



Global Development Awards Competition Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development 2019

Call for Research Proposals

The [Global Development Network \(GDN\)](#) invites researchers from developing and transition countries to submit **research proposals** under the theme of ***Doing research in developing countries: the role of non-academic actors, new communication platforms and leadership in social sciences*** for the [Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development \(ORD\)](#).

THE AWARD

The **Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development** is a competitive research grant program under the Global Development Awards Competition 2019. The Awards Competition is administered by **GDN**, funded under the Policy and Human Resources Development Fund (PHRD) trust fund managed by the **World Bank** and generously supported by the **Government of Japan**. This award program identifies and funds outstanding research proposals in developing and transition 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 developing countries and transition countries have participated in the competition and **more than 200 awards** have been conferred till date, impacting the professional visibility, global recognition and career development of the winners.

The three winning projects will receive grants worth **US\$ 45,000** in total.¹ Finalists will be invited to travel and present their proposals at GDN's next Global Development Conference to be held in Bonn (Germany) between the 23rd and 25th of October 2019 (details at www.gdn.int/conference2019). Travel and expenses for one representative from each of three short-listed proposals (ideally, the principal investigator) will be covered by GDN. The awards will be given to the organization(s)/researcher(s) whose proposals to undertake research in any one of the three research sub-themes described below holds the **greatest promise for improving our understanding of development issues** and

¹ The disbursement of the grants is subject to the final clearing of the 2019-21 edition of the Awards competition by the World Bank, which is currently ongoing. This might affect the timeline of the grant period.

puts forth clear, articulate and well researched policy implications to address relevant development problems.

The first prize is **US\$ 30,000**, and the second prize and third prizes are **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. Grants are conditional to final clearing of the 2019-21 edition of the Awards competition by the World Bank, a process that is ongoing at the moment this call is launched.

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 **26 July 2019 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**.

COMPETITION SUB-THEMES

The main theme of the Awards competition this year is ***‘Doing social research in developing countries: the role of non-academic actors, new communication platforms and leadership in the social sciences’***. Research Proposals for the Award will be considered under the following three sub-themes:

- 1) Understanding and measuring the role of non-academic researchers in development**
- 2) The role of social media in the production, diffusion and uptake of development research in developing countries**
- 3) The role of research leadership in advancing evidence-informed debate in developing countries**

The description of the three themes is given on pages 7-8.

COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

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

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 1) Eligible countries for the ORD competition are those classified by the World Bank as **low-income or middle-income countries**². 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 only allowed to apply if they have been living in the non-eligible country for no more

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>

than five years as of **16 July 2019. This should be clearly shown 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.**

- The **CVs for all team members must be included in the application.** The CVs should clearly state the age of all team members, the citizenship for all team members and the country of residence for the past five years for all team members and the current institutional affiliation for all team members. These details are mandatory and an application will be deemed incomplete if these details are not submitted.
- 2) The upper age limit for all applicants is **45 years as of 16 July 2019.** Individuals above 45 years of age as of 16 July 2019 are not eligible to apply.
 - 3) 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.
 - 4) Staff members of multilateral and bilateral organizations (The World Bank, IMF, IADB, UN agencies, DFID, AusAID, etc.) are not eligible to apply.
 - 5) Previous and current employees of GDN or its Regional Network Partners³ 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.
 - 6) Similar proposals or papers resulting as products from full or partial GDN funded activities (Global Research Projects and other competitions not limited to Regional Research Competitions, Global Research Competitions etc.), cannot be submitted for this competition.
 - 7) 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.
 - 8) Past and current ORD reviewers are not eligible to take part in the competition.

HOW TO APPLY

Follow the steps given below:

Preparing your Proposal

1. Download the proposal template by [clicking here](#); fill it in and save it on your computer in .doc, .docx or .pdf format.
2. Prepare a document providing the profile of your organization (if any) and save it on your computer in .doc, .docx or .pdf format.
3. Prepare a single document containing the CVs of all team members related to the research project and save it on your computer in .doc, .docx or .pdf format.

³ Please visit the following link for the list of Regional Network Partners: <http://www.gdn.int/regional-network-partners>

Online Application Form

4. Before starting your application, ensure that one of the **following web browsers** is installed on your computer:
 - Chrome version 22.x (November 2012) or higher
 - Firefox version 16.x (November 2012) or higher
 - Internet Explorer Version 9.x (March 2011) or higher
5. Logon to **GDN's dedicated online submission platform** using the following link:
<http://www.gdn.int/awards2019/apply>
6. Click on '**New User? Click Here**' to create a new profile. You will be directed to a new page to register your profile. You will receive an email confirming the successful registration of your profile.
7. Under the tab titled '**Submissions**', click on the '**Add New**' button. You will be directed to a new application page where you will be asked to provide the details of the proposal and applicable personal details of each member of the research team.
8. Upload your proposal, organizational profile and CV's: Click on '**Upload**'. Browse and locate the relevant files on your computer and click 'open'.
9. Once you have completed your application, click on 'Save and Submit'. You will receive an email notifying you on the successful submission of your application.
10. In case you need to exit the application and complete it at a later time, click on '**Save and Continue Later**'. You may return and complete your application on the online platform before the closing date (26 July 2019).
11. Please submit a **specific application only once**. In case you have difficulties accessing the online platform for a previously submitted application, please contact awards@gdn.int.

The last date for submission of the online registration form, the full research proposal in the application template and CVs of the applicants is **26 July, 2019 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**. **Please note that the submission of all documents is mandatory for your application to be treated as complete and eligible.**

Note: 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.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The application and the required documents must be submitted as electronic files at GDN's online submission platform (<http://www.gdn.int/awards2019/apply>). **Please note that GDN accepts applications through the online submission platform only.**
- Research proposals should be submitted only in the designated [application template](#).

