Connecting the World through Learning
Movimientos

- Evite los movimientos rápidos
- No de la espalda a la cámara
- Sea expresivo y entusiasta
- Establezca contacto visual
- Hable naturalmente evitando subir el volumen de la voz
- Mantenga un tono de voz variado y no monótono
About GDLN

The Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) is a partnership of about 120 affiliates in more than 80 countries that provide access to hundreds of internet and videoconferencing facilities worldwide.

Affiliates include a wide range of public and private organizations—for example, the Asian Institute of Management, the Development Bank of South Africa, the Ethiopian Civil Service College, the Regional Information Technology and Software Engineering Center of Egypt, and Technológico de Monterrey. Every affiliate is capable of providing standard knowledge exchange services such as videoconferencing facilities and multimedia distance learning rooms, but they also possess other capabilities. Thanks to their close ties with several development actors, GDLN affiliates can provide quick and cost-effective connections between countries; provide advice on designing and implementing learning activities; and offer access to development-relevant content and expertise in a wide variety of subject areas. Each year, they put together about 1,500 learning and knowledge exchange activities globally, of which more than two-thirds can be characterized as South-South\(^1\) engagements.

In addition, GDLN’s access to both state and non-state actors allows it to provide multistakeholder knowledge exchange engagements. Clients can use GDLN-affiliated knowledge resources and GDLN’s communication facilities to design and organize face-to-face/videoconference/web-based knowledge sharing activities.

How we work

As a global platform for learning and knowledge exchange on development issues, GDLN operates on three levels:

- Providing the physical infrastructure (videoconferencing venues, computer, and multimedia facilities and internet access) for learning and knowledge-sharing activities in capital cities and in remote areas;
- Offering a broad set of advisory and implementation services (from needs assessments to the design, delivery, and evaluation of learning activities and products); and
- Providing access to a wealth of know-how and sector expertise through its renowned university and civil service education members.

Our clients and partners

Many national and multilateral development players use GDLN’s services and its well-established linkages—for example, the World Bank Group, regional development banks, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Increasingly, also, entities from the South—such as the Innovations Environnement Développement Afrique in Senegal, the Higher Education Commission in Pakistan, and the Ministry for Family Affairs in Nicaragua—use the network for knowledge exchange and capacity development programs, linking up with other Southern partners in their regions and around the world.

---

\(^1\) A South-South engagement is about sharing evidence-based knowledge between developing countries. These exchanges can lead to more sustainable development solutions and help strengthen local capacity.
GDLN in Action

GDLN offers a broad range of services and knowledge solutions, far too many to list here. A few examples illustrate the power and geographic reach of GDLN and provide a glimpse of how the network helps foster development through learning with tangible results.

Giving life to Tanzania Women’s Chamber of Commerce

In Tanzania, as in most of sub-Saharan Africa, girls systematically receive less schooling and grow up to be less literate adults; as women, therefore, they often encounter more obstacles in starting and sustaining businesses. To break through some of the obstacles for women entrepreneurs, the Tanzania Global Development Learning Center (TGDLC), located in Dar es Salaam, conceived and organized a training course that linked businesswomen from Tanzania, Kenya, and South Africa to expose them to opportunities in global trade. A cross-section of women from all three countries—small business owners, nonprofit leaders, trainers, and government policymakers—were invited to attend the knowledge exchange activity.

About 30 businesswomen participated in the learning program and exchanged experiences with their peers in other countries. TGDLC’s original idea of exposing women to opportunities in global trade led to much more: it helped create a watershed organization, the first-ever Tanzania Women’s Chamber of Commerce, empowering women and providing them access to finance, markets, and opportunities. More than 2,000 women have joined the Chamber, registered their businesses, and benefited from the community and knowledge exchange it provides. As one member said, “We have a better future, because when you network, you get markets, you get experience, you get success stories from different places.”

“We have powerfully skilled teams in every country,” explained Charles Senkondo, GDLN’s Representative in Tanzania. “They have networks. They have distribution systems. So with all this, they bring value to anybody who wants to share knowledge in development.”
Making a Difference in Pediatric Cardiac Care in Asia

In Vietnam, 1 out of 100 children is born with congenital heart defects. But there are not enough cardiac surgeons trained in the latest surgical techniques to treat newborns with complicated problems.

To address this issue, the VinaCapital Foundation, in collaboration with the World Heart Foundation and the Vietnam Development Information Center (VDIC) in Hanoi, Vietnam, has been sponsoring a training series that enables local doctors to learn from leading experts in cardio-thoracic surgery, cardiology, and pediatric cardiac care.

