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

Terms of Reference
Assessment of Proposals

BACKGROUND

The Global Development Awards Competition is an award scheme launched by GDN with generous support from the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan, through the World Bank. The Awards Competition recognizes excellence in policy-oriented research, supports the career advancement of researchers in developing countries, and funds innovative social development projects benefiting marginalized groups in the developing world.

Since its inception in 2000, GDN has supported more than 340 winners of the competition with roughly 3.8 million dollars' worth of awards over 16 years, placing it as one of the most important global competitions targeting research for development. It is traditionally featured at GDN's Annual Conference, thus increasing visibility of the competition and its winners. The competition includes three categories:

- Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) – for research proposals on a specific theme
- Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) – for NGO-implemented, ongoing development projects
- Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) award – for scaling up development projects identified through the MIDP Award

The Awards edition of 2019 will feature only the ORD category as the MIDP is currently under review. The winner of the current round will be chosen by an eminent jury at GDN's conference to be held in Bonn, Germany, between the 21st and 23rd of October 2019; an event attended by international development practitioners where finalists will present their proposals. Finalists will be invited to present their proposals at the conference after a training in communication and public speaking.

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 taking place in two phases:

1. a first level review by young scholars
2. a second level review by panels of experienced researchers

Interested candidates can apply to one phase only, depending on their profile.

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. Selected reviewers will receive proposals to review under one sub-theme of the competition, according to their background and preferences.

Lot 2: Expert panel review
Experienced researchers will be invited to constitute panels to review the shortlisted proposals, and select the three finalists of the ORD category. Selected experts will receive proposals to review under one-sub-theme of the competition, according to their background and preferences. The final decision will be colloquial between the expert panels.

ELIGIBILITY
- Lot 1: Be a researcher with 2-10 years of research experience, with a track record of work and publication in the award themes 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 themes 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(s) as a management fee.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE
Demonstrations of interest should be expressed by sending a full CV, ranked list of their expertise per sub-theme and Lot (1 or 2) they are applying for to both email addresses awards@gdn.int and jcosta@gdn.int (all communications to be addressed to both emails mandatorily).

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), who will coordinate with the World Bank for the final selection of the applicants.

ORD SELECTION CRITERIA
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

Annex 1 – Competition sub-themes

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

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 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 program in shaping and pushing specific definition 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?