



DECENTRALISATION & LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Dear Reader,

the 10th DeLoG annual meeting, hosted by BMZ in Bonn, showed that for achieving the ambitious goals set by the Agenda 2030 the SDGs need to be localised. This in turn requires strong support for local governments enabling them to assume their roles as development actors. Adequate financial resources are a basic precondition and must include mobilization of own local revenues as well as tax sharing, intergovernmental grants and ODA funding. "In profile" we feature Claudia Buentjen, ADB DeLoG focal point. We warmly welcome ADB as our 29th member.

We wish you a pleasant reading.

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■ DeLoG Activities

DeLoG 10th Annual Meeting in Bonn, Germany



From 9 – 11- September 2015, DeLoG `s 10th Annual Meeting was hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Around 40 participants from over 20 DeLoG member and partner organisations discussed around the topic of “Implementing the SDGs: The key role of decentralisation and local governance”.

» [Please follow the Link to access the full article.](#)

In-profile: Interview with Claudia Buentjen

This year, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) became the 29th Member of the DeLoG Family-Network after ADB participated already in 2010 and 2012 as an observer. One of the first joint cooperation was a joint learning event on DLG in the Asia-Pacific in Manila. Claudia Buentjen is a Principal Public Management Specialist, who provides technical leadership to the Governance Thematic Group, an ADB-internal network for knowledge sharing, and cross-departmental coordination in the areas of public sector management, governance, and capacity development. With her competencies on supporting learning, innovation and partnerships, Ms. Buentjen speaks on the interview about ADBs expectations on their DeLoG Membership and gives us her first impression on the ADB/DeLoG joint learning event which took place from 25-27 August 2015 in Manila.

» [Read the Interview](#)

Learn4Dev: ADB/DeLoG first joint learning event on Decentralisation Reforms and Local Governance in the Asia-Pacific



The Asian Development Bank (ADB), in partnership with the Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG), organised the *External Support for Decentralization*

Reforms and Local Governance Systems in the Asia-Pacific: Better Performance, Higher Impact? held at the ADB headquarters in Manila on 25–27 August 2015. The seminar aimed to provide a venue for structured exchange of information, experiences, lessons, good practice, learning from success and failure as well as bring together experts, resource persons, advisers and practitioners to share diverse perspectives. Below you will find the report which records the proceedings of the Learning Program and gives you an brief overview on topics and arguments which have been discussed during the sessions.

» [Read the full report](#)

■ News from our Member Organisations

Joint publication of UN Habitat and GIZ on metropolitan Governance



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

This joint publication
“Unpacking Metropolitan
Governance for Sustainable

Development” is the product of a close cooperation between GIZ and UN-Habitat. Against the background of rapid urbanization, new forms of power relations between the different levels of government emerge and stronger coordination and cooperation is required. While the subsidiarity principle is still valid and valuable, some decisions are most effectively implemented at a metropolitan level that follows the functional area. Climate change, natural disasters or economic development do not stop on administrative boundaries, hence joint action needs to be taken.

This study shall give insights into ways metropolitan regions are governed and how it relates with the good urban governance principles.

» [Please follow the Link to access the publication.](#)

ToR: Peacebuilding through Decentralization and Local Governance (DeLoG) –Consultant



One-third of the world’s population is located in fragile or conflict-affected settings. Women and children are disproportionately impacted by armed conflict. Globally, an estimated 230 million children live in countries and areas

affected by armed conflicts. Various global studies estimate that between 23 per cent to 40 per cent of countries that have experienced recent conflict are destined to relapse into violent conflict, and in 2014 some 90 per cent of conflicts in the world occurred in countries that have previously experienced civil war – a clear and sobering illustration of what has been referred to as ‘the Conflict Trap’

Given the organizational emphasis of UNICEF on more explicit integration of humanitarian and development programming to promote resilience and the global focus on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, including effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (SDG 16), UNICEF engagement in peacebuilding through DeLoG in fragile and conflict-affected settings is expected to become more prominent. However, the complexity of this work and the potential risks of engaging in this area, requires clear and evidence-based technical guidance.

» [Please follow the Link to access further information.](#)

Urban planning in Monrovia as an example for future challenges



Liberia’s population is one of the highest population growth rates in the world at around 3% per year. By taking this development into account the implication for urban areas can be seen quite clearly by taking a look on Liberia’s capital, Monrovia. The capital was originally built with half a million people in mind. Today officials estimate the population of the city about 1.6 million. The consequence is that Monrovia is not able to provide water, sanitation and housing for all of its habitants. Today urban planning for Monrovia is struggling by a wide range of problems. There are informal settlements which are unknown for Monrovia’s officials. This makes the exploitation of new areas and an

effective planning of infrastructural needs even more difficult to plan. For this a group of people composed of slum dwellers from several African cities has been contributing to improving urban planning in Monrovia. They support urban planning by mapping the unknown informal settlements and more.

