



## Call for Research Proposals

### Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development 2016

The [Global Development Network \(GDN\)](#) invites researchers from developing and transition countries to submit **research proposals** in the theme of *Education for Development: Quality and Inclusion for Changing Global Human Capital Needs* for the [Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development \(ORD\)](#).

#### THE AWARD

The **Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD)** is a competitive research grant program under the Global Development Awards Competition 2016. The ORD program is administered by **GDN** and supported by the **Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan**. *This award program identifies and funds outstanding research proposals in developing and transition countries with high potential for excellence in research and clear policy implications for addressing development issues.*

Since its inception in 2000, GDN has awarded roughly **US\$ 3.8 million** in travel and research grants to finalists and winners. Nearly **8,400 researchers and practitioners** from developing countries and transition countries have participated in the competition and more than 60 awards have been conferred till date.

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. Travel and expenses for one representative from each three short-listed proposals (ideally, the principal investigator) will be covered by GDN. The awards will be given to the organization(s)/researcher(s) whose proposals to undertake research in any one of the four research sub-themes (described below) holds the **greatest promise for improving our understanding of development issues** and puts forth clear, articulate and well researched policy implications to address relevant development problems.

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. The funds will be used to support the research work proposed by the winners towards the completion of their research.

The last date for submission of the online registration form, full research proposal in the application template and CVs of applicants (research team members) is **15 January, 2016 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**.

## RESEARCH TOPICS

The main theme of the Awards competition is *'Education for Development: Quality and Inclusion for Changing Global Human Capital Needs'*. Research Proposals for the Award will be considered in following four inter-related sub-themes:

- 1) **Skills for Tomorrow**
- 2) **Public Finance and Public Policy**
- 3) **Pedagogy, Technology and Institutions**
- 4) **Research and Policy**

The description of the four themes is given on Page 6-7.

## COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

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

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 1) Eligible countries for the ORD competition are those classified by the World Bank as **low-income or middle-income countries**<sup>1</sup>. The competition is open only to **researchers who are citizens or permanent residents of these countries**. The applicants (including team members) can be asked to submit proof of their citizenship and residency through documents with legal standing, at any point during the competition. Please note that all personal information details as provided in the application (and CV) should be factually correct, else the application will be liable for disqualification. The information on the Identity Card will remain strictly confidential with GDN.
  - Citizens of eligible countries currently residing in a non-eligible country are only allowed to apply if they have been living in the non-eligible country for no more than five years as of **15 January, 2016. This should be clearly shown as in the CV and personal information should be provided**. In case any information is found to be incorrect, the proposal is liable for disqualification during any stage of the competition, **including after the grant has been conferred**.
  - The **CVs for all team members must be included in the application**. The CVs should clearly state the age of all team members, the citizenship for all team members and the country of residence for the past five years for all team members and the current institutional affiliation for all team members. These details are mandatory and an application will be deemed incomplete if these details are not submitted.
- 2) The upper age limit for all applicants is **45 years as of 15 January, 2016**. Individuals above 45 years of age as of 15 January, 2016 are not eligible to apply.

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<sup>1</sup> Please visit the following link for the list of countries which are recognized as low and middle income countries: <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups>

- 3) The proposal should not be receiving or scheduled to receive funds from other sources to be eligible for consideration for the ORD unless it is clearly explained how the additional funds provided by the ORD would reinforce the existing funds for successful completion of the research.
- 4) Staff members of multilateral and bilateral organizations (The World Bank, IMF, IADB, UN agencies, DFID, AusAID, etc.) are not eligible to apply.
- 5) Previous and current employees of GDN or its Regional Network Partners<sup>2</sup> are not eligible to apply up till 5 years from the completion of their tenure. Previous GDN Board Members, project mentors and members of evaluation teams are not eligible to apply.
- 6) Similar proposals or papers resulting as products from full or partial GDN funded activities (Global Research Projects and other competitions not limited to Regional Research Competitions, Global Research Competitions etc.), cannot be submitted for this competition.
- 7) Past ORD winners and finalists are not eligible to apply with the same or similar research proposal. Additionally, winners are not eligible to apply for a period of 3 years subsequent to their submission of a successful proposal.
- 8) Past and current ORD reviewers are not eligible to take part in the competition.

## 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 (if any) and save it on your computer.
3. Prepare a single document containing the CVs of all team members related to the research 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
  - 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/ord/apply](http://www.gdn.int/awards2016/ord/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.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://gdn.int/html/page12.php?MID=12&SID=37&SSID=77>

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 research team.
8. Upload 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](mailto:awards@gdn.int).

The last date for submission of the online registration form, the full research proposal in the application template and CVs of the applicants 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.**

*Note: For a joint research proposal with more than one researcher, only the principal investigator should submit an application. However, the institutional affiliation, position/designation, e-mail address, citizenship and current residence of each co-researcher MUST also be included in the application.*

#### **THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- The application and the required documents must be submitted as electronic files at GDN's online submissions platform ([www.gdn.int/awards2016/ord/apply](http://www.gdn.int/awards2016/ord/apply)). **Please note that GDN accepts applications through the online submissions platform only.**
- Research proposals should be submitted only in the designated [application template](#).
- The Proposal Template should not exceed 20 pages. Format should be in Calibri, 11-point font with single line spacing and one inch margins.
- Applicants must clearly state the theme under which the proposal is being submitted. Applications that cannot be categorized under one of the four themes will **NOT** be considered.
- Applicants can only submit one proposal under each theme. However, more than one research proposal can be submitted by the same applicant(s) if the topics correspond to different themes.
- An application can be submitted by an individual researcher or by a team of researchers. In cases with more than one researcher, **all researchers must meet the eligibility criteria.**
- All applications must be accompanied by CVs of all the team members.
- Proposals must be submitted in the English language only.
- Incomplete applications will **NOT** be considered.
- Please note that all forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable to GDN, plagiarism being one of them. Plagiarism is unauthorized use of other people's work, ideas and/or

writings (in part or in full) and presenting or giving notion of these work(s), ideas and/or writings being one's own work, idea(s) and/or writing(s). GDN takes plagiarism very seriously and will take immediate and appropriate action including and not limited to withdrawal of funding for any such grantees found guilty of plagiarism.

