Local Governance Initiative and Network

LOGIN Asia

Knowledge Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance

E - Course on Basic Concepts of Functional Assignment

(3rd Edition)

30 October – 15 December 2017

About Functional Assignment

Functional Assignment (FA) is the process of assigning roles, functions and tasks between different levels of the government. It is a fundamental building block of multi-level governance, affecting other key features of inter-governmental relations.

In an effective local governance system, local governments are assigned meaningful responsibility and authority to manage local affairs.

In some countries there is a gap between the legal (*de jure*) responsibilities of local governments or local officials, and their actual (*de facto*) role in local service delivery.

Learning Methodology

- Pre-course interaction with resource persons
- Weekly inputs with learning modules
- Review of short assignments by resource persons
- Asynchronous moderated discussion forum
- Self-paced study
- Final paper assignment

About the Learning Offer

The Demand

Understanding FA and its basic concepts was identified as a learning demand at the 2nd LOGIN General Assembly (December 2014). Subsequently, the first edition of the e-course on FA was conducted in 2015, followed by the 2nd edition in 2016. Owing to the success of the previous editions, LOGIN's e-course on FA will continue this year from October to December.

Course Aim

- Equip participants with the basic concepts, experiences and innovations with regard to FA across South and East Asia
- Enable participants to apply the tools and principles from the e-course in a simulated case study

Expected Results

- Participants will be equipped with tools, guidelines and methods regarding different aspects of FA
- Participants will be able to use tools and methods and understand FA context in their countries more clearly

Mode	Timeframe
Online/Distance Learning	47 days

29
Participants

09 Countries

Afghanistan	Myanmar	Philippines
Bangladesh	Nepal	Somalia
Indonesia	Pakistan	Sri Lanka

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LOGIN Asia
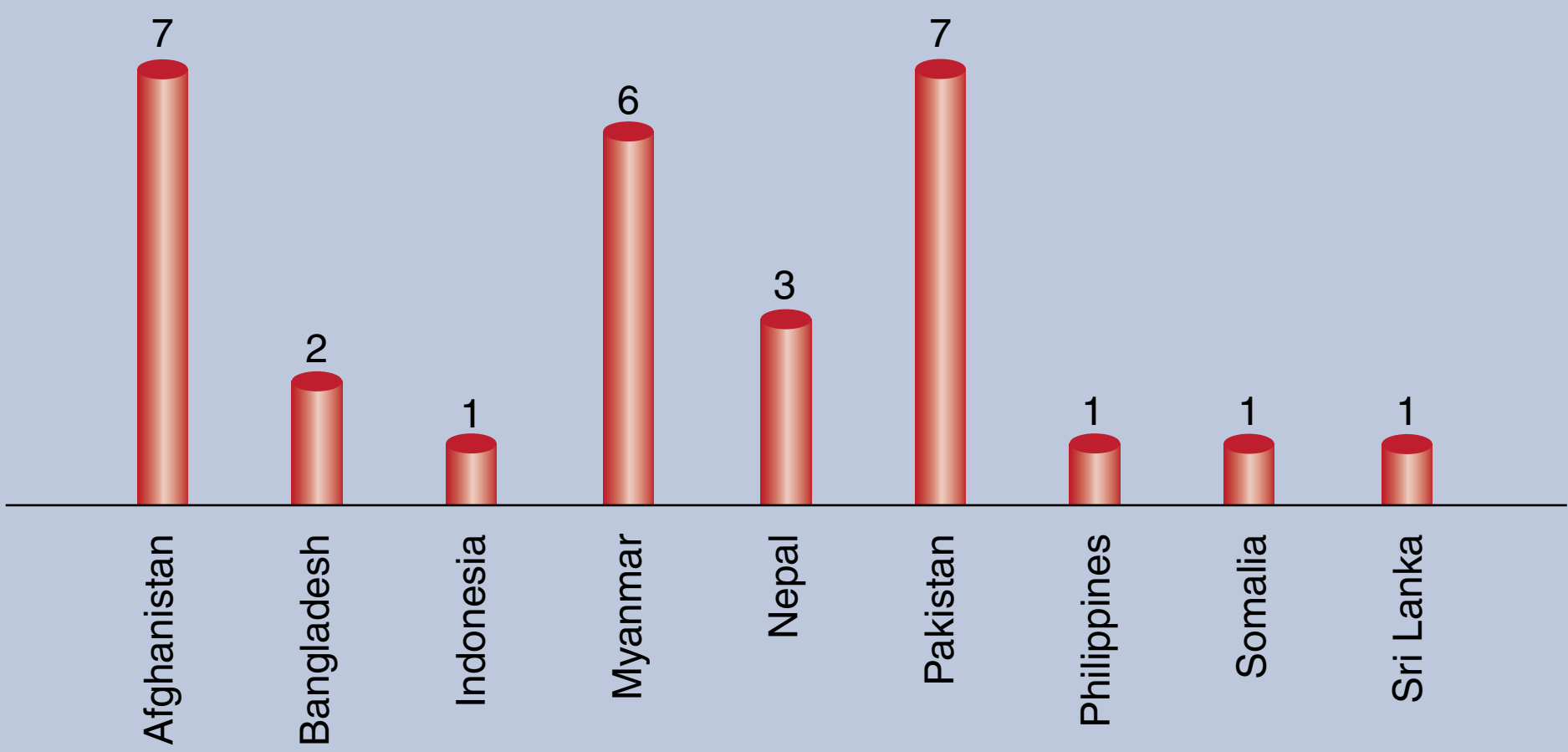
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Course Design

