



## Global Development Awards Competition Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) 2021 Edition

### CALL FOR RESEARCH (ORD) PROPOSALS

#### Competition Theme

The [Global Development Network \(GDN\)](#) invites researchers from low-income or middle-income countries to submit research proposals within the theme, '**International trade and the promotion of biodiversity**,' for the [Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development \(ORD\)](#).

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.

[More information about the theme of the competition is available at the end of this document.](#)

#### The Award

The Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development is a competitive research grant program under the Global Development Awards Competition 2021. The Awards Competition is administered by GDN and supported by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan. This award program identifies and funds outstanding research proposals in low-income or middle-income countries with high potential for excellence in research and clear policy implications for addressing development issues.

The **three winning projects will receive grants worth US\$ 45,000**. 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 event is planned in 2021 for the presentations to the high-level Jury by the finalists, if conditions allow it, and projects are expected to start on 15 Jan 2022. In case social distancing policies do not make travelling possible, the event will be held on a virtual setting. The awards will be given to the 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 developmental 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. Additionally, awardees will be paired with world-class academic in their area of work who will play the role of a Scientific and Technical Advisor to the winners.

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 **Thursday 29 July, midnight GMT (3:30 AM IST)**.

## Important Dates

- Deadline for submissions: 29 July 2021
- Announcement of Eligibility screening results: 30 July 2021
- Announcement of First Level review results (shortlisted applications) and comments from reviewers: 30 August 2021
- Resubmission of updated application by the shortlisted applicants: 4 September 2021
- Announcement of Second Level review results (finalists) and comments from reviewers: 6 October 2021
- Resubmission of updated applications by the finalists: 11 October 2021
- Communication Training for finalists: 11-15 October 2021 (online)
- Finalists' presentation at the Conference: 18-27 October 2021 (online - specific date to be confirmed)
- Announcement of winners: 27 October 2021

## Competition Rules and Guidelines

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

### A. General Rules

- Please note that the submission of all documents is mandatory for your application to be treated as complete and eligible.
- 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.

- Researchers must have an affiliated institution for the project. Winners of the Competition will be engaged with GDN through a Grant Agreement signed with the institution which shall provide administrative and financial oversight throughout the implementation of the project (including certifying the use of the budget using the forms provided).
- The application and the required documents must be submitted as electronic files at GDN's online submission platform ([www.gdn.int/awards2021/apply](http://www.gdn.int/awards2021/apply)). Please note that GDN accepts applications through the online submission platform EXCLUSIVELY.
- Research proposals should be submitted only in the designated [application template](#).
- The Proposal must not exceed 20 pages. Format should be in Calibri, 11- point font with single line spacing and one-inch margins.
- 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 including self-plagiarism. 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.
- All proposals must include an analysis of risks for the proposed work linked to existing restrictions to movement and other restrictions linked to pandemic response in the relevant geographical areas.

## B. Eligibility Criteria

- 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 allowed to apply only if they have been living in the non-eligible country for no more than five years as of 20 July 2021. 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.
  - CVs for all team members must be included in the application. The CVs should clearly state the age of all team members, the citizenships for all team members and the country of residence for the past five years for all team members and the current institutional affiliations for all team members. These details are mandatory, and an application will be deemed incomplete if these details are not submitted.
- The upper age limit for all applicants is 45 years as of 20 July 2021. Individuals above 45 years of age as of 20 July 2021 are not eligible to apply.
- 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.
- Staff members of multilateral and bilateral organizations (The World Bank, IMF, IADB, UN agencies, UKAid, etc.) are not eligible to apply.
- 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.
- Similar proposals or papers resulting as products from full or partial GDN funded activities (Global Research Projects and other competitions not limited to Regional

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<sup>1</sup> Press [here](#) to visit the list of countries which are recognized as low and middle income countries by the World Bank

<sup>2</sup> Press [here](#) to visit the list of GDN's Regional Network Partners

Research Competitions, Global Research Competitions etc.), cannot be submitted for this competition.

- 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 the end of their agreement with GDN.

### C. How to Apply

Follow the steps given below:

- **Prepare your Application**

- **Proposal Template** - Download the proposal template document [available here](#). Fill it in and save it on your computer in .doc, .docx or .pdf format for upload.
- **Organization Profile** - Prepare a document providing the profile (up to 1 page) of your organization (if any) and save it on your computer in .doc, .docx or .pdf format for upload.
- **CVs of the research team** - Collect all the CVs of the different team members, matching the name of the documents per role in the proposal (PI for Principal Investigator and CR for Co-Researchers) and compress them into a .zip, .rar or similar type of files.

- **Submit your application on the Online Application Form**

- Follow to GDN's dedicated online submission platform using the following link: [www.gdn.int/awards2021/apply](http://www.gdn.int/awards2021/apply)
- Register or Log in into the platform to have access to your profile. You will receive an email confirming the successful registration of your profile and only after verifying your profile, will you be able to submit an application.
  - a. Take note that you will have to accept the terms and conditions of the Awards Force platform as well as the terms and conditions of the Global Development Awards Competition which state every aspect available on the Call for ORD Proposals.
- On your profile page, you will have access to *My entries* where you may either resume (selecting the entry you would like to continue from the list) or start a new entry. Select "Call for ORD Proposals" under Category.
  - b. In case you need to exit the application and complete it at a later time, click on **Save + Close**. You may return and complete your application on the online platform before the closing date but it will be considered as submitted only if you press **Submit Entry**.

