

**Association of Asia Pacific GDLN Centers
Governing Committee Meeting
Videoconference: March 5, 2009
Canberra and Sydney 16:00; Tokyo, 14:00; Beijing, 13:00; Bangkok, 12:00**

Governing Committee members:

Present: Maree Tait, Philip Karp, Dr. Pimrumpai Premssmit, Ryu Fukui
Apologies: Nizam

Others present:

Ivia Martinez, GDLN Asia Pacific Coordinator
Arist Caruana, GDLN Asia Pacific Treasurer
Le Vu, TDLC Senior Technology Officer

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 14:00 in Tokyo by acting Chairperson: Ryu Fukui.

TDLC technical update: GDLN Asia Pacific VC bridging hub:

- The announcement to the region regarding TDLC videoconferencing scheduling and bridging services has been postponed to March 16.
- The service hours of operations will encompass business hours in the EAP Region. TDLC will continue collaborating closely with NOC in Washington DC to ensure regional service needs are met on a 24-hour basis.
- Connectivity charge will be the same as with NOC. All cost details will be communicated to the region.
- Evaluation and assessment on performances of functions and services will be done in about three months after the commencement of services.

GDLN Asia Pacific regional meeting:

- The dates for the GDLN Asia Pacific General Meeting have been confirmed for June 29 – July 3 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. An announcement will be sent to the region shortly.
- The Governing Committee endorsed the proposal to include, as a key agenda item and objective for the meeting, greater integration of South Asian affiliates into GDLN AP programs and governance. The Committee will further discuss steps and modalities for formalizing such integration.

GDLN Asia Pacific legal establishment:

- The Governing Committee approved the transfer of GDLN Asia Pacific start-up funds from the Australian National University (ANU) to the United Solicitors

Limited escrow bank account for a fixed fee payable to the solicitors once the funds are transferred to the GDLN Asia Pacific bank account.

- Currently the requirements from ANU's finance department are being clarified in order to approve the transfer. Once the funds are in the solicitors' escrow account, the application to establish the GDLN Asia Pacific as a legal foundation in Thailand will be submitted.

Hanoi GDLN Asia Pacific Business Planning follow up:

- Online information-sharing and document generating tools have been considered and a recommendation will be emailed to the Governing Committee. These tools could be used to follow up regional programs agreed to during the Hanoi business planning session.

ASEAN update:

- The Pre and Post ASEAN Summit Dialogues were successfully conducted on February 20th and March 2nd in Jakarta and Bangkok, respectively. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan was very pleased with the outcomes and these activities served as proof of concept for ASEAN, especially from a technology perspective.
- The next step in the collaboration between ASEAN and GDLN Asia Pacific will focus on demonstrating value from a thematic perspective. It is expected that both organizations will work on a joint proposal. GDLN Asia Pacific will wait for ASEAN to formally communicate its feedback from the Pre and Post Summit Dialogues before proceeding.

GDLN Asia Pacific accounting software:

- In 2008 the Governing Committee approved the purchase of accounting software for the GDLN Asia Pacific. The purchase had been postponed until legal establishment of the GDLN Asia Pacific was close to being obtained (and therefore a bank account opened).
- Arist Caruana and Phil Karp met in late January 2009 and have recommended to proceed with the purchase. A review of the chosen software specifications will be done to ensure they still meet the needs of GDLN Asia Pacific. The procurement process for the software is also being clarified with the World Bank Bangkok office.
- The TDLC has purchased a management information system with accounting functions that might also be an option for the GDLN Asia Pacific. Le will forward the specifications of that system to Arist and Ivia will research its compatibility with Quickbooks.

Sectoral programs' update:

- Three sessions of the Disaster Risk Management sectoral program have been delivered and there are three more still to be implemented. This program has been successfully executed by the TDLC and has demonstrated knowledge exchange. There have been suggestions by the Task Team Leader regarding how to best capture the sessions' content.

- The Climate Change sectoral program is for World Bank staff only and is being managed by VDIC. The ASEAN Infrastructure sectoral program has been somewhat delayed but should start in April.
- The World Bank's EAP GDLN Regional Coordinator has held discussions with the World Bank EAP Vice President's office staff to consider the use of the GDLN in AAA work dissemination. There have also been discussions with the World Bank's Bangkok office to work closely with its Governance Hub.

Singapore Update

- Phil Karp reported on the WBI Vice President's recent visits to Tokyo and Singapore, during which GDLN programs were discussed with the respective Government authorities. He noted that as a result of the visit, as well as the recent signing an MOU between the World Bank and the Government of Singapore focused largely on knowledge cooperation, it appears likely that Singapore will become more active in GDLN in the near future.

Next meeting:

Last week of March.

Meeting adjourned at 16:00 Japan time.