| Module	Sub-Module/Topic	Brief Description
Introduction to FA	General Features of FA	Discussion on the term functions, relevance of FA for decentralisation and local governance reforms, and relation of FA with deconcentration, delegation and devolution
	FA as Part of DLG Reforms	
	Modalities of Decentralisation and Their Implications	
Core Concepts of FA	Legal Framework for Government Functions	Introduction to key processes: Difference between obligatory, optional, exclusive and concurrent functions; difference between listing of functions and general competence; complexities of legal factors affecting FA; and issues related to fiscal resources
	Types of Functions	
	Architecture of Sub-National Functions	
	Matching Functions with Finance	
FA as a Process	Five Major Steps of an Idealized FA Process	Presentation on defining the goal and normative model of FA
	Starting from "Defining goals and scope" up to "Effecting the Transfer of Functions"	
Technical Issues in FA	Unbundling as a Core Technique in FA	Introduction to the process of 'unbundling,' including the difference between horizontal and vertical unbundling
	Challenges and Approaches in Mapping Functions in Data Scarce Environments	
	Principles and Criteria in Assigning Functions	
Capacity, Political Economy and Asymmetry in FA	Capacity Issues in the Context of FA	Discussion on: (1) Technical, managerial and coordination capacity at the sub-national level; (2) Political economy factors; and (3) Asymmetric FA intended to accommodate heterogeneity of conditions at the subnational level
	Political Economy of FA	
	Concept of Asymmetric FA	

Country-wise representation in FA e-course, 3rd edition (N=29)

Afghanistan 7, Bangladesh 2, Indonesia 1, Myanmar 6, Nepal 3, Pakistan 7, Philippines 1, Somalia 1, Sri Lanka 1

Source: Pre-Event Assessment
N=Number of participants

Gender-wise representation in FA e-course, 3rd edition (N=29)

Female 10, Male 19
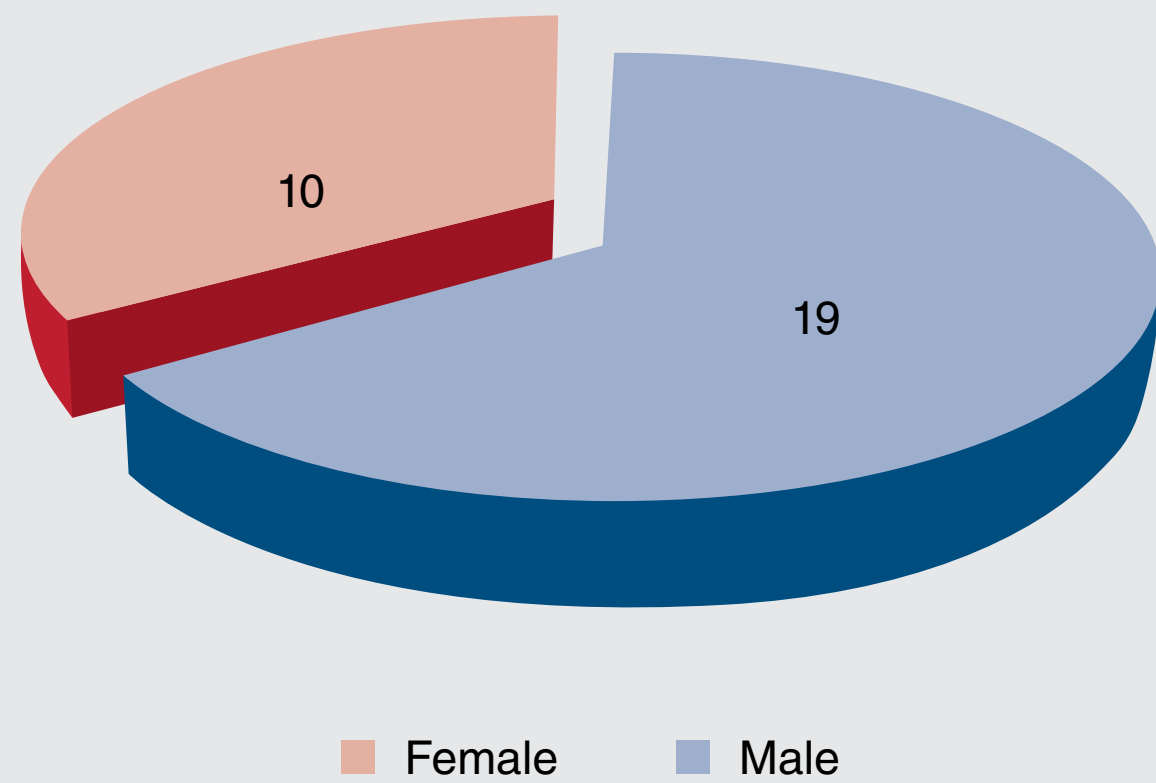
Source: Pre-Event Assessment
N=Number of participants

