

Local Governance Initiative and Network

Knowledge Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance



About LOGIN



A member-driven, south-south learning community and change coalition aiming to advance decentralisation and local governance reform in the Asia region

Defining characteristics –

- Combines **multi-stakeholder dialogue, peer-learning and in-region expertise provisioning** on one platform
- Uses **blended learning approaches** to capacitate members, in support of their efforts to improve decentralisation policies, processes and public service delivery
- Contributes to **change coalitions within and across stakeholder groups and national boundaries** to support contextually relevant reform processes and other governance innovations
- Maps state of practice and shares **innovation in local governance practices**

LOGIN and SDGs



LOGIN located its overall mandate in SDGs 17 and 16 :

- The network serves as a proof-of-concept or exemplification of **SDG 17**, by way of providing a platform that readily facilitates:
 - (a) cross-country partnerships**, collaborations and coalitions across stakeholders;
 - (b) capacity building of key local functionaries** and change agents for implementation and monitoring;
 - (c) innovative financing modalities** (including through strengthening systems for domestic resource mobilisation, enabling collaborations and development partnerships); and
 - (d) enabling policy coherence**
- **Goal 16** lies at the core of the work of LOGIN with its focus on strengthening citizen-centric local governance, as well as on governance as key to achieving development outcomes

LOGIN and Agenda 2030



- It's principled approach locates **the citizen at the heart of governance initiatives**, with focus on **local governments as frontline agents of change** interfacing with citizens for local development and resilience
- **Local capacities** and strengthening **multi-level governance** through its work on **Functional Assignment** and on **Fiscal Decentralisation**
- Focus on **participatory and inclusive planning practices** as well as **accountability strategies and systems** in localised contexts in the Asia region
- Focus on **strategies for political empowerment of women**, being discussed, adapted and mainstreamed in different country contexts
- In the current landscape, the LOGIN mandate and scope of interest of the network exemplifies the principle of **Leave No One Behind (LNOB)** , (i) with cross cutting focus **on inclusion and equitable access** for all (to governance services – e.g. in the case of mainstreaming disability inclusion through lead member institution CDD) and (ii) through supplementing ongoing efforts on urban governance (international and national) with its continued **focus on peri-urban, rural and systemic governance aspects** as well. A pivotal contribution (and a key LOGIN approach) is in terms of supporting the **development of context specific strategies** to achieve these ends.

Mapping LOGIN Results against SDGs Framework



LOGIN Asia

Catalysing Partnerships and Innovating on Means of Implementation to Support Sustainable Development Priorities:

The network serves to enhancing south-south cooperation, supporting multi-level capacity building efforts, contributes to policy and institutional coherence (local, national, transnational) and facilitates multi-stakeholder partnerships

Working on public financial management approaches enablers to support local development priorities, through:

- Support for fiscal decentralisation and local public finance management
- Minimum performance standards for decentralised public financial management
- Informing research on local development funds

Enabling knowledge partnerships and hubs supporting improved, citizen-centric local governance:

Learning hub for local governments on decentralisation and local governance (KILA India)

- Enabling a learning environment for local governments through Horizontal Learning Programme
- Comprehensive analysis of local governance issues to guide state action on decentralisation and improving local governance
- Developing modules on local governance for academic courses
- **Contributing to efforts towards an enabling policy environment for context-relevant decentralisation frameworks** in Mongolia and Afghanistan

Global Context of Localizing SDGs



- Enhancing the active involvement of local leaders in the process.
- Addressing subnational governments access to resources including finance.
- Stronger local government engagement to disaggregate and localize data and monitor progress.
- More systematic involvement of local governments in VNR consultations as one of the institutionalized spaces for multi level dialogue
- More investments to develop local-based approaches combined with national enabling policies to support the localization process
- Improved multilevel and multi-stakeholder collaboration should be facilitated to scale up sub-national innovative solutions integrated into national strategies.

[Local and Regional Governments' Report to the 2018 HLPF, Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments]



Insights from Membership



- High convergence of institutional mandates around Goals 16 and 5, working towards 'peaceful and inclusive societies, effective institutions' and 'gender equality and empowerment of women' respectively
- Predominant focus of member mandates on awareness raising and information provisioning (as a claim to capacity development) followed by advocacy for improvements in sectoral policies
- Very limited and sporadic contribution to national efforts at data harvesting, harmonisation, analysis, evidence building

Insights from Membership



- Insufficient focus on towns, peri urban and rural areas
- The problems cited repeatedly by local government associations and civil society organisations point towards more systemic weaknesses:

Weak governance frameworks, parallel governance structures and systems, poor enforcement, weak intergovernmental systems, inadequate devolution, poorly informed and endowed subnational and local governments

Insights from Siem Reap



The workshop served to confirm:

- **Uneven commitment, preparedness and reporting of the national governments** across countries (tendency to focus on only select goals)
- **The systemic issues that constrain decentralization efforts such as lack of comprehensive, systematic and regular functional reassignment, financial resources was constantly resonated**
- **Engagement across national and subnational/provincial governments does not yet have downstream impact** in terms of provincial governments involving the local governments (especially on sectoral issues)
- **Role of local government (associations)** is peripheral to reporting/ VNR preparation

Insights from Siem Reap



- **Current state of practice** as pertained to **awareness raising and capacity building** for local governments/ LG associations **on the broad agenda itself**
- Most experience building of localization evident in the cities with **little evidence from Asia on localization at the provincial level involving the rural, remote populations**
- **Paucity of resources** – financial, technical and human capacity cited as **key challenge** by most of the representatives
- Data harvesting.....curation

Participant Insights from the Workshop:



Philippines

Localization must take into consideration the actual context on the ground; key element of localization:

- Engagement of LGU's in national coordination mechanism
- Development of partnership towards building capacities, including scaling up, PPPs
- Conduct of reviews to allow inclusion of all stakeholders in the process, especially in data generation, planning, resource mobilization, and setting/outcome targeting
- Innovation, initiative and co-creation must be injected into a transformation framework for sustainable development on strategies and objective

South Korea

- Integration of SDG's into the national / regional development plans is a significant factor to achieve the localization of SDG's
- Innovative methods of collecting data from every sectors' sources is a key to set-up an agreeable/objective indicator/baseline for monitoring and evaluation
- VNR is not about a 'report' but about the 'process to check the progress of SDG implementation with ALL stakeholders participants
- Integrated approach to all its goals with local priority is very important to overcome sectoral/fragmented efforts of public/civil actors

Sri Lanka

Highlighting of key challenges in terms of:

- Policy coherence issues
- Institutional coordination
- Mainstreaming and integrating local authorities in achieving SDGs
- Political hindrances to in progress on SDG's
- Stakeholders engagement challenges
- Non-representativeness of the VNR process and requirements is not representative, not addressing the total challenges of 2030 agenda

Cambodia

- Appreciation of workshop inputs as the country prepares to submit VNRS on specific goals, in terms of
- Regional experiences and information shared by participants
- Insights on Agenda 2030 shared by international agency representatives (from ADB, UCLG)
- Opportunity for engagement across levels of government in country on SDG priorities and coordination issues

Immediate actions for LOGIN



- Collate methods/evidence of Voluntary Local Reviews/Shadow reports
- Invest in member's efforts in Prototyping localisation
- Prioritise actions with the coalition of local government associations that is emerging
- Map our results towards SDG attainment more rigorously



Thank You

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