» [Please follow the Link to access the full article.](#)

2015 Empowering Women and Sustainable Development Summit



The UN Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG Fund), the Sino-American Friendship Association (SAFA), in partnership with the China Women Development Foundation (CWDF), hosted the summit entitled “2015 Empowering Women and Sustainable Development Summit”. The event was significant since it is 20 years since the Beijing Call for Action.

It became consensus that gender equality, the empowerment of women, and the full realization of their human rights are essential for the achievement of sustainable development and for building peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

» [For more information on the summit please follow the Link](#)

Success Story: Street lights make Kosovo village safer



The people of Gornje Kuvce/Kufcë e Epërm, the largest village in Kosovo’s Novobërdë /Novo Brdo municipality, can now see in the dark. With the installation of new LED street lights—a joint project between the municipality and USAID—the village’s 2,000 residents can now travel at night much more safely.

» [Please follow the Link to access the full article.](#)

UNDP: Seamaul Initiative Towards Inclusive and Sustainable new communities: Implementation Guidance



This publication will identify proven approaches and policy options for inclusive and sustainable local development, drawing on the expertise of the Republic of Korea’s Saemaul Undong (SMU)-New Village Movement- and other relevant solutions from development partners, including from the South. It will not only provide practitioners with background knowledge of the SMU and its application, but more importantly, it will showcase examples of interventions, potential synergies with other initiatives, as well as a list of tools that can be used in programme design, monitoring and evaluation of the updated version of Saemaul towards Inclusive and Sustainable New Communities (ISNC). The note was prepared based on findings through an extensive desk review as well as field research visits to six countries (Bolivia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Rwanda, Uganda and Viet Nam), which are currently rolling out the ISNC model.

» [The paper can be downloaded here.](#)

■ Info, Links, Downloads

2030 Agenda will fail without local Governance / Our post 2015 journey: Local and Regional voices



Local and regional governments from all over the world were at UN Headquarters in New York to witness the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During the event mayors and other representatives of local and regional governments underlined the importance of the local level when the world is talking about the implementation of the SDGs. They criticized the absence of local governments when the local goals were defined. But audience set clear that the local level is ready to hit the SDGs and endorse the topic of decentralization as a basis for the upcoming New Urban Agenda.

» [Please follow the Link to access the full article.](#)

“*Our post 2015 journey: Local and Regional voices*” gives you a good overview on the development of the post 2015 Agenda from the local and regional view. From the Rio +20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development on the publication describes the involvement of local and regional aspects towards the SDGs and to the upcoming Habitat III conference.

» [Please follow the Link to access the publication.](#)

Ten Global Cities Present Climate Action Plans Ahead of Paris COP21



Ten cities which representing 58 million people, joined first-mover Rio de Janeiro in announcing that they have met all planning and reporting requirements of the Compact of Mayors. The Compact of Mayors is a global coalition of mayors and city officials pledging to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience to climate change, and to track their progress transparently.

In this way world`s cities show unity and ambition to drive global response on climate change. Representing over US\$ 3 trillion GDP from 5 continents, the cities of Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Copenhagen, Melbourne, New York, Oslo, Rio de Janeiro, San Francisco, Stockholm, Sidney and Washington, DC presented ambitious climate action plans ahead of COP21.

» [Please follow the Link to access the full article.](#)

Why urbanisation matters in responding to humanitarian crises



While the plight of Syrian refugees trying to get to Europe is grabbing attention, far more are living in cities and towns in the region which already struggle to meet the basic needs of their residents. IIED hosted a workshop in Istanbul to

learn about the experiences of international agencies, non-government organisations, and municipal governments in the Middle East and North Africa in responding to the needs of these refugees.

» [Please follow the Link to access the full article.](#)

Bonn Symposium 2015

**ENGAGEMENT
GLOBAL**

Service für Entwicklungsinitiativen



sef: Stiftung
Entwicklung
und Frieden
Development
and Peace
Foundation

From 17th – 18th November 2015 the “Bonn Symposium: Implementing the global SDGs on local level - Strategies and instruments” will take place. The conference is known for its international exchange of local actors and identifies the need of

mutual learning through the global challenge of implementing the SDGs. Therefore local actors from Europe can learn from the MDG-experience of local actors from development countries. During the two days the conference will deal with the final SDGs, their goals and their implementation and how the local level should be involved. On detail, how the implementation of sustainable management on local level should be organised. Which instruments, processes and means will be necessary?

