

**Association of Asia Pacific GDLN Centers
Governing Committee Meeting Agenda
Videoconference: October 12, 2007
Sydney and Canberra, 16:00; Bangkok, 13:00; Beijing, 14:00; Tokyo, 15:00**

Governing Committee members:

Present: Maree Tait, Madam Xuezhun Sun, Dr. Pimrumpai Premssmit, Ryu Fukui, Colin Lonergan, Phillip Karp

Apologies: None

Others present:

Ivia Martinez, Capacity Building Officer, EAP GDLN

Eiko Wataya, Program Coordinator, Tokyo Development Learning Center

Tianxiu Kang, WBI Program Assistant, World Bank Institute, World Bank Office, Beijing

Jiping Zhang, Senior Distance Learning Specialist, Tokyo Development Learning Center

Le Anh Vu, Senior Technical Advisor, Tokyo Development Learning Center

Terumi Hayashi, Assistant Coordinator, Tokyo Development Learning Center

Peter Yates, Training Officer, Australian National University DLC

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 16:00 AEDT by acting Chairperson: Colin Lonergan.

April 26, 2007 minutes approved on May 11, 2007.

Establishment of the GDLN Asia Pacific:

- A Memorandum of Understanding between the World Bank and the Chulalongkorn University is being reviewed by World Bank's legal department in Washington DC. This document describes the relationship between the parties and their mutual interest in establishing the GDLN AP.
- The Business Development Manager will be contracted via the World Bank as a Short Term Consultant (STC) for a maximum of 150 days. Unfortunately, it is quite unlikely that the preferred candidate (Ms. Montira Narkvichien) will be able to travel to the Chongqing meeting since the contract has yet to be signed and there would probably not be sufficient time to arrange her visa and travel. To clarify the question raised in regards of why an STC and not an Extended Term Consultant: This was considered in Washington DC when discussing recruitment options but an STC was favored because of a faster recruitment process (compared to an ETC).
- The World Bank has funds to honor the \$100,000 for the establishment of the GDLN Asia Pacific, but it would be difficult to add to this amount in upcoming fiscal years. Thus, as soon as the Business Development Manager starts the income needs to flow. Perhaps at the Chongqing meeting we will need to propose that the DLCs begin putting aside the 10% from regional activities' income, and then later on when the GDLN AP has a bank account, transfer it over.
- We have begun the World Bank's econsult process for contracting the legal firm in Bangkok. To clarify the question raised in regards to "Association" vs .

“Foundation”: “Association” is part of the original name given to the GDLN Asia Pacific (“GDLN Asia Pacific Association”). There are two structure options for a tax-free legal entity that might suit us in Bangkok: Association and Foundation. Both structures have to be approved by the Legal Section of the Revenue Department and then by the Ministry of Finance. After carefully reviewing the “Charter of The proposed Association of Asia Pacific GDLN Centers”, three legal advisors recommended the most appropriate structure for setting up the proposed organization in Thailand would be a Foundation. The main reasons for not recommending the Association structure were: membership fees will not be procured from members, the “development” nature of the GDLN and the proposed organization’s activities. (Associations in Thailand require membership fees and are normally set up in the interests of its professional members.) If set up as a Foundation, the word “Foundation” must be part of the organization’s name and the name cannot be a trade name or trademark.

Report of GDLN meetings in Washington, D.C.:

- Meeting with Sarah Cliff, Director, Office of the Regional East Asia and Pacific Vice Presidency: Sarah has replaced Jeff Guttman in the World Bank (this is the #2 position to the East Asia and Pacific Vice President and both Ryu and Colin report directly to her). She was interested in challenges the GDLN is currently facing and has commissioned two reports: one on the challenges of Bank co-located DLCs and another on the best computer-based system for Bank Task Team Leaders to access the GDLN.
- Meeting with James Adams, Vice President East Asia and Pacific region and Sector Directors (same level as Country Directors): Sonya Woo led a review of the eight EAP sector-based pilot initiatives that were endorsed last year for implementation and dissemination through the GDLN. The VP concluded that it was clear that the pilot programs were successful in substantially increasing the effectiveness of the region’s dissemination and consultation processes. He also indicated that his preference is to scale up the proportion of large analytic pieces to be disseminated systematically and cost-effectively by using the GDLN.
- These are excellent news but the region had some difficulties with the initial 8 pilot activities. It seems that this number will increase, so, “How do we ensure a 5-star service?” (a relevant question to pose to the region at the Chongqing meeting). The region will need to focus on the delivery and scaling up in different areas. Another point to consider is that the Bank’s dissemination work will need to balance with other DLCs interests, especially those DLCs not co-located with Bank offices.

Arrangements for Chongqing meeting:

- Logistics: So far 37 participants have registered. The Korea, Ho Chi Minh City and Singapore DLCs have not registered. Colin will look into this. South Asia DLCs are normally subsidized to attend to these types of activities, but since subsidies are not available, they will not be able to attend.
- Firms will be interviewed for interpretation services.
- There is a need for more VIP’s, a representative of Japan especially. Ryu will look into this.
- The updated business plan will be disseminated prior to the meeting.

Berlin meeting:

- The GDLN Secretariat is organizing a "Futures of GDLN"-type of workshop in conjunction with the Online Educa Berlin conference. The basic idea for the Futures of GDLN workshop would be to invite, besides the GDLN Management team, two Center Directors of each region to a two-day meeting on Nov 26-27 to an informal brainstorm about the global governance structure for GDLN.
- The objective of the meeting would not be to design a global governance structure for GDLN, but to collect ideas on how the process should look like that will lead us to such a governance structure.
- As a result of the workshop the group would come away with ideas for such a process, which would then be formulated into concrete proposals to be discussed globally in an e-discussion.
- Philip Karp has expressed interest in attending the conference and would not only represent the Government Committee but also a Bank co-located DLC. Dr. Pim and Maree will let Colin know which of the two will attend in addition to Phil (as a representative from a non-Bank co-located DLC).

Le Ahn Vu:

Mr. Le Anh Vu, former Director, Information Solution Group of the Bank, joined the TDLC as Senior Technical Advisor for nine months (Sep 2007 - May 2008). He will mainly focus on the following areas:

- (i) conduct a technical audit to assess TDLC's ICT environment and facilities and identify any gaps and provide recommendations in line with TDLC strategy for sustainability;
- (ii) lead creation of TDLC's ICT platform for 'knowledge services', looking into the infrastructure and applications, to build capacities in storing, using, reformatting/repurposing knowledge resources which are developed with content/program partners;
- (iii) help enhance local capacities of ICT officers/studio technicians within TDLC [where MCU, SINET, and bilingual codecs have been or about to be installed] and DLCs in GDLN AP to more autonomously administer the facility and operations, including maintenance and risk management, through training and technical advice; and
- (iv) contribute to cost effective solutions by reducing overall operating costs of services and improve efficiencies.

Next meeting:

Date to be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 17:30 AEDT