“The International Symposium for Cardiac Care Teleconference Training Series” was originally designed to improve capacity for cardiac care and cardiac surgery in Vietnam only. Through the VDIC, the program host realized the benefit of the GDLN’s outreach and decided to expand the program to connect doctors in other Asian countries.

Since the program was launched in November 2008, it has covered many useful topics in cardiac care. It is estimated that more than 700 doctors from Vietnam, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, and Indonesia have participated either at the GDLN centers or via webcast. With the help of GDLN, all lectures have been recorded and included in learning binders, which the World Heart Foundation has distributed to medical programs and libraries in many developing nations.

In December 2008, former President Clinton named the program a “Clinton Global Initiative,” praising it as a model health care program “which should be replicated” across the world.

“This program is really a valuable opportunity for us,” said one doctor who participated in several sessions. “We are learning from experts. They have helped us update our knowledge of techniques and methodologies when doing scientific research. Thanks to the format of the program, more people can participate, which is a good thing.”
Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change

Climate change is no longer an issue for the distant future. As the United Nations Secretary General has emphasized, climate change is the major, overriding issue of our time, causing crises in economy, health and safety, food production, security, and other dimensions—and its impact is only expected to grow.

Addressing climate change raises such complex issues as policy development, regulatory compliance, and implementation strategies. There is an acute need for widespread and specialized knowledge to address such issues, and for tools and opportunities to enable the involvement of a wider global audience.

GDLN Asia Pacific asked Delhi-based The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) to provide a global perspective in this field by developing a fee-based blended learning program. TERI, an autonomous, not-for-profit research institute that works on sustainable development, joined forces with Japan’s Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), the Tokyo Development Learning Centre (TDLC), and affiliates in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam to participate in this effort.

A team of over 25 resource persons from TERI and IGES developed the contents over a period of about 4 months. The result is a mix of integrated distance learning technologies with the following distinctive features:

- Self-paced e-learning modules comprising interactive academic articles, video-recorded lectures, animated illustrations, and simulation models. Quizzes and assignments help ascertain the participants’ learning and evaluate their performance at different stages.
- Six videoconference sessions spread throughout the program allow interaction among the participants and presentations from international experts. The videoconferences are web-cast live and also recorded for subsequent viewing by the participants.
- Moderated discussion forums, regular news updates, and similar interactive tools.
- Broad-based content and structural flexibility cater for a wide range of international participants—policymakers, development practitioners, corporate sector, graduates, and mid-level professionals.
On February 21, 2011, on-line registration opened with the goal of inducting about 100 participants. Within the first two weeks more than 350 participants registered for the course. However, to keep the course manageable, only the first 150 participants could be confirmed to participate. Feedback from participants has been very encouraging for the organizers. One of them noted:

"I am now in charge of downscaling climate change model in coastal mega-cities including Manila and Jakarta. Your module was very useful for me to think about the climate modeling."
Building a Virtual Community around Accounting Practices in Latin America and Caribbean

The international community recognizes that sound accounting and auditing practices are the cornerstone of a well-functioning market economy and an efficient public sector and, in turn, for equitable and sustainable economic development. In Latin America, the CReCER conferences (Spanish acronym of Accounting and Accountability for Regional Economic Growth) that began in 2007 were a groundbreaking first step in bringing together policymakers from across the region to discuss ways to improve reporting and management of corporate and public finances, share lessons learned, and interact with international experts in the fields of accounting and auditing.

By 2010, the success of the CReCER conferences and the rising demand for more opportunities to exchange information and cooperate beyond the conferences led to the creation of a CReCER Community of Practice (CoP). The GDLN Americas Foundation took on the task of creating the interactive virtual platform for CReCER. Today, nearly 400 policymakers actively blog, post local events, and share the latest news and resources. In addition, GDLN partners across the region host videoconference-based dialogues and group discussions that connect policymakers across countries around key topics in improving financial reporting and audit practices in the public and corporate sectors.

Commenting on the project, David Martinez, the Operations Policy and Country Services Officer in the World Bank’s Latin America and Caribbean Region said: "The CoP has allowed accountants and auditors in Latin America and the Caribbean the opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices more dynamically. They have strengthened the accounting profession in the Region which, in turn provided a platform to interact more regularly, maximizing the impact on accounting and auditing reforms."

The CReCER CoP has been instrumental in expanding access to information and disseminating good practices. It has built a broad base of support for CReCER’s work through collaborating with institutions across the region that would otherwise not have had the chance to participate in the conferences.
Addressing Labor Migration Issues in the CIS Countries

Every year, 10 million migrant workers are on the move in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), most of them heading to Russia. That is why labor migration is one of the important issues on the development agenda in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Region.

