



## CALL FOR SESSIONS AND PARTICIPANTS

#STI4D #GDN

The Global Development Network (GDN) will host its 18th Annual Global Development Conference on **Science, Technology and Innovation for Development** from **11-12 December, 2017 in New Delhi**, in partnership with the Campbell Collaboration and the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID). The conference will be a forum where global actors from governments, research, private sector and civil society can share knowledge and practices on innovative initiatives to address development challenges. Discussions will focus on three key areas aimed at enabling progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Global Health Challenges, Sustainable Agriculture, and Skills, Employment and Industrial Transformation. Since 1999, GDN's annual conferences have brought together Nobel Prize laureates, state dignitaries, top experts and practitioners from around the world to discuss the most pressing development challenges.

### WHY?

To identify pathways for progress in science, technology and innovation systems, to promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the direct benefit of people in developing countries.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

GDN and its partners invite developing country researchers, policymakers, the private sector and civil society actors to participate and suggest either presentations or full sessions to be showcased in the conference. Presentations and full sessions should feature examples of research, programs and policies that either develop innovation as a thematic axis or concretely use technological progress to improve life conditions and well-being in developing countries. It will present state-of-the-art initiatives that have a direct impact on development outcomes, by fostering South-South academic collaboration on the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) agenda and attempting to mainstream STI into global development debates. Organizers will provide networking spaces for global actors, facilitate debates and discussions as well as publish a series of briefs on STI for development, emerging from the conference. Other features will include a research exhibition, an awards competition, a blog launch, a networking event and more.

Interested organizations and individuals can submit proposals for presentations or full sessions by filling in the online form available below by **31 October, 2017**. The presentations can target either research, projects or policy in any of the three focus areas of the event. The conference organizing partners will select the most interesting sessions and offer them a stage during the conference. Conference registration fees will be waived for presenters, however a management fee of US\$3000 is requested from session organizers.

### [Link to submit a proposal for a session or presentation](#)

### GENERAL PARTICIPANTS

The conference is also a prized networking event for researchers and development actors. We welcome interested participants to pre-register by filling the form available below. The registration fee (US\$250 for regular participants, free for university students) covers both days of the event and includes lunch.

### [Link to pre-register as conference attendee](#)

## Main theme: Science, Technology & Innovation for Development

### Focus area 1

Global Health Challenges

### Focus area 2

Sustainable Agriculture

### Focus area 3

Skills, Employment and Industrial Transformation

## 1. Global Health Challenges

Pressing issues of global health call for a global partnership for innovation in healthcare and improved practices making the best use of available technologies. All actors of the international development community need to foster global cooperation in R&D on health and support a more enabling system of intellectual property rights, one that can help to improve access to medicines and change incentives towards neglected diseases of developing countries. Malnutrition, obesity as well as communicable diseases remain high on the agenda as recently recalled with the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Digital public health services are rapidly developing along with adequate technology. New technologies are enabling better targeting of beneficiaries, providing insurance, and accessible ways to maintain medical records online – a major advancement for developing countries with low-literacy rates. Important questions remain: how can modern technologies be used to improve the quality of health services at an affordable cost? What are the challenges and opportunities ahead?

## 2. Sustainable Agriculture

Technology has been driving agricultural productivity over centuries, and the digital age has opened new possibilities for innovation in agriculture. This translates into the use of new technologies for sustainable farming practices, supply chain management or grassroots agriculture innovations to increase crop productivity. The digital economy has also facilitated access to markets and real time information on demand and pricing; crucial for small-holder farmers. Sustainable agricultural practices must be equipped to tackle the challenges of climate change, preserving biodiversity, and protecting and supporting small-holder agriculture. The challenges of malnutrition and food security remain a major issue, especially in low-income countries where technology and infrastructure are still lacking. In addition, intellectual property rights as well as land management policies continue to hamper small-holder farming and the development of this activity.

## 3. Skills, Employment & Industrial Transformation

The ongoing digital revolution, coined as the fourth industrial revolution, will transform our societies in unprecedented ways. With the arrival of artificial intelligence, robotics and nanotechnologies, disruption in global value chains is likely to bring a change of paradigm in industrial policy that could translate to less foreign investment in low-income countries. The technology gap should be bridged by reforming knowledge systems to ensure that they can compete in the global knowledge economy. The question of skills and employment will be crucial to ensure that technological innovation do not exacerbate inequalities and poverty in low-skilled manufacturing countries, posing a large challenge to entrepreneurship and human capital formation. Finally, renewable energies should build on technological progress to improve energy efficiency and support global climate change agreements.

## CONFERENCE PARTNERS

GDN is holding the conference in partnership with the **Campbell Collaboration** and the **Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID)**. The Campbell Collaboration promotes positive social and economic change through the production and use of systematic reviews and other evidence synthesis for evidence-based policy and practice. The Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) is a national-level policy research organization in the public domain and is affiliated to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). GDN is a public international organization that supports high-quality, policy-oriented, social science research in developing and transition countries to promote better lives.

For more information, please contact the conference team at [conference@gdn.int](mailto:conference@gdn.int) or visit our page on the **GDN website**. Join the conversation on twitter using the hashtags #STI4D #GDN.