



# Local Governance Initiative (LoGIn) South Asia

## What is LoGIn?

LoGIn is a project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). LoGIn is coordinated by a regional Hub located at the Embassy of Switzerland in New Delhi.





## Select Highlights 2008 – 2011

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### **Study Visit of key state functionaries from India to Switzerland**

An 18 member delegation of state functionaries headed by the Additional Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Panchayati Raj was sponsored by LoGIn in partnership with UNDP for a Study Visit to Switzerland and United Kingdom. The purpose of the Study visit was to understand the policy frameworks, systems and procedures underlying well functioning local governments in the two countries; to learn of the good practices emerging from an effective collaboration between central, provincial and local governments in the two countries and finally, to share experiences with the local government experts, community leaders, and the office bearers in the local government institutions in the two countries. The delegates focussed their learnings on specific aspects of Intergovernmental fiscal transfers, Election Procedures, Assignment of Functions across different tiers, land use planning, mechanisms for strengthening transparency and accountability in functioning of local governments and monitoring service providing by local governments.

### **Certificate Course on Decentralization and Local Governance for Mid Career Professionals in India and other South Asian Countries**

To address the uneven understanding of the philosophy, approaches, processes and mechanisms to further decentralised local governance, LoGIn has supported the development and conduct of a - first of its kind - Certificate Course on Decentralization and Local Governance for mid-career professionals from the government, academia, training institutions and non-governmental organisations in India and South Asia. The three week Course was offered by IRMA in November 2011 to thirty one selected participants, including six participants from other South Asian Countries. The twenty five Indian participants included seventeen middle ranking officers from nine state governments. The Course faculty included international academics and comprised of four modules: (i) Democratic Governance, Institutional Design and Organizational Capabilities, (ii) Strengthening and Managing Fiscal Decentralization, (iii) Decentralized and Participatory Planning and (iv) Institutional Intra-prenuership and Leadership.

### **Memorandum of Understanding between National Institute of Local Governance, Bangladesh and Kerala Institute of Local Administration, India**

LoGIn has been successful in facilitating a partnership between the premier



Institution in Bangladesh mandated to train local government leaders and key functionaries, the National Institute of Local Governance (NILG) and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) for the purpose of supporting each other on for i) Designing, conducting and evaluating training programs, workshops, seminars and symposiums on different subject areas of Local Government for the Elected Members and functionaries in Bangladesh and India and, ii) Undertaking consultancy, research, publications and allied activities for strengthening Local Government in Bangladesh and India . Study visits from Dhaka have been hosted by KILA and a jointly agreed agenda for mutual support is expected to be drawn up by the two Institutions in the near future.

### **Capacity Enhancement of Independent Directorate of Local Governance, Afghanistan**

Based on clearly articulated demands from the Independent Directorate of Local Governance, LoGIn has collaborated with key institutions and select professionals to organise training programs, study visits and exposure visits in India and Switzerland for senior management staff of the institution. Each training or study visit was topical and subjects ranged from mechanisms to promote fiscal decentralisation to broader areas of policy formulation and implementation in support of strengthening of local governments.

### **Strengthening the Local Development Learning Institute, Bhutan**

Local Development Learning Institute (LDLI) in Thimphu is a recently established institution aiming to provide capacity development courses for Local Governments and Administration. Given the nascent stage of capacity development efforts for local governments in Bhutan, LoGIn supported the Founder Members of the Institution to visit and meet with a range of institutions in India to exchange on training areas, curriculum development, training pedagogies, quality standardisation and results assessment. Follow up action in this regards will focus on facilitating institutional partnerships between LDLI and Indian institutions based on demands from LDLI in the future.

### **Asian Regional Conference on Effective Local Governance: Accountability, Participation and Inclusion**

In an effort to promote systematic exchange of good practices in strengthening local governance across South and South East Asian Countries, LoGIn supported Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) for (i) joint research with institutions in these countries to inform the International Conference, (ii)



supporting participation from these countries and finally (iii) for the conduct of the Conference. The conference brought together 100 participants (civil society practitioners, government representatives and academics) from 24 countries to share their experiences, collectively drawn lessons, explore possibilities to support each and identify key issues for research and action at a regional level. Additional to this support, LoGIn facilitated the participation from Albania, Kyrgyzstan, and Serbia to share on their successful experiences in federating local governments.

### **Research Programme on Local Governance and Social Inclusion in India**

In an effort to promote better research on local governance in India and gain field insights on aspects positioning of local governments role in to promote inclusion of marginalised communities and households in mainstream development, LoGIn launched a Research program offering fellowships for independent research studies on “Local Governance and Social Inclusion”. Nine researchers were selected from fifty seven applicants to undertake field research in nine states. The researchers have studied topics ranging from manifestations of exclusion in day to day functioning of local governments and methods deployed by marginalised communities to access developmental programs through local governments to how larger economic processes aid or devalue the role and functioning of local governments. The disparate research studies will contribute to a Synthesis Paper for wider circulation.

### **Peer learning across elected leaders to local governments in India**

LoGIn has been supporting peer learning across local governments through (i) workshops which aim to promote peer review and identification of good practices by local governments (ii) documentation and dissemination on good practices by local governments (iii) support to select federations of local governments for assessing their successes, systematising their functioning and widening membership based (iv) promoting more systematic experience sharing across local governments through the Horizontal Learning Program pioneered in Bangladesh.

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**How does LoGIn work?**

- Support preparation of resource material and course content
- Facilitate peer learning
- Disseminate knowledge and resource material on Decentralization and Local Governance
- Support the organisation of study tours and exchange visits
- Support the development of courses on Decentralization and Local Governance

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**Whom does LoGIn work with?**

- In the first place, LoGIn encourages partnerships and exchange among and across the following groups:
- National and sub-national government functionaries
- Elected representatives from different tiers of government
- Research institutes
- Civil Society Organisations
- Training institutes for local government
- Advocacy platforms
- Federations of elected representatives
- Swiss Cooperation Offices in South Asia

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