Global Development Awards Competition 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

Process

Q1. What is the Global Development Awards Competition?

One of the largest international competitions for research on development, the Global Development Awards Competition is open to researchers who are nationals and citizens of low income and lower middle-income countries[1], and to development practitioners from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) headquartered in these countries. The emphasis is on supporting promising young talent in the field of development research, and rewarding innovative development projects capable of significantly impacting the local communities in the developing world.

The competition usually comprises of two awards:
- Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD): This Award is for early-career researchers from low income and lower middle-income countries who are seeking to explore the competition theme through their research proposals in an original, innovative and policy-relevant way.
- Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP): This Award is for exceptional, innovative on-going development projects by NGOs that have been able to implement activities with a high potential for development impact to exceptionally marginalized and disadvantaged groups located in low income and lower middle-income countries.

Q2. What is the research theme for the Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development 2020?

The main theme of the Awards competition this year is, 'Unpacking the health-environment-economic wellbeing nexus.' More information in the Call for Proposals.

Research projects can focus on local, national, regional or continental policy initiatives, and come from any discipline within the social sciences. Proposals can focus on ongoing policy initiatives, past ones, or initiatives currently being set up.

A direct link to the COVID-19 crisis is welcome, but not required. In light of the quickly changing scenario, proposals that integrate a focus on COVID-19 and related policy responses must explain how the quickly changing policy landscape is likely to impact the focus of the research.

Q3. What is the grant amount for this edition of the Awards?

The three winning projects will receive grants worth US$ 45,000. 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.

Additionally, awardees will be paired with world-class academics in their area of work who will play the role of Scientific and Technical Advisors to the winners.

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[1] https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519

Q4. What are the special circumstances of the Awards this year? Is there no Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) on the Global Development Awards Competition 2020?

In consultation with the donor, GDN has decided to freeze the MIDP 2020, and postpone it to 2021. Travel restrictions do not allow the selection process to be carried out in its entirety.

In light of the current circumstances of Covid-19 and related travel restrictions, the selection of winners will be conducted online. Finalists will be invited to join a communications training in preparation of a pitch of their project in front of a high-level Jury, which will decide which research proposal to award. A physical Award ceremony might be held in 2021, if conditions allow it, but projects are expected to start on 15 Jan 2021.

Eligibility

Q5. What are the eligible countries for the Outstanding Research on Development category?

The ORD is open only to researchers from low-income and middle-income countries as per the World Bank classification[2], with the requirement that they need to be nationals, citizens and current residents of any of these countries. Citizens of eligible countries currently residing in a non-eligible country are also eligible to apply only if they have been living in the non-eligible country for no more than five years as of 20 July 2020.

Q6. Is there any age limit to apply for ORD?

The upper age limit for all applicants of ORD is 45 years as of 20 July 2020. Individuals (including co-researchers) above 45 years of age as of 20 July 2020 are not eligible to apply.

Q7. Are previous winners and finalists eligible to apply?

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 three years subsequent to the end of their agreement with GDN.

Q8. Are past and current employees of the Global Development Network eligible to apply?

Previous and current employees of GDN (Including interns and members of evaluation teams) or its Regional Network Partners[3] are not eligible to apply up till 5 years from the completion of their tenure.

Q9. Can I apply with more than one proposal? How can I be shortlisted?

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[2] 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] www.gdn.int/regional-network-partners

No. Each applicant may apply with one proposal though he/she can be involved in other proposals.

The awards will be given to the organization(s) or researcher(s) whose proposals hold 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.

Process

Q10. Where can I submit my application?
You must access the online submission platform from GDN's website using the following internet link: www.gdn.int/awardsplatform

Q11: What is the application process?
The application along with the documents specified in the guidelines (available online: www.gdn.int/awardsplatform) should be submitted as electronic files only through the online submission platform. Please note that we do not accept hard copy of applications or those sent through post.

Q12: What is the last date for submitting an application?
The last date for submitting your application for ORD is **30 September 2020.**

For more information on the competition, the complete eligibility criteria and selection process please read the guidelines (available online: www.gdn.int/awardsplatform)

Please note that applications that do not follow the guidelines will NOT be considered. If you have further question(s) which are not addressed through the guidelines and this FAQ, please feel free to write to us at awards@gdn.int.

Q13: When will the grant be awarded?
The timeline for the implementation of the grant will be defined with the editing of the budget as well depending on the final classification and the amount awarded.