Institution-wise representation in FA e-course, 3rd Edition (N=29)

NGO 7, INGO 3, Development Partner 8, Government 8, Training Institution 3
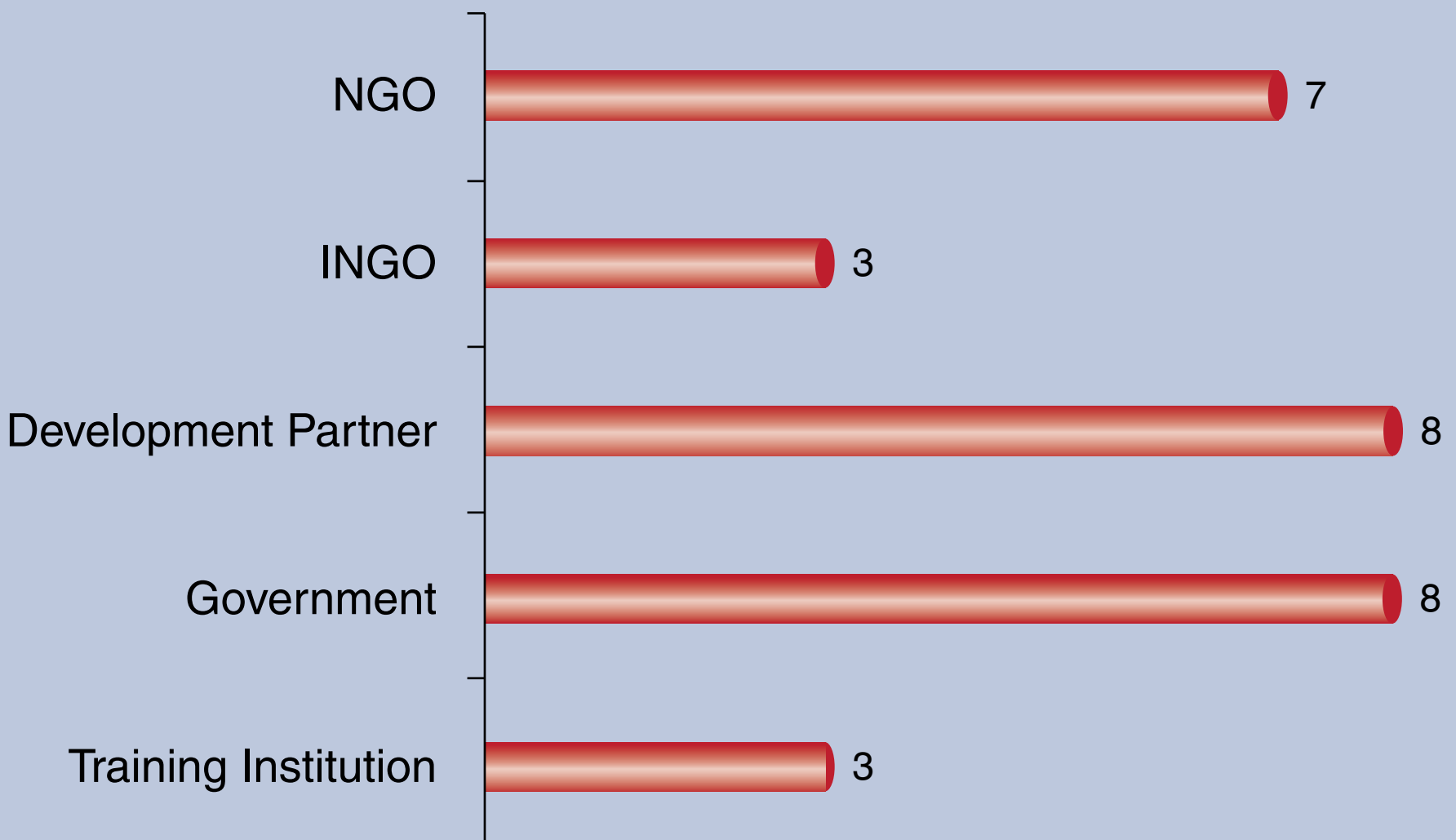
Source: Pre-Event Assessment of FA course
N=Number of Institutions