

Meeting 28 jun 2006

LOLA International Board Meeting Minutes

*28 June 2006 at the GMIS International Conference
Doubletree Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina, USA*

Present:

GMIS (US) - Linda Curley, Pres.; Joe Turner, Exec. Dir.; Doug Taylor, GMIS International Director

KommITS (SE) – Anette Knutsson, President; Thorbjörn Larsson, Vice President

SOCITM (UK) – Peter Ryder, President

VIAG (NL) – Arend van Beek; Johan van der Waal

ALGIM (NZ) – Mike Manson, President

V-ICT-OR (BE) – Hedwig Daineffe, Vice President; Eddy van der Stock, Board Member

(Observing) Keiran Cromie - Local Government Technology Solutions (LGTS), Australia (AU)



Welcome

Joe Turner, GMIS Executive Director.

Meeting was called to order at 13:41 by Ms. Linda Curley, GMIS President.

Presentations were made by those listed below on main local government ICT issues affecting each society.

GMIS Linda Curley

ALGIM Mike Manson

KommITS Thorbjörn Larsson

SOCITM Peter Ryder

VIAG Arend van Beek

V-ICT-OR Hedwig Daineffe, Eddy Van der Stock

LTGS Keiran Cromie

Future Conference Delegate Exchange Arrangements

Regarding future conferences, the consensus was that a formal document will be developed which outlines exchange procedures for each society to follow. The document should clarify the procedures for guest activities; the number of delegates exchanged, and should be easily modified considering the potential for future growth.

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Each society that hosts the international meeting needs to know how many delegates will attend and plan accordingly. It was agreed that the exchange arrangements will remain the same until the number of LOLA members exceeds 10 societies.

Concerning international conferences, it was agreed to exchange one (1) person from each LOLA member and that the hosting organisation will cover the registration and hotel costs of that one (1) designated person. All other exchange agreements between organisations will be between those organizations and not affect the LOLA exchanges. Concerning other exchange agreements, invitation of any extra delegates shall be confirmed in writing by the participating organizations so that there is a clear understanding of the total number of exchange delegates attending. It was agreed that hospitality should be substantially the same for all conferences and that delegates will be notified in plenty of time to attend make appropriate travel arrangements.

Location of future LOLA International Conferences

The Board agreed to designate the locations for the next 3 years through the SOCITM Conference unless there are unforeseen new members and the group decides to change a location.

2007 ALGIM – (NZ)

2008 V-ICT-OR – (BE)

2009 SOCITM – (UK)

Johan van der Waal suggests that for ALGIM a study tour be considered such as Singapore or Sydney to help justify the journey for European attendees. Perhaps funding can be identified for this from other sources. This should also be considered for other future international conferences. Johan will work on this.

Opportunities for global agreements

Over the past 3 years LOLA members have communicated on the purchasing conditions associated with Microsoft acquisitions. This has generally been regarded as successful and the value for money obtained has been considerable. Should this process be formalised and extended to include other suppliers or should we consider Microsoft to be a special case? If it is considered appropriate to consider other arrangements, how should the process be started?

The consensus was that similar comparisons, collaborations and product pricing agreements should exist with global or multi-national companies, but care should be taken not to overlook any company that wishes to participate. Sharing of examples of how a company's product is used by local government organizations will benefit all LOLA members.

Open Source (OS) on the Desktop

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Socitm has taken part in a National Project in the UK, part of which considered the if OS Linux is to become a major competitor it will be necessary to convince the major PC suppliers to supply their products with OS preinstalled. Is this something that LOLA should pursue by contacting the major suppliers?

It was agreed that it may be too early to pursue this, but that this should be reconsidered at some time in the future.

Graham Williamson Challenge (GWC) 2005/6

The GWC organised by Socitm for the last 2 years is for a young local government IT professional to undertake a travel bursary (£5,000) which will include visits to local

authorities in a selected country. The award for 2005/6 went to David Hamilton who selected Australia and Socitm and ALGIM were able to assist him in contacting local authorities. He had an excellent trip which will have a major impact on his future career and he will also be able to pass on valuable experiences to others within UK local government.

Mike Manson reported that ALGIM had an Exchange Program competition last year and that their delegate chose to visit a municipality in the Netherlands. ALGIM plans to have another competition this year and Mike says that he will notify the country of the winners choosing.

ALGIM eGovernment Toolkit

Mike Manson explains that the ALGIM eGovernment Toolkit is an electronic document that consists of a set of best practices for local governments that has been taken from examples from around the world. The question before the LOLA Board is whether to begin a project to internationalize the Toolkit and provide it to all LOLA member agencies. The question was posed on how the project would be funded, and possible funding sources such as Microsoft, were discussed.

Mike Manson agreed to send an eGovernment Toolkit Scoping Specification to LOLA Board members for review and comment. Each society is to respond within 2-3 months with comments and suggestions of ways for funding with corporate sponsorship.

Opportunities for International co-operation

Eddy van der Stock of V-ICT-OR discussed the need for good communication between LOLA Board members. Linda Curley suggests using an existing List Server that GMIS established for such a purpose, but hasn't been used. It was agreed that until a discussion forum is established on the LOLA website that Board Members will use the List Server to communicate and collaborate on cooperative issues.

Johan van de Waal discussed how the EU LOLA societies meet to discuss issues. Linda Curley suggests that if GMIS knows of EU LOLA topics ahead of time then GMIS may participate electronically in the meeting if it is held when the people in US are awake. Otherwise, GMIS might be able to comment or provide discussion 2006 LOLA Board Minutes – 28 June 2006 information in advance. Also, if the EU LOLA meeting is scheduled when there is a LOLA member national conference a GMIS delegates might be able to attend.

Thorbjörn Larsson suggests that invitations to EU LOLA meetings be sent to all LOLA members even if they can't attend.

Linda Curley noted that we can discuss topics on the Listserv.

Other Business

Linda Curley reminds everyone the next international LOLA meeting will be held at the November 2007 ALGIM Conference.

Mike Manson indicates that he has the ALGIM IT Toolkit with him if anyone wishes to review it.

The meeting was adjourned at 15:24 after closing remarks.

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