



Call for Proposals: Development Projects

Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project 2016

The [Global Development Network \(GDN\)](#) invites NGOs from developing countries to submit **Proposals for Development Projects** for the [Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project](#).

THE AWARD

The Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project is a competitive grant program under the umbrella of the [Global Development Awards Competition](#), administered by the Global Development Network and funded by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan. The award program invites *non-governmental organisation (NGOs) to submit project proposals supporting (in particular) improved service delivery, and innovative approaches that may be scaled-up through a grant. The Award targets projects currently at the stage of implementation, and which have a high potential for impact targeting exceptionally marginalized and disadvantaged groups located in developing countries.*¹

Since its inception in 2000, GDN has awarded roughly **US\$3.8 million** in grants and travel to finalists and winners of this program. Nearly **8,400 researchers and development practitioners** from developing and transition countries have participated in this competition.

The winning projects will receive grants worth **US\$ 45,000**. Finalists will be invited to travel and present their proposals at GDN's [17th Annual Global Development Conference](#) to be held in Peru from 17-18 March, 2016. The awards will be given to organizations whose projects embody an innovative approach to an important development need and hold the greatest promise for:

- I. **responding directly to the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable, underserved groups to improve their lives aiming at rapid results for improved livelihood;**
- II. **supporting initiatives that lead to developing sustainable outcomes through the scaling-up of the project.**

¹ Countries eligible for the JSDF Award can be found on the World Bank website: <http://go.worldbank.org/HDKJLBZQ50>

The first prize winner will receive a grant of **US\$ 30,000**. The second prize and third prize winners will receive a grant of **US\$ 10,000 and US\$ 5,000** respectively. In addition, the World Bank-administered [Japan Social Development Fund \(JSDF\)](#) team will review the suitability of the proposal winning the First Prize for a much larger grant of **up to US\$ 200,000** under the auspices of the JSDF. The last date for submission of the online registration form in the MIDP application template and other supporting documents is **15 January 2016 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**.

COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

Please review carefully. Any application that does not follow the below mentioned guidelines will NOT be considered.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 1) The MIDP Award is open to all development projects being implemented in **low-income countries and lower-middle-income countries**².
- 2) The project must be managed by a **Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)** with its headquarters in one of the above eligible countries.
- 3) The project implementation must have started before **01 January, 2015**.
- 4) Submissions concerning a recently started project or only a project idea or a feasibility or baseline study will not be considered.
- 5) Submissions for funding conferences and seminars (either in part or in full) will not be considered.
- 6) Applicants from previous years (except winners) may re-apply, but they must update the application to include new aspects of the project.
- 7) Previous MIDP winners are not eligible to apply.

HOW TO APPLY

Follow the steps given below:

Preparing your Proposal

1. Download the proposal template by [clicking here](#); fill it in and save it on your computer.
2. Prepare a document providing the profile of your organization and save it on your computer.
3. Prepare a single document containing the CV's of all team members related to the project.

Online Application Form

4. Before starting your application, ensure that one of the **following web browsers** is installed on your computer:
 - Chrome version 22.x (November 2012) or higher

² The country classification for low income and lower middle income countries can be found on the World Bank website: <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups>.

- Firefox version 16.x (November 2012) or higher
 - Internet Explorer Version 9.x (March 2011) or higher
5. Logon to **GDN's dedicated Online Submissions Platform** using the following link: www.gdn.int/awards2016/midp/apply
 6. Click on '**New User? Register Now!**' to create a new profile. You will be directed to a new page to register your profile. You will receive an email confirming the successful registration of your profile.
 7. Under the tab titled '**Dashboard**', click on the '**Add New Submissions**'. You will be directed to a new application page where you will be asked to provide the details of the proposal and applicable personal details of each member of the team.
 8. Uploading your proposal, organizational profile and CV's: Click on '**Select file**'. **Browse** and locate the relevant files on your computer and click 'open'.
 9. Once you have completed your application, click on 'Save and Submit'. You will receive an email notifying you on the successful submission of your application.
 10. In case you need to exit the application as complete in at a later time, click on '**Save and Continue Later**'. You may return and complete your application on the online platform before the closing date (15 January, 2016).
 11. Please submit a **specific application only once**. In case you have difficulties accessing the online platform for a previously submitted application, please contact awards@gdn.int

Remember the last date for submitting the application is **15 January, 2016 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**. Please note that the submission of all documents is mandatory for your application to be treated as complete and eligible.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The submission and the required documents must be submitted as electronic files at GDN's Online Submissions Platform (www.gdn.int/awards2016/midp/apply). **Please note that GDN accepts applications through the online platform only.**
- Research proposals should be submitted only in the designated [application template](#).
- Submissions should not exceed 20 pages. Format should be in Calibri, 11- point font with single line spacing and one inch margins.
- An organization cannot submit more than one application.
- Submissions must be submitted in the English language only.
- Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.
- Please note that all project information details provided in the application (along with the Profile and CVs of implementing team members) should be correct, else the submission will be liable for disqualification.

