

Partnership Agreement

between

The University of Southern Queensland

and

The Asia Pacific Global Development Learning Network

Preamble

The Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) contributes to the alleviation of poverty by supporting the development of lasting partnerships between governments, academia, think tanks, private sector, regional organizations and development partners, which lead to the creation and dissemination of knowledge. In pursuit of a management model that will lead to sustainable and developmentally effective regional GDLN, the East Asia and Pacific Region of the World Bank, primarily via the Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC), is supporting the establishment of a non profit regional association - "GDLN Asia Pacific", that will help manage the network. The World Bank and the Government of Japan will be major stakeholders in this new association.

The University of Southern Queensland (USQ) is a world leader in the development and delivery of distance learning programs. The USQ has a highly qualified and experienced team with access to sophisticated technological equipment which develops and manages distance teaching based courses. USQ has a large number of students from the region studying courses either on campus or by distance learning and is keen to contribute to the education and learning, and thereby development, in the region.

The USQ and the GDLN in the World Bank's East Asia and Pacific region have undertaken to work together to support the Asia Pacific GDLN.

Partnership Programs

The USQ and the World Bank's GDLN in the Asia and Pacific region, through the TDLC, have jointly agreed on a non-binding basis to undertake a range of collaborative programs as listed below:

1. Development and delivery of a significant blended learning course to the Pacific.

A blended learning GDLN program will be jointly developed and delivered by the USQ and TDLC. The program to be offered to the region will be identified following discussion with Distance Learning Center managers in the Asia Pacific region. The program will aim to meet regional development needs and also be one that generates interest amongst potential funding partners.

Once identified, Dr. Jiping Zhang from the TDLC will work with USQ experts in Toowoomba on the development of the program and later, Dr. Alan Smith will work with TLDC staff and partners in Japan to further develop and market the program. Dr. Zhang and Dr. Smith will oversee delivery of the program which will be formally reviewed. Depending on the outcome of the review consideration will be given to expanding the USQ/TDLC partnership into new business lines.

2. Regional Universities Building Research Infrastructure Collaboratively (RUBRIC)

RUBRIC focuses on the needs of smaller and regional Australian universities by providing a means for partner institutions to work in a structured framework to evaluate, trial and implement an institutional repository solution in a supportive environment; to collaborate on the development of better processes and tools; to act collectively and to develop the expertise that will be necessary to respond to emerging needs of the Research Quality and Accessibility Frameworks across universities. Whilst designed for University use it is likely the Rubric project will lead to systems and processes for a knowledge repository that would go some way in meeting the needs of the Asia Pacific GDLN by being adapted to become a "Knowledge Bank".

The USQ and GDLN will work with the Asia Pacific GDLN Distance Learning Centers to review options to use the outcomes of RUBRIC research as the basis of a regional "GDLN Knowledge Bank".

3. Integrated Content Environment (ICE)

ICE is a free open source content management system and authoring tool that USQ has developed and which is now used extensively within the University. It is likely this software can be used within the EAP region for the development of web-based material in a standardized format, for regional programs and other collaborative authoring needs within the region.

GDLN Asia Pacific, via Dr. Ravi Corea, will work with USQ experts to investigate ways in which the ICE system could be used by the GDLN within the region.

4. Provision of Content

The USQ has generously offered to provide on an opencourseware basis one or more of its Tertiary Preparatory courses to the region. GDLN Asia Pacific will work with USQ in making this offer known to the region and to develop strategies for it to become an on-going program.

5. USQ Outreach to Africa and the Pacific

The Bank's GDLN team including the TDLC will assist USQ in making their development assistance programs known throughout the region and to other regions of the world.

Review

This work program associated with this agreement will operate for 12 months from the date of signing and will be reviewed after 6 months.

Signed on



Professor Bill Lovegrove
Vice Chancellor and President
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