» [Please follow the Link for more information.](#)

Ukraine: The first elections in 159 unified communities will take place



**DECENTRALIZATION
OF POWER**

As of September 7, the Central electoral commission scheduled the first elections of deputies of village, settlement, city councils, and respective village, settlement, city council heads, in 159 unified territorial communities for October 25, and declared

September 8 the starting date of electoral process.

The government grants maximal support to unified territorial communities, providing the necessary financial resources as well as organizational and methodical support.

» [Please follow the Link for more information.](#)

How Cities are governed

LSE Cities
AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE SUPPORTED BY DEUTSCHE BANK

Global comparative research on urban governance is confronted with a substantial data challenge. Regardless of the ever-increasing availability of information on institutional arrangements in individual cities, knowledge and methodologies to capture and compare the wide spectrum of different urban governance systems is limited. The global [Urban Governance Survey](#) – undertaken by LSE Cities in partnership with UN Habitat and UCLG (Decentralisation and Local Governance Committee), and supported by the MacArthur Foundation – addresses this data challenge and explores new ways of communicating and ‘mapping’ urban governance for public dissemination, comparative policy and research analysis.

» [For more information on the survey please follow the Link](#)

Acting local can help built states

**IPI GLOBAL
OBSERVATORY**

While many countries like Syria turned into fragile states, where central government lost its power on wide areas of their countries, local governments can be seen as a key factor to overcome fragile context and to rebuild the state. Several cases from the past until present underline the potential of local governments while at the same time problems and limits of this approach are mentioned.

» [Please follow the Link to access the full article.](#)

■ Courses

The Hague Academy for Local Governance



» Training on Local Economic Development

Date: 18th - 29th January 2016
 Apply by: 20th November 2015
 Place: The Hague, Netherlands

This practice oriented course focuses on strengthening the economic capacity of a local or regional community. Taking into account the post-2015 agenda, the course discusses strategies and tools for local authorities to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and decent work for all.

International experts present strategies to improve local conditions for job creation and poverty reduction, and discuss questions such as: How to develop a joint vision for the area in a participatory manner, involving government, citizens, businesses and CSOs? And: how to create a business enabling environment that promotes entrepreneurship and supports small and medium enterprises? They give international examples of financing LED-initiatives and best practices in public-private partnerships.



» Training Gender Mainstreaming & Service Delivery

Date: 15th – 19th February 2016_
 Apply by: 11th December 2015
 Place: The Hague, Netherlands

Equitable access to services, resources and employment for men and women, is widely accepted as a condition for development and the promotion of human rights. Global goal 5 aims to achieve gender equality by 2030. This course on Gender Mainstreaming & Service Delivery, discusses how you can increase the effectiveness of your programmes by including the gender dimension.

Together with gender experts of GIZ and UNCDF, you will discuss how to integrate gender aspects in all phases of the project cycle. You will practice with gender analysis and tools for the design, planning of programmes. Furthermore, you will exchange implementation challenges with other participants and discuss instruments for better monitoring and evaluating the gender impact of your programmes.

Swisspeace



» Gender Equality & Peacebuilding Course

Date: 25th – 29th January 2016
 Apply by: 31st October 2015
 Place: Basel, Switzerland

This course reflects on how to address the varieties of women's and men's realities, and strategies to deal with conflicts, and contesting prescribed gender roles and power relations in peacebuilding. This course explores and critically discusses three aspects. (i) concepts and methodologies for understanding gender dimensions of conflict and their relevance in peacebuilding, and the impact of peacebuilding on gender relations. (ii) The relevance of the women, peace and security framework on the gendered policies and peacebuilding discourse. (iii) The role of women's agency, women's rights, masculinities and the implication of gender stereotypes in conflict and peacebuilding

This course is targeting practitioners and academics interested in bridging their own experiences with current conceptual insights and practical knowledge on gender equality and peacebuilding.

■ Studies

Local Development

Sustainability Reporting: What's in it for Local Governments? Lessons from practical examples

Ludger Niemann, VNG International (2015)

What do the city governments of Mèrida (Mexico) and Melbourne (Australia) and the public transport company of Madrid (Spain) have in common? They are just three examples – sharing the same initial yet representing different continents – of local government institutions that issue sustainability reports.

