

LGMA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BUILDING INTERNATIONAL LINKS

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Introduction

- Personal and professional reflections
- Rationale for developing international programs
- Benefits to local government
- Issues arising or 'tips for new players'
- Conclusions

Personal and Professional Benefits

My experiences:

- Timor Leste
- Asia Pacific local government forums in Seoul and Kuala Lumpur
- Research for the Centre for Local Government, UTS

Professional and personal learnings:

- Similar problems and challenges
- Similar community needs and expectations
- We have a lot to learn...

Rationale

- Globalisation and its advantages
- Exposure to innovation
- Scope and scale of regional needs:
 - Local governance and capacity building relevant to local government's scale
 - Disconnect in thinking about local government's role

Benefits

- Ability to influence change and monitor progress
- Cultural awareness
- New skills
- Performance under pressure
- Staff development and advancement
- Staff attraction and retention
- Stronger local community links
- Dispels bad publicity

Issues Arising

- Councils need flexible systems to accommodate staff working overseas
- Need champions and continuity of support
- Mainstream it
- Need to be flexible and patient
- Relationships and expectations - don't promise to much
- Approach it as a two way capacity building exercise
- Communication
- Staff selection - be aware of the required competencies

Concluding Comments

- LGMA International Program
- Further information

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