

**GDLN Asia Pacific Regional Meeting: Dhaka, Bangladesh**  
**Agenda Planning Group**  
**Video & Audio Conference: October 22, 2012**  
**Colombo, 7:30; Dhaka, 8.00; Hanoi, 9:00; Seoul, 11:00; Tokyo, 11:00;**  
**Washington D.C., 22.00 (Sunday, October 21)**

**Agenda Planning Group members:**

Present: Mr.Phil Karp, Mr.Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Dr.Hye-Kyung Chung, Mr.Juan Blázquez(Audio), Mr.Nishanta Kamaladasa, Mr.Chanuka Wattegama, Ms.Linh Nguyen, Ms.Catherine Shin, Ms.Asako Sato, Mr.Tomoyuki Naito

**Proceedings:**

Meeting called to order at 22.00 EST October 21, by acting Chairperson: Mr.Phil Karp.

**Agenda:**

**GDLN Asia Pacific Regional Meeting**

*Logistics update:*

- Meeting dates have been finalized as January 8-10, 2013 for the Conference with the excursion on the afternoon of January 11, Friday – a holiday in Bangladesh. The venue will be BRAC University premises in Dhaka.
- The regional meeting's 'announcement' had been developed by the KDI School and was distributed via the GDLN Asia Pacific Discussion list by BRAC University.  
(Done on October 14)
- The Conference will be held in the School of Public Health at BRAC University. Hotels will also be located in BRAC University premises in Dhaka for convenient transportation.
- BRAC University will work with the issue of visas. There is a template made for visa letters that can be forwarded to anyone who needs it.
- BRAC University will need to make sure the venue can connect through VC.

*Regional meeting agenda:*

- Updated by BRAC University(Mr.Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury)
  - BRAC University will figure out who will be the guest at the opening session. Also, the local World Bank Country Director will be invited.
  - Possible resource person: Chief Economist from the local World Bank, and resource persons from BRAC University who can talk about third world education problem and how ICT can help in facilitating development in this region.
  - BRAC University will devote an evening to displaying Bangladesh's culture, with BRAC University's Culture Club performing songs and dances, followed by dinner.
  - BRAC University proposes reserving The-the afternoon of the 10<sup>th</sup> ~~will be aas~~ BRAC day, which ~~will involves-include~~ a series of presentations on rural education, mass education, microfinance, e-education, ~~Blacknet~~BRACnet, and management of large NGOs.
  - TDLC suggested that as Bangladesh is famous for donor coordination, ~~so~~ maybe donor communities can be involved in the meeting.
  - BRAC University will invite other centers to present their experiences, such as KDI School on e-learning. They ~~ean-suggested get-inviting~~ each GDLN member to send in a proposal of what each center is working on and would like to present. From that, the planning committee will make a selection for what can be presented at the meeting. Sites that wish to do so could propose a resources person to present at the Regional Meeting. It is necessary to keep in mind

- that the World Bank most likely will not have the resources to cover costs, so affiliates should cover costs for their presenters. It is also vital to figure out how we can incorporate different topics in an organized and coherent, non-time-consuming way.
- *Suggestion of a program marketplace*
    - DLC-Sri Lanka will send out a request to affiliates to see whether they have programs they want to offer, or programs they wish to see offered in the AP region. It is crucial to keep themes focused on not too many areas, and then we will build a structure around it.
    - It is important to keep in mind that there are several new programs that have been suggested already that have not yet been implemented, so it will be important to allocate time it might not be the best idea to discuss new ideas at this point. Instead, time could be devoted to discussing updates on existing programs or any constraints that are keeping these programs from moving forward, in addition to possible discussion of new program proposals.
  - *South-South Knowledge Exchange*
    - Mr. Juan Blázquez has been talking to WBI about the possibility of providing one of their staff to deliver a work shop on S-S knowledge exchange. This would be based on the handbook on “The Art of Knowledge Exchange” which was distributed at the Shanghai regional meeting, delivering one of their speakers on knowledge exchange. It would be educational to see how they play a role in becoming implementers in knowledge exchange. Mr. Juan Blázquez will follow up on whether this training program has been confirmed.
  - *New Affiliation Strategy*
    - A fair amount of time, maybe half a day, will be devoted to discussing the new affiliation strategy. The affiliation strategy should be explained to everyone at the Regional Meeting. There will be a brainstorming session was suggested as a means of engaging affiliates in so that understanding at all affiliates understand the essence of the new strategy and thinking about future implementations.
    - It is necessary to ~~think~~ determine about how the AP region is going to accept new members and assess existing members. Applications or questionnaires will look at what potential affiliates expect from GDLN, and what they feel they can contribute. There is a suggested template for application for membership that came out of the Board Meeting. The aim is to have a concrete implementation plan by the end of the Regional Meeting.
  - It is suggested affiliates of our region discuss how we can vitalize GDLN activities with other agencies and development corporations that wish to be involved in the South-South network.
  - GDLN is continuing to change, so a possible topic is to discuss GDLN in a new role of knowledge brokering and how we can continue to be relevant and play a better role in the new environment.
  - Regional Meetings held in the winter usually handles the ~~governing~~ Governing Committee rotation. The effects that the new strategy ~~has~~ may have on the Governing Committee will also be discussed.

*Next steps:*

- Mr. Juan Blázquez will visit Bangladesh next week (Nov. 1) to see the potential sites and facilities, as well as hotels, and help make a decision.
- Dates for finalizing the programs: By Nov. 8, BRAC University and colleagues will figure out how many sessions will be held each day, and by Nov. 9-10, will figure out the presentations and discussion topics.
- BRAC University and Mr. Juan Blázquez will come up with a draft structure that the planning committee will then review.
- There will be another planning committee meeting perhaps in mid-November to determine specific speakers and moderators, and to aim for a much more finished agenda by the end of November.

Meeting adjourned at 12.05 Seoul time.

**Next meeting:** To be announced.