Sustainability reporting is a worldwide trend. It is most widespread among commercial companies yet also catching on in the public sector. Sustainability, 'smart' and 'green cities' are high on international and local agendas, and the recent agreement of the UN SDGs with a distinct goal (SDG 11) for sustainable cities provides additional impetus. In this context, ever more local governments are keen on finding effective management and communication tools and thus interested in the topic of sustainability reporting.

» [The paper can be downloaded here.](#)

Fiscal Decentralisation

Engaging the Private Sector in Public – Private Partnerships

Vandenberg, Paul, ADB (2015)

Public–private partnerships are a valuable vehicle for governments to secure financing and expertise for infrastructure development. However, it will require a clear and stable environment of policies, regulations, and institutions. Infrastructure needs in Asia are enormous. Governments can mobilize additional financial resources and gain access to valuable expertise by structuring projects as public–private partnerships (PPPs). However, enticing the private sector into infrastructure requires good policies, expertise in developing well-structured projects, and supportive institutions. Negotiating agreements with a clear allocation of risks and responsibilities across various stakeholders is key to a successful partnership.

» [The paper can be downloaded here.](#)

Urban Governance

E-Governance and Urban Policy Design in Developing Countries

UN-HABITAT (2015)

Governance is about the processes by which public policy decisions are made and implemented. ICT can become a catalyst to improve governance in towns and cities and help increase the levels of participation, efficiency and accountability in public urban policies, provided that the tools are appropriately used, accessible and affordable. This book examines how ICT enabled governance is applied to urban policy design and highlights case studies, tools, methodologies, all reflecting current challenges and potential for the use of ICT in governance processes in cities.

» [The paper can be downloaded here.](#)

Green City Development Tool Kit

ADB (2015)

Adaptable, responsive, and innovative solutions that differ from one place to another enable Green Cities to emerge in various forms and enable us to recognize the variation and dynamism of cities. The term “Green City” has many different meanings to different people. There is no universal solution that can be applied to every city. Adaptable, responsive, and innovative solutions that differ from one place to another enable Green Cities to emerge in various forms and enable us to recognize the variation and dynamism of cities. Green Development considers how to improve and manage the overall quality and health of water, air, and land in urban spaces; its correlation with hinterlands and wider systems; and the resultant benefits derived by both the environment and residents. This tool kit is a reference for ADB staff, consultants, and city leaders that introduces key concepts of Green City development and identifies crosscutting issues that help in designing urban programs to support city development in a green and sustainable manner. It outlines a three-step city assessment framework and provides a summary of existing tools and resources for green and sustainable development.

» [The paper can be downloaded here.](#)

Urban climate resilience, water and sanitation: Improving multi-stakeholder collaboration in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Sarder Shafiqul Alam, ATm Jahangir Alam, Sowmen Rahman, IIED (2015)

This paper attempts to identify a strategy for improving collaboration between stakeholders working in Dhaka city to improve climate change resilience of the urban water and sanitation (WATSAN) sector, with a focus on the urban poor.

The findings are derived from reviewing existing literature and consultations with 32 key informants and five focus group discussions (FGDs) representing both low-income groups as well as other stakeholders (NGOs, government, academics). The output of the analysis reveals that heavy rainfall, flooding, water logging and heatwaves are the major climatic impacts that affect the water supply, sanitation and health of slum dwellers. Also, women are more vulnerable than men due to the lack of water supply and adequate sanitation facilities particularly during floods and water-logging conditions.

» [The paper can be downloaded here.](#)

GOVNET

A Governance Practitioner`s Notebook: Alternative Ideas and Approaches

Whaites, Alan, Gonzalez, Eduardo, Fyson, Sara and Teskey, Graham, OECD (2015)

The Governance Practitioner’s Notebook takes an unusual approach for the OECD-DAC Network on Governance (GovNet). It brings together a collection of specially written notes aimed at those who work as governance practitioners within development agencies. It does so, however, without attempting to offer definitive guidance – instead aiming to stimulate thinking and debate. To aid this process the book is centred on a fictional Governance Adviser.

The Notebook’s format provides space for experts to speak on today’s governance issues: politics, public sector reform and stakeholder engagement. It encourages debate, charts the evolution of donor thinking, and highlights future challenges in the age of the Sustainable Development Goals. Each section introduces both technical issues and major areas of debate, providing ideas for future development support to institutional reform. Expert contributors include Tom Carothers, Lant Pritchett, Matt Andrews, Heather Marquette, David Booth, Sue Unsworth, Fletcher Tembo, Ousmane Sy, Jörn Grävingholt, Nick Manning and Frauke de Weijer.

» [The paper can be downloaded here.](#)

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