Since January 2009, migration practitioners from six CIS countries (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, and Tajikistan) have been working with the GDLN ECA team on a series of consultations to address the migrant worker issue. The objectives of the sessions were to review current migration policies and practices in, and the challenges faced by, sending and receiving countries; draw lessons from some countries in other regions (Latin America) that have been successful in managing migration and maximizing the development impacts of remittances; and, as relevant, contribute inputs to the development of national anticrisis action plans.

To learn first-hand from migration experts in other countries, 12 policymakers from Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, and Tajikistan went on a study tour to Philippines—a country with extensive experience in international migration. A session on the outcomes and lessons learned from this study tour was followed by an international migration workshop in Moscow, Russia.

One of the key outcomes of the Moscow workshop was the launch of the Migration and Remittance Peer-Assisted Learning Network (MiRPAL). The network is a community of migration and remittance practitioners and policymakers in ECA countries, with a Secretariat housed at Migration XXI Century, a Moscow-based NGO. Through MiRPAL, CIS countries have been mobilizing a wide variety of practitioners and experts to help meet migration challenges systematically. Ministries, migration and demography experts, central bankers, historians, and political analysts are joining in the discussion with governments, employers, donors, and diaspora and human rights organizations.

According to Vyacheslav Postavnin, president of Migration XXI Century, “MiRPAL’s role is to provide sound economic analysis, collect and aggregate migration data, work out innovative approaches to settling migration challenges, and transfer these ideas both to policymakers and to the public.”
Results achieved through MiRPAL since 2009 include:

- Important institutional changes in two member countries: Tajikistan put in place a new government migration service to address labor migration issues; and Russia adopted a new law to issue work permits for migrant workers quickly and more transparently.

- MiRPAL member countries are using two action plans—on migration statistics and remittances statistics—to harmonize data collection, reporting, and terminology.

- MiRPAL has been working to increase the visibility of migration in the public and policy discourse through advocacy and knowledge-sharing work.

For the next two years, the NGO and the governments of the CIS countries will continue to receive the World Bank’s advisory and technical support on developing joint and country-specific recommendations. This assistance will also extend to the implementation of initiatives to improve labor migration policies in MiRPAL member countries, and remittance estimation practices and policies.
Finding Global Solutions during Economic Crises

In recent years volatility in fuel and food prices has affected the purchasing power of millions of people around the world. It still poses numerous challenges to governments in developing countries: policymakers have been under pressure to introduce quick measures to protect their citizens. In the absence of sound policy advice, governments may resort to less efficient policy instruments, which often have undesirable efficiency and fiscal impacts.

The global South-South Learning Forum, organized by the World Bank’s Social Protection teams in Cairo, Egypt, in June 2009, was designed to address this situation, by stimulating knowledge sharing and dialogue among key stakeholders. At the event, over 150 policymakers and representatives of civil society, academia, the private sector, and the donor community participated in face-to-face and virtual learning activities, exchanging knowledge and discussing various options to deal effectively with the triple wave of crises through social protection instruments.

Plenary and parallel sessions allowed participants to share best practices, expertise, and emerging responses in dealing with the crises. The plenary sessions took stock of the impacts of the financial, food, and fuel crises and the degree to which social protection or alternative responses had been applied. They were illustrated by country examples focusing on the institutional challenges of establishing and scaling up responses during crises, including implications for reform, the roles of different actors, and establishing priorities vis-à-vis other national interests. The parallel learning sessions focused on the practical aspects, highlighting key challenges, innovations, and adaptations in social protection response across different contexts.

The Learning Forum showcased first-hand country experiences, promoted South-South knowledge sharing, and helped raise awareness about the most effective ways to deal with the crises.
Contact Information

The Network may be contacted in three ways:

1- Globally, through the GDLN Global Secretariat at the World Bank Institute; inquiries can be made via e-mail through the GDLN website www.gdln.org or gdln.global@gmail.com

2- Regionally, through the GDLN regional associations:

- The Association of African Distance Learning Centers (AADLC) http://www.aadlc.com
- The GDLN Americas Foundation http://www.gdlnamerica.org
- GDLN Asia Pacific http://www.gdlnap.org

3- Locally, by directly contacting a local GDLN affiliate in your country (all contacts are available on www.gdln.org)

Photo credits:
Michael Foley
World Bank Photo Library
“If you need to...

· connect simultaneously hundreds of people around the world
· discuss a development issue affecting an entire region
· learn from another country’s experience

... get in touch with us”