

**What: Regional Network Meeting: Asia**

**When: November 11 @ 11:45 Nepal/22:00 PST (Previous Day, Nov 10)**

Explore ways to put in place network structure for the region to fill the gaps that exist and pick a few priority agenda items for the next year. Through a facilitated discussion we hope to understand:

- If there's an opportunity to set up some sort of secretariat;
- Perhaps have some sort of steering committee serving as co-chairs on a rotational basis with general members open to wider network;
- How do we ensure sustainability beyond individual commitment?
- Collectively setting up advocacy agenda for the region, with flexibility for country specific contextualization;
- Identify a few key research/impact studies perhaps that can be tackled within a reasonable time frame;
- Generating some sort of expertise roster and facilitating member to member direct connection;
- Exploring cross country research fundings.

*Facilitators: Mr. Piet Vochten, Deputy Director, WFP Bangladesh and Ms. Mamta Gurung Nyangmi, Asia Pacific Coordinator, GCNF*

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**Piet Vochten** is a long-time staff member of WFP who is currently working as Deputy Country Director for Programme and Strategy with the World Food Programme in Bangladesh. Prior to Bangladesh he has worked in several other countries in Asia including Bhutan, Laos, Indonesia and Nepal. He also worked in Eritrea and Cape Verde in Africa and in WFP Headquarters in Rome. He worked for shorter assignments with FAO and OCHA. His background covers both emergency response as well as development activities, working in areas like school feeding, natural resources management and safety nets. He currently leads the WFP Bangladesh response to the COVID-19 crisis with the exception of the camps in Cox's Bazar.