

Table 4 Features and Suitability of GDLN Blended Delivery Modalities

Type of Blending	Traditional F2F	F2F-based (ICT-enhanced Class or Conference) Blended Learning (BL)	VC-based BL; Distance Learning (DL)	e-Learning based BL; DL	Pure e-Learning DL
Location of Most Participants	Participants and resource person are in one location	One main location	Multiple locations (GDLN Centers, sites with VC facility), participant needs to travel to one of the locations at a certain date and time	Multiple locations (GDLN Centers, sites with VC facility), participant needs to travel to one of the locations at a certain date and time	Anywhere: home or office of participants, or anywhere with access to computer and web
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All activities are conducted Face-to-Face One instructor does all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most part of the program is delivered via F2F modality as most participants are gathered at one main venue VC is introduced to link remote speaker or participants to enrich learning resources and/or increase accessibility or publicity; e-Learning is used to improve communication and interaction, or facilitate group collaboration before and/or after the class or conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most contents of the program are delivered via VC to multiple sites Organizer at the initiating site sets up agenda, rules and leads the communication and interaction Local F2F activity at the site is led by local facilitator before and after the VC session e-Learning is used to provide more contents and expand communication and interaction, or assist group collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most contents are delivered to participants via e-Learning using computer and Internet A few VC sessions are used to enhance communication and interaction Local F2F activity led by local facilitator can be organized before or after VC, or other convenient time and location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major mode of learning is self-study of participants according to the pace set up by the instructor Email, discussion forum and/or online chat are set up for interaction
Features and Suitability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum human contact Limited access and flexibility Everybody is on the same pace and contents A lot of travel involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> F2F is the dominant mode, but enhanced by ICT Can make maximum use of the existing material of the program Minimum change of original design Can be the first step to try and gain experience of using ICT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closest to traditional learning among various distance learning modalities VC allows people meet F2F in distance Powerful tool to reach people in different locations and countries Can be the first step of converting an existing course to blended learning Also suitable for important, one shot event, some mandatory tasks to reach people in various locations urgently In circumstances that travel is prohibited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close to the e-Learning mode Add F2F human contact by VC and local activity to increase interactivity Can reduce drop-out rate of pure e-Learning Requires good e-Learning material Participants should be able to travel to a VC site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most accessible for participants anywhere Requires high quality e-Learning material, thus high investment on course development Requires online administration tool Possible high drop-out due to no human contact Suitable for mass audience
Major Scenarios with Real Example	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WBI flagship seminar in DC EAP regional seminar in Bangkok WB training course conducted in countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote speaker is linked by VC to enrich learning resources (AIM case) Speaker is traveling outside the venue Extra participants are linked by VC to benefit the session Sub-sites are linked by VC to main conference venue for observation or limited interaction Webcasting of important conference to reach public audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance learning of structured course (scale up of quality programs by reaching multiple sites) Distance learning of short seminar National, regional or global dialogue knowledge sharing among sites Discuss/disseminate urgent issue quickly and broadly (SARS, avian flu) Videoconference of people in difference places for various purposes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance learning of structured course (case of MFTOT) E-discussion of community of practice Collaboration of virtual group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance learning of structured course (case: WBI WebCT courses) E-discussion of community of practice (on-going)) (case: Air Quality Management) Collaboration of virtual group