



Global Development Awards Competition Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development 2020

TERMS OF REFERENCE | ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSALS

Background

The Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) is a competitive research grant program under the Global Development Awards Competition 2020. The Awards Competition is administered by the Global Development Network (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.

Since its inception in 2000, GDN has awarded roughly US\$ 4 million in research and project grants to finalists and winners. Nearly 8,800 researchers and development practitioners from low-income or middle-income countries have participated in the competition and more than 200 awards have been conferred till date.

The three winning projects will receive grants worth US\$ 45,000. In light of the current limitations to travel in place across the planet, the selection 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. 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.

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.

Competition Theme

The Global Development Network invites researchers from low-income or middle-income countries to submit research proposals within the theme, '**Unpacking the health-environment-economic wellbeing nexus,**' for the Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development.

Proposals under this theme would look critically at policy successes and failures to look at the complex intersection of health, environment and economic wellbeing.

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.

More information about the theme of the competition is available at the end of this document.

Objective of the Assignment

GDN is recruiting reviewers to conduct the assessment of research proposals under the ORD category of the Global Development Awards Competition. The review is scheduled to take place in two phases:

1. **Lot 1** - a first level review by early-career scholars (less than 10 years of experience)
2. **Lot 2** - a second level review of experienced researchers (above 10 years of experience)

Interested candidates can apply to one lot only, depending on their profiles.

Panel Organizer

Out of the Lot 2 reviewers, a Panel Organizer is selected based on her/his professional experience upon demonstrated availability for this additional task. This individual will have the additional task of approving the final ranking after taking into consideration all comments and (normalized) scores.

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.

Lot 2: Expert level review

Experienced researchers to review the shortlisted proposals, and select the three finalists of the ORD category. The final decision will be validated by the Panel Organizer.

Eligibility

- **Lot 1:** Be a researcher with 2-10 years of research experience, with a track record of work and publication in the award theme for the current edition
- **Lot 2:** Be a researcher with 10+ years of research experience, with a track record of

work and publication in the award theme for the current edition

Finance and Budget

- **Lot 1:** Every proposal reviewed will be paid USD 40 to the reviewer.
- **Lot 2:** Every proposal reviewed will be paid USD 100 to the reviewer. GDN also pays USD 200 to the Panel Organizer as a management fee.

Application Procedure

Follow the steps given below:

1. Go to GDN's dedicated online submission platform using the following link: www.gdn.int/awardsplatform
2. 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.
3. 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 entry*. Select 'Call for Reviewers' under Category.
 - a. 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 (4 September 2020) but it will be considered as submitted only if you press **Submit Entry**.
4. You will be asked to provide
 - a. Overview of how your expertise matches the theme and scope of the competition
 - b. Full CV
 - c. Indication to which Lot (1 or 2) you are applying
5. 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 deadline for submission of demonstrations of interest is on **4 September 2020 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**.

Reporting

All reporting will be done to João Costa, Program Associate, through the email addresses awards@gdn.int and jcosta@gdn.int (all communications to be addressed to both emails mandatorily).

Timeline

Selected reviewers will comply with the timeline defined for their assignment which is expected to be:

- **Lot 1: First level review**
 - Between 5-29 October with up to 10 proposals per reviewer, 3 reviews per proposal. This number might differ depending on how many applications are received and how many reviewers are selected
- **Lot 2: Second level review**
 - Between 9 November and 1 December with 3 reviews per proposal (the workload on each reviewer may vary)
- **Panel Organizer**
 - Between the 2-3 December to approve the final ranking upon reception of all normalized scores and ranking provided by GDN

Selection Criteria of Reviewers

The criteria for the selection of Reviewers are as follows:

1. Research Background on the theme of the call
2. Policy background
3. Leadership experience
4. Evaluation and Experience on Project implementation experience

ORD Selection Criteria (to be followed by selected reviewers)

The criteria for the ORD category are as follows:

1. Potential for a substantive contribution to a particular aspect of research literature on the topic of the current edition.
2. Innovative value of the research topic and the methodology proposed
3. Academic quality of the proposal (including quality of referencing, clarity of research questions, appropriateness of methodology)
4. Clarity of the links to policy (at the level of concept definition, operationalization, critical review or evaluation) for addressing specific development issues
5. Composition of the research team and the cost-effectiveness of the budget proposed

Description | 2020 Global Development Awards Competition Theme

“The world must embrace a recovery that involves sustainable farming and clean energy. Anything else is a false economy”

Marco Lambertini (WWF International), Elizabeth Maruma Mrema (UN Convention on Biological Diversity) and Maria Neira (World Health Organization). *The Guardian*, 17 June 2020¹

The current COVID-19 pandemic has brought into the spotlight the links between extreme environmental pressure, unsustainable economic activity and public health emergencies. Before COVID-19, Yellow Fever, Malaria, Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis, the Nipah virus and Ebola, as well as 75% of all infectious diseases,² are believed by scientists to have originated from wildlife facing extreme environmental conditions, partly and at times largely driven by economic activity. What is currently being lived as a ‘critical event’ (to borrow the language of Indian sociologist Veena Das³), might be best described as a long-announced, simmering crisis, as many authoritative voices have stressed.⁴

Calls for renewed and courageous political action, and an overhaul in policy approaches to navigate the crisis, are close to ubiquitous. Yet, little is known about how to effectively address the links between health, environment and economic wellbeing, except the fact that the nexus ‘presents multiple convoluted challenges at national, regional, continental, and global levels’.⁵ Questions relate both to the nature of this nexus, and to the kind of policy processes and initiatives that might address it effectively.

The 2020 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 can document and analyze policy efforts that address the links between health, environment and economic wellbeing, with a critical eye to illuminating both successes and failures. Any policy initiative identified must necessarily have direct links to all three areas as research proposals within the Competition’s theme: **Unpacking the health-environment-economic wellbeing nexus**.

In all cases, proposals should demonstrate the potential of the research project to generate critical insight for the design of policy processes, the political economy of decision-making, the role of evidence in policy debates and decision, and policy evaluation. 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 action in the future.

¹ Lambertini, Marco, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, and Maria Neira. ‘Coronavirus Is a Warning to Us to Mend Our Broken Relationship with Nature | Marco Lambertini, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema and Maria Neira’. *The Guardian*, 17 June 2020, sec. Opinion. www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/17/coronavirus-warning-broken-relationship-nature.

² pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/11516376/

³ Das, Veena. *Critical Events: An Anthropological Perspective on Contemporary India*. Vol. 7. Oxford University Press Delhi, 1995.

⁴ Damian Carrington. ‘Coronavirus: ‘Nature Is Sending Us a Message’, Says UN Environment Chief’. *The Guardian*, 25 March 2020, sec. World news. www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/25/coronavirus-nature-is-sending-us-a-message-says-un-environment-chief.

⁵ Cerf, Marlon E. ‘Sustainable Development Goal Integration, Interdependence, and Implementation: The Environment–Economic–Health Nexus and Universal Health Coverage’. *Global Challenges* 3, no. 9 (29 April 2019). doi.org/10.1002/gch2.201900021.

Research proposals falling within the following macro-policy areas are welcome (this list is indicative but not exclusive):

- Biodiversity Mainstreaming
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Valuation and Management of Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services
- Human-wildlife conflicts
- Disaster Recovery
- Extreme Poverty Alleviation
- Ecological Transition

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.

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.