

**Building Development Intelligence and Constructing Futures:
A Chronicle of Ten Years of the Global Development Awards and
Medals Competition (2000-2010)**



About the Global Development Network

The Global Development Network (GDN) is an International Organization that supports research in economics and social sciences in developing countries and connects researchers and development research institutes globally. Founded in 1999, GDN is headquartered in New Delhi, with offices in Cairo and Washington D.C. GDN supports researchers in developing and transition countries to generate and share high quality applied social science research to inform policy-making and advance social and economic development.

GDN's core business is building research capacity, understood as the combination of individual and organizational competences as well as institutional features needed to produce good and relevant research, and to mobilize knowledge for public policy purposes. GDN works in collaboration with 11 Regional Network Partners (RNPs) as well as with international donor organizations and governments, research institutes, academic institutions, think tanks and more than 12,000 individual researchers worldwide.

GDN's Global Research Capacity Building Program™ helps social scientists in developing and transition countries develop a mix of the skills and knowledge required to become high-performing researchers. This integrated program includes the Regional Research Competitions (RRCs), the Global Research Competitions and the Global Research Projects (GRPs). The Global Research Capacity Building Program™ is complemented and supported by a range of networking, outreach and dissemination activities.

To know more about GDN, please visit www.gdn.int.

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Cover page image: Finalists and Winners of the 2010 Global Development Awards and Medals Competition, with a few members of the GDN staff, in Bogotá, Colombia.

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List of Abbreviations

AMC	--	Global Development Awards and Medals Competition
ANU	--	Australian National University (Australia)
AusAID	--	Australian Agency for International Development (Australia)
CGD	--	Center for Global Development (USA)
DAM		Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Bangladesh
DFID	--	Department for International Development (UK)
EADI	--	European Association of Development Institutes (Germany)
FUVIA		Colegio Virtual Iberoamericano
GDI	--	German Development Institute (Germany)
GDN	--	Global Development Network
GRP		Global Research Project
IDEI	--	International Development Enterprises (India)
IDRC	--	International Development Research Centre (Canada)
ISS	--	International Institute of Social Studies (The Netherlands)
JICA-RI	--	Japan International Cooperation Agency-Research Institute (Japan)
MDG	--	Millennium Development Goal
MIDP	--	Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project
MRD	--	Japanese Award for Medals for Research on Development
ORD	--	Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development
RNP	--	Regional Network Partners
RRC		Regional Research Competition
UNDP	--	United Nations Development Programme
US\$	--	United States Dollars
WB	--	The World Bank

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1. Introduction

Scientific pursuit is the most powerful and effective method to address the inherent complexity of development issues and to inspire public policies in developing countries. Many, if not all, of the problems that developing countries and emerging economies face are complex. Yet they can be increasingly addressed through scientific pursuit. Most necessitate new ways of producing, structuring and mobilizing knowledge through open, collaborative, multidisciplinary, and global research collaboration(s). GDN believes that significant contributions to development can be made by:

1. Supporting the capacity development of economists and social scientists in developing and transition countries;
2. Connecting them as a network of specialists across the developing world; and
3. Ensuring that the network reaches a critical mass.

The Global Research Capacity Building Program™, at the core of GDN's new strategy, is now being implemented in an articulated manner, with the redesign of existing activities, such as the Regional Research Competitions, Global Research Projects, GDNNet and the GDN Annual Global Development Conference, alongside the introduction of new ones, such as the Global Research Competition and the Global Policy Dialogues. This new strategy is complementing existing programs, such as the Global Development Awards and Medals Competition (AMC).

This report concentrates on highlighting the achievements of one of GDN's activities, namely, the AMC, intended to provide early career researchers and development professionals from the South with the knowledge and tools to strengthen their capacity to influence development policy through policy-relevant academic research and scale up of innovative development projects. The Competition comprises of three categories – Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (development projects for scaling up), Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (research proposals) and Medals for Research on Development (completed research papers).

This report chronicles the achievements of the AMC, and is not an evaluation of the activity itself. The views expressed in this document are those of the consultant and not necessarily of GDN.