- Please note that all personal information details provided in the application (along with the CV) should be correct, else the application will be liable for disqualification at any stage of the competition, including after the grant has been conferred.

## REVIEW CRITERIA

Throughout the review process, the proposals will be judged on the following criteria:

- Substantive contribution of the research to a particular aspect of development
- Innovativeness of the research topic and the methodology
- Academic quality
- Clarity and significance of the policy implications for addressing specific development issues
- Composition of the team and the cost-effectiveness of the budget proposed

## SELECTION PROCESS

Once the submission of proposals is closed, a multi-stage review process will be used to select the winners. The review process will follow the blind review process wherein identities of the authors and reviewers will be concealed to eliminate any selection bias. The proposals will be reviewed at all stages on the basis of the review criteria given in the next section.

- In the first stage, a preliminary assessment will be undertaken by GDN staff to check for eligibility, originality and coherence. The eligible and complete applications will be reviewed by two external scholars in each category in the second stage.
- The qualifying applications from the second round will be sent to independent experts in each thematic category. For each category, the corresponding experts will submit a short list of candidates under each sub-theme to GDN along with an explanation of the underlying selection criteria for each short listed candidate. The names of the three finalists will be announced by **mid-February 2016**.
- The three short-listed candidates for the ORD award will present their work at parallel sessions at [GDN's 17th Annual Global Development Conference](#) in March, 2016. Travel and other expenses for one researcher, preferably the Principal Researcher, of each short-listed proposal will be covered by GDN.
- The final selection of proposals will be undertaken by a Scientific Committee (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 decision of the jury will be final.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- GDN reserves the right not to grant one or more than one Award in any of the sub-themes.
- GDN reserves the right to modify, cancel or not award grants 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 research work and if any of the researchers in the award team are found ineligible later.
- 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. Past Selection Committees have included distinguished scholars and representatives from the following organizations:

- The World Bank
- The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, Austria
- Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- The Netherlands Institute of Social Research, The Hague, The Netherlands
- European Association of Development, Research and Training Institutes (EADI), Germany
- UNFPA
- Texas A&M University, USA
- Charles University, Czech Republic
- Czech National Bank, Czech Republic
- Veolia Environment Institute, France
- National Agricultural Research Institute of Tunisia, Tunisia
- Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands
- Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines
- Tulane University, USA
- South Eastern European University, Republic of Macedonia
- CEDLAS - Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina.
- West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD), Senegal
- Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), Nepal

### **DESCRIPTION OF 2016 GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS COMPETITION THEMES**

#### ***Education for Development: Quality and Inclusion for Changing Global Human Capital Needs***

The world has declared, through the United Nations, that the 4<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Development Goal would be to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” The objective of the conference is to initiate the process of operationalizing this goal in terms of concrete objectives and policies through informed discussion, debate and collaboration between development stakeholders. Conference attendees will deliberate on policies and strategies in education and related areas that will ensure human capital needs can be met in the context of rapid global techno-economic changes. The four cornerstones of the event, constituting the plenary sessions, are:

1. **Skills for Tomorrow:** What will labor markets look like in a generation from now? How can higher education institutions stay ahead of changing labor markets? How can vocational

training better supplement academic education? How can countries cooperate for globally optimal skills exchange? This theme will focus on these and related questions from domestic and global efficiency and equity perspectives for deliberating on the mission and objectives of education and education policies at national and intergovernmental levels.

2. **Public Finance and Public Policy:** This theme will focus on the costs, financial instruments and policies for delivering on the promise of access to life-long, high quality education that is affordable, equitable, and inclusive. Discussions will include incentivizing teaching and learning, efficient public spending, various forms of public private partnerships (PPP) for infrastructure development and service delivery, as well as comparative assessment of instruments such as loan guarantees and social development bonds. The political economy of public finance, and its impact on educational inequality across social, economic and geographic lines will be given special consideration.
3. **Pedagogy, Technology and Institutions:** Student learning outcomes depend on the quality of teachers, classroom environments, pedagogy and associated processes. The diffusion of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in their early days raised hopes of a sea-change in educational outcome. The readjustment of expectations in the recent past has resulted from a shift in interest back towards the human and procedural drivers of learning, including teacher qualifications and motivation and relaxed and non-competitive early childhood learning, psychological factors such as medium of instruction, and environmental factors such as classroom size and heterogeneity. Support for and resistance to macro-level ideas such as standardized testing appear to be driven as much by ideology as by evidence. This theme will focus on accepted knowledge and innovations in human, technical and institutional drivers of educational outcomes.
4. **Research and Policy:** Education research and researchers must be active partners in educational policymaking. In order for policymakers to take informed decisions on the objectives, delivery mechanisms and modalities of human capital formation, they need to have a better understanding of the options, costs and repercussions of policies. This is the task of the researchers in academic institutions, think tanks and development organizations. There is a need to strengthen national and international research capacity on, among others, metrics on quality and standards, impact evaluation, policy simulations and management information systems (MIS) and big data as well as to strengthen research-policy links. This theme will focus on the challenges of advancing this agenda nationally and internationally.