/global programs should be noted. Perhaps the AP group in the Ning site can be used. In case of some programs, only limited information is adequate. Contact details of the relevant centres can be published for the benefit of those who want to receive more details about those programs.
- DLC Sri Lanka has to do the follow-ups (preferably within 2 weeks):
  - Do the required changes to the checklist
  - Get the Governing Committee approval
  - Circulate it among all AP members for comments.
  - Finalise the document and share it with the centres
- All Governing Committee members are requested to provide input.

*GDLN Asia Pacific Regional Meeting – update by the host Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury*

- Mr. Choudhury has discussed with his colleagues at BRAC University regarding the venues and dates. Week starting from January 7, 2013 appears to be the best. Suggested dates are during the time period of January 8-12. BRAC University prefers to have the meetings for three days from January 8-10 and reserve the last two days, apparently the weekend in Bangladesh, for excursions. Advantage of this arrangement is participants can reach their homes before Monday. BRAC University is free for this period and the staff is relatively free.
- As for venues, three possibilities were proposed. All belong to BRAC University. One is the BRAC university site within Dhaka and the other two are rural – each about 20 km from the city. Video conferencing facility is available only in the Dhaka venue, so Mr Choudhury’s suggestion is to have the final sessions there. BRAC University’s own hotel is 500 m from university. Accommodation can be provided at all three places with reasonable cost. If there is still a space issue, nearby guest houses are available. Mr. Choudhury prefers the decision about the venues be taken collectively.
- It was noted that January is typically too close to Chinese New Year, but in 2013, the New Year falls in mid-February. So no problem with the dates.

- Mr. Choudhury seeks quick confirmation on the dates/venues as the rural and city centres are to be reserved early. It can be hectic with many planning to have their events in this lull period.
- Meeting planning will be disrupted during the Christmas holidays – few weeks before the event. Early planning is suggested to avoid last minute difficulties.
- Mr. Choudhury sees no problem with logistics. They will be taken care by BRAC University. There will be no language problems. English is widely spoken. Each delegate will be assigned a university student to take care of him/her for the full period.
- Mr. Phil Karp suggested, as per past practice, a Planning Committee be constituted comprising of Governing Committee member and others to collectively decide on the nuts and bolts including the dates/venues.

Mr. Philip Karp reporting on his meetings in Bali on knowledge hubs

- The meeting was jointly organised by the Government of Indonesia, the World Bank, JICA and UNDP and from July 9-11 in Bali. It was an interesting attempt to pursue the knowledge exchange agenda particularly within the middle income countries. It was well attended – close to 300 participants, about half from Indonesia. Aside from the Indonesian delegates, East Asia was not as highly represented as other regions . There were presentations from other regions like Africa and Latin America. The discussion was primarily on knowledge exchange – institutional arrangements, financing modalities, ownership etc. It appears Indonesia plans to play a key role in this initiative.
- There was a tentative arrangement to have this annually. Several countries including South Africa have expressed interest to host the next meeting. GDLN AP should explore possibilities of partnering with this initiative

Other Issues

- As agreed in a Governing Committee meeting, DLC-Sri Lanka is to draft an announcement on the transfer of the secretariat functions to be distributed to the AP membership. DLC-Sri Lanka will draft this letter and share with Governing Committee members before sharing it with AP membership.
- DLC-Sri Lanka is also to follow up with the DLC-Philippines regarding the programs they plan to offer.
- Mr. Choudhury: If any delegate wants to stay on his/her own in Bangladesh after the planned Dhaka regional meeting BRAC University will assist them.
- The roster of Chair of GDLN-AP meeting in the following order: Mr. Phil Karp, Mr. Tomoyuki Naito, Ms. Linh Nguyen, Dr. Hye-Kyung Chung and Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 JST.

**Next meeting:** To be announced.