

FOR DISCUSSION- CASE STUDY 2

An Open Dialogue with World Bank Managers and Task Team Leaders

Client Objectives

The objective of the client, in this case study the World Bank (but could apply to any donor), is to strengthen the partnership element and strategic relevance of its research activities by engaging in an open and free ranging discussion with a wide range of interested parties on key issues in the initial consultation, research and dissemination phases of the activity.

Client Rationale for undertaking the initiative

Patterned after the successful experience of the Regional Economic Updates, the virtual format aims to allow individuals and organizations who are working to address similar development challenges (including engaged academics and graduate students, members of policy think tanks, government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector) the opportunity to access the knowledge of Bank Managers and TTLs, while also providing a useful mechanism for Bank staff to exchange experience, solicit informal feedback, strengthen analytical links with local experts and other change catalysts, stimulate demand for Bank products.

This process also aims to become a tool that can qualitatively measure of the effectiveness of the AAA work by documenting the people reached, feedback and changes that took place as a result of the consultation, and follow-up actions that were agreed.

Topics

Initial topics include:

- Corruption
- Etc etc

Proposed Format

Each month, a Manager or TTL will be convene and present on a specific topic. WB offices (for Bank staff) and DLCs (external audience) would be connected based on expressions of interest. An initial VC based dialogue will be held on each topic and depending on interest

Due to time zone differences, sessions may be videotaped and posted on the web for public access. The activity would also be featured as the “GDLN Story of the Week” and disseminated Bank-wide and to the wider GDLN community. Each session would follow a format of a 10-12 minute presentation on the fundamentals and key issues of a topic/project; followed by a 45-60 minute dialogue or Q&A.

Assumptions

- Six countries will be involved
 - In three countries (say Thailand, Vietnam (HCMC), and China (SNAI)) the DLCs operate separately from the Bank office.
 - In three countries (say PNG, Timor Leste and Mongolia) the Bank office and the DLC are collocated.
- There are three levels of service GDLN AP participating DLCs can offer
 - Level 1. As a venue that can be rented. The role of the DLC would be to host visitors that are nominated by the bank.
 - Level 2. As a convener and host of participants. Following general advice from the Bank and overall Bank coordination the DLC using its network would invite guests, brief the Bank on who is attending, moderate the session, ensure participants are well looked after and provide an evaluation report to the Bank coordinator at the end of each session.
 - Level 3. In addition to the services provided in Level 2 the GDLN AP will coordinate the event through a selected DLC. As such the overall DLC (and therefore coordination of externally participants) will be undertaken by a DLC which will also act as a one stop shop for the Bank.

Issues

This raises a number of issues:

- There is no real incentive for the Bank to use the DLCs as simply a VC venue (Level 1). They can just as easily invite people to the office and by so doing save on money. Using DLCs as part of the process will only become attractive to the Bank when there is value added from their participation.
- We need to ensure we cover costs in undertaking this exercise. But we also need to take care not to price ourselves out of the market.
- How do Bank collocated DLCs get paid for the work they undertake under contract to the Bank?