Please note that any missing document will flag the submission as incomplete, making it ineligible.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The project proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Innovative Approaches:** How is your project (or aspect of your project, including its approach) different from existing approaches? How is the project targeting groups not reached by other programs? Is the project proposing pilot alternative innovative approaches or partnerships engaging NGOs/CSOs, community associations, or local governments as implementing agencies to reach the target groups not reached by other programs? Note that transferring an approach to solve a common problem from one beneficiary group or from one geographic area to another is not considered innovative for the purpose of this award.
- **Clear Development Objective, Measurable Results and Effectiveness:** Does the project have clear and measurable results, that will have a direct impact on improving the livelihood of individuals or communities, and that address their vulnerability? Does the project utilize participatory monitoring and evaluation to help beneficiaries address their vulnerability and to ensure ownership and sustainability? Does the project have a realistic plan with steps/activities that build concretely towards achieving to the projects' objectives, and that can do so within a one-year of implementation after receiving the Award? Does the organization have the capacity to implement all critical aspects of the project? Has the project designed a way to use monitoring and evaluation for learning and measuring outcomes and, ultimately, impact? How does the organization plan to assess the impact of the project? Does it have the capacity to sustain the outcomes of the project within and beyond the 1-year grant period? Has the project already been effective to the extent possible? Has the project already provided some impact on the development in the region?
- **Sustainable Social Impact:** Does the project contribute to poverty alleviation and social development in the short and long term? Is the development impact sustainable in the long run? Has the project generated local ownership? Or is there a plan to transfer ownership? Does the project help strengthen capacity of the targeted population to continue with the work themselves in the long run? Has the targeted population demonstrated an increase in skill development or an increased willingness to learn new skills? Does the project engage with NGOs/CSOs or Local Cooperatives/Community Associations, or Local Governments as Implementing Agencies which are close to the beneficiaries and where they have a say in their development? Does the project reflect a participatory design and consultation process with the targeted beneficiaries who endorse the grant activities?
- **Replicability:** Is replicability a central and planned objective of the project? How easily can the project be replicated and adapted to other countries, regions, sectors and

cultures? Can it be expanded within a geographic area to benefit more people in the project area? Does the project have potential to have a large scale development impact?

- **Capacity Building:** Does the project help people to continue with the work themselves? Has the targeted population demonstrated an increase in skill development or an increased willingness to learn new skills? Does the project support Community-Driven Development by Empowering the Poor at the local community level, to participate in society and government and to affect their development and learning by doing?
- **Expansion:** What are the prospects for the project's expansion using the resources obtained from the award?
- **Cost Efficiency:** Is the cost of the project justified in terms of measurable impacts/outcomes? What are the measurable impacts/outcomes (performance) of the project in comparison to the cost of the program?
- **Thorough Risk Assessment:** Are there any significant risks associated with the project? How well prepared is the project team in mitigating these risks?
- **Efficient Management of Financial and Human Resources:** Are policies in place within the organization to ensure effective utilization of financial and human resources for implementation of the project?
- **Transparency and Accountability in Operations:** Does the project work in a way that allows gathering information on an ongoing basis and disclosing all appropriate information on the implementation, in particular to the project's direct stakeholders?

SELECTION PROCESS

Once the submission of proposals is closed, a multi-stage review process will be used to select the winners.

- After a preliminary assessment by GDN, the submissions will be reviewed by a committee established by an independent organization. The selection process may include on-site visits to the short-listed projects. The names of three finalists will be announced in **by mid-February 2016**.
- Short-listed candidates will be invited to present their work at [GDN's 17th Annual Global Development Conference](#) in March 2016. Travel and expenses of one project representative from each short-listed organization will be covered by GDN.
- The final selection of proposals will be undertaken by a Selection Committee in the last and final stage at the 17th Annual Global Development Conference to be held in Peru from 17-18 March, 2016. The Selection Committee for the Award will consider the substantive and operational merits of the submissions but will also take into account the potential for expansion into other settings and countries.
- The selection committee will select and announce the winners at the conference. The committee reserves the right not to give out one or more prizes.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- GDN reserves the right not to award any prizes under this Award category.
- GDN reserves the right to modify, cancel or not award prizes at any stage of the competition and grant-making.
- Cancellation of the Award: The Award is liable to cancellation in case of unsatisfactory progress of project-related implementation and if the organization or project is found ineligible later.
- Shortlisted candidates may undergo a site visit. All applicant organizations will agree to undergoing a site visit and cooperating with the review process.
- GDN will award the funds to winners through a written grant agreement.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee for this year's competition has not yet been determined. Previous selection committees' members, among others, included representatives from:

- Association of African Universities, Ghana
- AusAID, Australia
- Australian National University, Australia
- African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Kenya
- Center for Global Development, USA
- EADI, UK
- IDRC, Canada
- International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, India
- JICA Research Institute, Japan
- OECD Development Centre, France
- Peking University, China
- The Brookings Institution, USA
- The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, Egypt
- The Partnership for African Social & Governance Research (PASGR), Kenya
- The School of Social and Economic Development at the University of the South Pacific (USP), Fiji
- The World Bank, USA
- VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Zagazig University, Egypt.

MOST INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LAUREATES

- Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), Pakistan
- BARKA Foundation for Mutual Help, Poland
- Biodiversity Conservation in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Mexico
- Butterflies, India
- Byrraju Foundation, India

- Camara Rwanda, Rwanda
- Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development, India
- Citizen's Proposal Group, Peru
- Colegio Virtual Iberoamericano, Ecuador
- Conservation through Public Health, Uganda
- Development Reality Institute, Zimbabwe
- Dnet, Bangladesh
- Dream A Dream, India
- Fundacion Paraguaya, Paraguay
- Impulse NGO Network, India
- IRRAD, India
- JAAGO Foundation, Bangladesh
- ONG Bethesda, Benin
- Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society
- The Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio-Resources (ANSAB), Nepal
- Transparency International, India