

**Association of Asia Pacific GDLN Centers**  
**Governing Committee Meeting**  
**Videoconference: January 28, 2009**  
**Canberra 15:00; Tokyo, 13:00; Bangkok, 11:00, Jakarta, 11:00**

**Governing Committee members:**

Present: Maree Tait, Phillip Karp, Dr. Pimrumpai Premssmit, Ryu Fukui, Nizam  
Apologies: None

**Others present:**

Ivia Martinez, GDLN Asia Pacific Coordinator  
Eiko Wataya, Training Coordinator, Tokyo Development Learning Center  
Iain Mitchell, Studio Technician, Tokyo Development Learning Center  
Liz Ingram, Project Officer, GDLN-Australia

**Proceedings:**

Meeting called to order at 15:00 in Canberra by acting Chairperson: Phillip Karp.

*TDLC technical update: GDLN Asia Pacific VC bridging hub:*

- After a consultation process with some DLCs in the region, VC booking and billing procedures are almost complete. On the technical side, the TDLC has been working closely with the World Bank's Information Services Group (ISG) in Washington, D.C. and all is on track.
- A short criteria paper outlining TDLC's bridging hub services to the region will be circulated amongst Governing Committee members. Then it will be emailed to DLCs in the region. It is expected that the VC bridging hub services will be fully implemented by the end of February.
- For the time being, DLCs will continue to book their VCs via GEM with Roberta Lovatelli as the Service Coordinator. Roberta will decide on a case by case basis where the VCs will be bridged from (DC or Tokyo).
- The sustainability of TDLC staff providing all videoconference scheduling and technical services for GDLN Asia Pacific will continue to be assessed.

*GDLN Asia Pacific regional meeting: Location*

- The Governing Committee received two offers to host the next regional meeting: one by the AIM-WB DLC and another by the Mongolia DLC. In addition, the World Bank's GDLN coordination team raised the possibility of holding the meeting in Sri Lanka. After discussion, it was agreed to accept Mongolia's offer to host the next GDLN Asia Pacific regional meeting. The Mongolia DLC will advise of potential meeting dates. There will be future discussions about hosting other regional meetings in both the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

*GDLN Asia Pacific legal establishment:*

- The Thai Ministry of the Interior is requiring that the GDLN Asia Pacific start-up funds are deposited into a Thai bank account prior to accepting the application to establish it as a Foundation in Thailand. Therefore, the solicitors have offered to hold the funds in their escrow account for a fee of approximately \$58 USD per month.
- The Governing Committee agreed to this arrangement pending confirmation from the solicitors that they can accept a fixed amount of fees regardless of how long the application process takes, and that the fee can be paid upon transfer of the funds to the GDLN Asia Pacific account once it is opened.

*Hanoi GDLN Asia Pacific Business Planning follow up:*

- Online information-sharing and document generating tools are being considered and a recommendation will be presented to the Governing Committee. These tools could be used to follow up regional programs agreed to during the Hanoi business planning session.
- Ryu suggested that objectives and key items for information-sharing in regional programs are to be defined and shared so that the selection of adequate tools can be made swiftly.
- Maree reports that GDLN-Australia has held meetings with the GDLN Indonesia DLCs and progress has been made on the agreed regional programs.

*ASEAN update:*

- There is still interest from Dr. Surin Pitsuwan in exploring how the GDLN could be leveraged to expand ASEAN's pre and post Summit consultations (including reach and inclusion of community groups). GDLN Asia Pacific would only provide the technology and facilities. This activity would function as proof of concept for ASEAN. ASEAN has requested this service to be initially provided on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February.
- A different collaboration mode between ASEAN and GDLN Asia Pacific needs further discussion.
- Maree reports that as part of GDLN-Australia's meetings in Indonesia, potential areas of program development between ASEAN and the Indonesian DLCs were discussed.

*GDLN Asia Pacific staffing:*

- The Governing Committee agreed that the Business Development Manager role has to be reconfigured according to the needs of the organization and the region, and in light of the positions listed in the GDLN Asia Pacific Charter.
- The World Bank has agreed to continue supporting the GDLN Asia Pacific coordination role until March under the current arrangement. Post-March will need to be discussed.

- Phil noted that the World Bank is considering an Extended Term Consultant position to be locally hired by the World Bank Bangkok office to focus on Program Development.

*Madagascar Development Learning Center:*

- The Madagascar DLC is the newest in Africa and has expressed an interest to join GDLN Asia Pacific. The Governing Committee will explore this possibility based on the GDLN Asia Pacific Charter and also discussions with the GDLN Global Secretariat.
- Ryu emphasized a focus on business and activity development in collaboration with Madagascar DLC in parallel to the membership issue.

**Next meeting:**

Last week of February.

**Meeting adjourned at 13:00 Thailand time.**