



Global Development Awards Competition 2021

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GENERAL

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 developing countries, and to development practitioners from non-profit Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) headquartered in developing 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 comprises of two awards:

- Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD)
 - This Award is for early-career researchers from low income and up to upper-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 non-profit NGOs/CSOs 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 are the themes for the different categories of the 2021 edition?

Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) 2021

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 2021 Edition of the Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) category of the Awards.

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 in the [Call for ORD Proposals](#).

Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) 2021

GDN invites non-profit Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from low and lower-middle-income countries to submit project applications within the following three themes for the 2021 edition of the Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) category of the Awards:

- Theme 1: **Universal health coverage and COVID**

- Theme 2: **Community-driven Climate-related Disaster Risk Reduction in Rural Areas**
- Theme 3: **Quality urban infrastructure and community driven governance**

More information in the [Call for MIDP Projects](#).

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

Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) 2021

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.

Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) 2021

For each theme, the winning projects will receive grants worth US\$ 45,000 and, in total, the MIDP category will award 9 grants worth US\$ 135,000. 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.

The two first prize winners under each theme will receive a grant of US\$ 20,000 each. The second prize will receive a grant of US\$ 5,000. In addition, the World Bank-administered [Japan Social Development Fund \(JSDF\)](#) team will review the suitability of the proposals winning the First Prize for a much larger grant of up to US\$ 200,000 under the auspices of the JSDF, one per theme.

Q4. What are the special circumstances of the Awards this year?

A physical Award ceremony is planned in 2021, if conditions allow it, where the finalists will present their applications to the High-level jury for the winners' selection.

In case social distancing policies do not make travelling possible, the events and final selection will be held on a virtual setting.

ELIGIBILITY

Q5. What are the eligible countries for the Outstanding Research on Development category (ORD) and for the Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) category?

Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) 2021

The ORD is open only to researchers from low-income and up to upper-middle-income countries as per the World Bank classification, 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 2021.

Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) 2021

The MIDP is open to non-profit Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from low and lower-middle-income countries as per the World Bank classification to submit applications on projects currently at the stage of implementation. Projects must have started its implementation on 1st June 2020 or earlier to be considered eligible.

Additionally, NGOs/CSOs must be eligible to receive funds from abroad according to the national legal framework (e. g. in India, the NGO/CSO must be FCRA compliant).

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 2021. Individuals (including co-researchers) above 45 years of age as of 20 July 2021 are not eligible to apply.

Q7. Are previous winners and finalists eligible to apply?

Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) 2021

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.

Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) 2021

Applicants from previous years (except winners) may re-apply, but they must update the application to include new aspects of the project. Previous MIDP winners are not eligible to apply.

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 Partners¹ are not eligible to apply up till 5 years from the completion of their tenure.

¹ www.gdn.int/regional-network-partners

Q9. Can I apply with more than one proposal?

Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) 2021

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

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 development problems.

Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) 2021

An organization can only submit one application, irrespective of the theme.

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/awards2021/apply

Q11: What is the application process?

The application along with the documents specified in the guidelines (available online: www.gdn.int/awards2021/apply) 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 is 9 June 2021.

For more information on the competition, the complete eligibility criteria and selection process please read the guidelines (available online: www.gdn.int/awards2021).

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.