- The Proposal Template should not exceed 20 pages. Format should be in Calibri, 11-point font with single line spacing and one inch margins.
- Applicants must clearly state the theme under which the proposal is being submitted. Applications that cannot be categorized under one of the three themes will **NOT** be considered.
- Applicants can only submit one proposal under each theme. However, more than one research proposal can be submitted by the same applicant(s) if the topics correspond to different themes.
- 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. 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.

REVIEW CRITERIA

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

- Substantive contribution of the research to a particular aspect of development
- Innovativeness of the research topic and the methodology
- Academic quality
- Clarity and significance of the policy implications for addressing specific development issues
- Composition of the team and the cost-effectiveness of the budget proposed

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 and complete applications will be reviewed by two external scholars in each category in the second stage.
- The qualifying applications from the second round will be sent to independent experts in each thematic category. For each category, the corresponding experts will submit a short list of candidates under each sub-theme to GDN along with an explanation of the underlying selection criteria for each short-listed candidate. The names of the three finalists will be announced by **September 2019**.
- The three short-listed candidates for the ORD award will present their work in a parallel session at GDN's next *Global Development Conference [Knowledge for Sustainable Development: the Research-Policy Nexus](#)* in October 2019. Travel and other expenses for one researcher, preferably the Principal Researcher, of each short-listed proposal will be covered by GDN.
- The final selection of proposals will be undertaken by a Selection Committee in the last and final stage at the conference in Bonn. The decision of the jury will be final. The winners will be announced during the Awards ceremony in Bonn.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- GDN reserves the right not to grant one or more than one Award in any of the sub-themes.
- 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:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines • CEDLAS - Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina • Czech National Bank, Czech Republic • European Association of Development, Research and Training Institutes (EADI), Germany • Harvard University, USA • Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), Nepal • Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands • Inter-American Dialogue, USA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Agricultural Research Institute of Tunisia, Tunisia • South Eastern European University, Republic of Macedonia • Tallinn University, Estonia • The Netherlands Institute of Social Research, The Hague, The Netherlands • The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, Austria • The World Bank • Tulane University, USA • Veolia Environment Institute, France |
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- James Cook University, Australia
 - Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Republic of Korea
- West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD), Senegal

DESCRIPTION OF 2019 GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS COMPETITION THEMES

Doing social research in developing countries: the role of non-academic actors, new communication platforms and leadership in the social sciences

The role of knowledge and research systems is a growing area of interest in debates about innovation, development and growth in the global South. ODA-funded programs are also increasingly focusing on ways to 'strengthen' systems, and the role of research and research capacity building within broader knowledge systems. The study of on what social science research systems looks like, how social science research works, and how it contributes to national knowledge systems (and ultimately development), however, is only in its infancy, particularly with regards to developing countries.

Given the growing relevance of the topic to ODA-funded programs and development debates, 'research on research' faces a strategic opportunity to build equally on Northern and Southern scholarly perspectives on these topics, including in terms of methodological and theoretical development.

Building on GDN's seminal efforts to build both analytical capacities and comparative evidence on this topics in the global South through its Doing Research program, and in line with the theme of the 2019 Global Development Conference, the next edition of the Outstanding Research on Development competition calls for research proposal that focus on topics that have traditionally been less central to the research capacity building agenda strictly defined, but that sit nonetheless on the line between academic practice and social engagement: the role of non-academic research institutions in developing countries' research systems; the influence of social media in reshaping social research processes; and the changing nature of research leadership. Specifically, the call seeks **methodologically ambitious research proposals** from young researchers from transitioning and developing countries, on the three sub-themes detailed below:

Sub-theme 1 – Understanding and measuring the role of non-academic researchers in development

- What noticeable forms does social research take in a country, beyond academia? What methodological approaches can be useful to map non-academic research actors, given the size of the civil society sector and the diversity of work being undertaken?
- What incentive structures influence the development of social research outside of academia? What is the role of ODA funding in this?
- Do academic and non-academic research actors share the same methodological and epistemological horizons and traditions? Do they share the same understanding of what counts as 'evidence' or as policy-relevant research?
- What is the political economy underpinning collaboration between academic and non-academic research actors in developing countries, and what is the role of ODA funding in it?

Sub-theme 2 – The role of social media in the production, diffusion and uptake of development research in developing countries

- How have social media impacted the way development research in produced, disseminated and used in developing countries?

- How does the emergence of social media impact more traditional forms of research dissemination? Has it changed the scope and modality of research-policy interactions, and research uptake, including its cost?
- What analytical frameworks are needed to document, measure and assess this change as well as its impact?
- Can new data sources such as altmetrics help in tracking and measuring processes or research diffusion and uptake?
- Has the emergence of social media had any impact on perceptions around the value of research, among researchers, policy actors and the general public? Has it impacted, positively or negatively, access to research-based knowledge for non-researchers?
- What implications does the growing importance of social media have on the definition of institutional support for research, professional skillset of researchers, and career advancement in research in developing countries?

Sub-theme 3 – The role of research leadership in advancing evidence-informed debate in developing countries

- Are there 'traditions' of research leadership (and research leadership capacity building) in developing countries that illuminate a specific culture of research-policy interaction?
- Are policy and public engagement skills a feature of research leadership in developing countries? Does this vary across types of institutions and sectors?
- What is the role of ODA-funded programs in shaping and pushing specific definitions of research leadership in developing countries?
- How does a focus on evidence-informed policy making change practices and definitions of research leadership, and its assessment?