- c. Take note that you will be able to resume your entry at any time up to the deadline. If there are duplicate entries, the most recent one will be considered as only one proposal per applicant is allowed.
- You will be asked to provide the details of the proposal and applicable personal details of each member of the research team.
- Upload your proposal, organizational profile and CVs on the **Attachments** tab, one at a time.
- Once you have completed your application, click on **Submit Entry**. You will receive an email notifying you on the successful submission of your application.

The last date for submission of the online registration form, the full research proposal in the application template and CVs of the applicants is **Thursday 29 July, midnight GMT (3:30 AM IST)**.

- **Review Criteria**

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

- **Academic quality**
  - Quality of the research question formulated
  - Quality of methodology and methods chosen to answer the research question
  - Quality of literature review
  - Originality and Innovativeness
  - Ethics
- **Clarity of the links to policy**
  - Link to specific development outcomes
  - Specific relevance to policy process
- **Feasibility**
  - Timeline
  - Budget
  - Research team
  - Impact of social distancing policies

## D. 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 applications are then reviewed by external scholars in two steps. At a first step, *Lot 1: First level review*, reviewers will be selected to conduct a first assessment of proposals on the basis of the ORD selection criteria and shortlist the best proposals. The shortlisted applicants receive comments from reviewers and are allowed to update their proposals and respond to the reviewers' comments. At the second step, *Lot 2: Expert level review*, experienced researchers review the shortlisted proposals, and select the three finalists of the ORD category. The final ranking is validated by the *Panel Organizer*, selected based on her/his professional experience from the Lot 2 reviewers. Reviews at all stages are triple and blind.
- The final selection of proposals will be undertaken by the ORD High-Level Jury, after a public presentation of the projects by the finalists. The decision of the Jury will be final.

## E. Terms and Conditions

- GDN reserves the right not to grant one or more than one Award.
- 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:

- ANU - Australia's National University, Australia

- James Cook University, Australia

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ateneo de Manila University, The Philippines</li> <li>● CEDLAS - Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina</li> <li>● Czech National Bank, Czech Republic</li> <li>● EADI - European Association of Development, Research and Training Institutes, Germany</li> <li>● FERDI - Foundation for studies and Research on International Development, France</li> <li>● Harvard University, USA</li> <li>● IIDS - Institute for Integrated Development Studies, Nepal</li> <li>● INASP-International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications, United Kingdom</li> <li>● Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands Inter-American Dialogue, USA</li> <li>● James Cook University, Australia</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● KOICA - Korean International Cooperation Agency, Republic of Korea</li> <li>● National Agricultural Research Institute of Tunisia, Tunisia</li> <li>● South Eastern European University, Republic of Macedonia</li> <li>● Tallinn University, Estonia</li> <li>● The Netherlands Institute of Social Research, The Hague, The Netherlands</li> <li>● The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, Austria</li> <li>● The World Bank</li> <li>● Tulane University, USA</li> <li>● Veolia Environment Institute, France</li> <li>● West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD), Senegal</li> </ul> |
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## **Theme | 2021 Global Development Awards Competition - Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD)**

### **“International trade and the promotion of biodiversity”**

Biodiversity and economic activity have traditionally been depicted in terms of trade-offs and zero-sum games. International trade, in particular, has been identified as an important factor in biodiversity degradation in developing countries, in light of the greenhouse gas emission it generates globally, its role in spreading invasive species and pathogens and for its links with extractive industries, among others.

In both policy and academia, however, a growing interest in systemic approaches to sustainable development calls for a change of framework. New knowledge is needed to support a broader change of mindset amongst policy makers, the private sector and key societal actors, to develop pro-nature policy frameworks and solutions. When it comes to international trade, this requires a granular understanding of its interaction with biodiversity, through analyses that cut across levels and sectors, and across countries.

The 2021 edition of the Global Development Network’s Japanese Awards for Outstanding Research on Development calls for early and mid-career researchers based in low-income or middle-income countries to develop original research that throw light on impact pathways that link international trade and biodiversity - beyond GHG emissions - with the goal of better understanding what can be done better or differently, to protect and even promote biodiversity.

Research projects can focus on local, national, regional or continental levels, and on multiple pathways of impact. Research proposals can adopt disciplinary approaches from across the social sciences: proposals can focus on economic, legal and regulatory aspects, explore socio-anthropological, political and environmental conditions affecting international trade, its impacts on society, and ultimately biodiversity, with an eye to illuminating the conditions and variables that may generate virtuous impacts of regulation of international trade on biodiversity promotion.

Proposals should discuss the proposed research question and methodology not only in light of their academic relevance, but also in light of their potential to contribute to stronger public debate and policy action in the future.

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.

### **Impact of the Pandemic**

All research proposals must include an analysis of risks for the proposed research linked to existing restrictions to movement and other restrictions linked to pandemic response in the relevant geographical areas.