2. The Competition

The Global Development Awards and Medals Competition (AMC) is a lively funding mechanism established by mutual cooperation between the Global Development Network (GDN), the Government of Japan, and donors like the World Bank (WB) among others. The main goal of the initiative is to raise interest in and foster Southern knowledge on development issues among emerging social science researchers throughout the developing world. Since 2000, over 7,200 development professionals representing 100 countries have applied to the Competition with approximately, US\$350,000 being given each year in prizes. Additionally, more than US\$2.6 million have been distributed in Awards and travel grants to finalists and winners.¹

This report describes the Competition, profiles the participants, and compiles the outcomes achieved by winners in the 10 years since its inception. It also highlights the challenges and discusses the way forward.

2.1 Description of the Competition

The AMC encompasses three different categories: The Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP); the Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD); and the Medals for Research on Development (Medals). In general, three to five topics are selected each year for research categories – ORD and Medals. Topics are related to the theme of the GDN Annual Global Development Conference. The theme for the Annual Conference is selected by the GDN Board of Directors. Before the launch of the Competition every year, the topics for the Competition are also approved by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan.

2.2. The Japanese Awards

a) Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP)

The Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project or MIDP carries grants for two or three institutions (mostly, Non-Governmental Organizations) in developing countries that present the most innovative, on-going **development projects with a potential for scaling up**. An Award of US\$30,000² is given to the institution whose project holds promise for benefiting the poorest populations in developing countries and transition economies. The institutions that stand second and third are given a prize of US\$10,000 and US\$5,000, respectively, to support their initiative, and help in scaling up the innovation in these projects. The Government of Japan through the Ministry of Finance has funded the MIDP. The submissions for this group do not fall under any thematic category.

GDN has also collaborated with the Japan Social Development Fund for a five year period (2009-2014). Through this collaboration, the first prize winner of the MIDP award is eligible to apply for a

¹These figures are till 2011.

²The award money has decreased from US\$100,000 to US\$30,000 for first prize over the years. In 2011, it is at US\$30,000 for the first prize, US\$10,000 for the second prize and US\$5,000 for the third prize. The number of prizes given out has differed over time as well.



higher grant of up to US\$200,000 for development projects focusing on poverty reduction programs that serve to enhance productivity, increase access to community services and infrastructure, and improve the living conditions of poor and vulnerable groups in low income and lower middle income countries.

b) Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development(ORD)

The Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development or ORD carries awards for three research institutions in developing countries that submit **quality research proposals** in one of the three to five topics within one thematic area, selected every year for the Competition. A grant of US\$30,000 is given to the institution whose proposed research holds the greatest promise for improving the understanding of development. The second prize is US\$10,000, and the third prize is US\$5,000. As with the MIDP, the Government of Japan has provided funding for the ORD.

2.3 The Medals for Research on Development (Medals)

The Medals for Research on Development (Medals) confer awards to authors (developing country researchers) of **completed research papers** in each of the three or five topic areas selected every year. Two prize medals (one for US\$10,000 and another US\$5,000) are awarded under each of the three or five topics. Funding for the Medals has been provided by prestigious donors, such as the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Kuwait; Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Australia; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USA; Department of International Development (DFID), UK; Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland; Economic and Social Research Council, UK; Federal Ministry of Finance, Austria; Ford Foundation, USA; German Development Institute (GDI), Germany; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, India; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland; the Saudi Fund for Development, Saudi Arabia; International Monetary Fund; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United States Agency for International Development (USAID); Government of Luxembourg, Luxembourg; Government of Spain, Spain; International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada; the World Bank (WB); Merck Foundation, USA; and the Government of Italy, among others.

In general, three to five topics are selected for each year's research categories – ORD and Medals. Topics are related to the theme of the GDN Annual Global Development Conference. All finalists in each of the three competition categories and, occasionally, other applicants such as semi-finalists, have been invited to attend the Annual Conference and present their work at the Conference, with costs covered by GDN. During the conferences, finalists present their work to a jury of renowned experts, who select the winners in each category. Winners receive their prize during a prize distribution ceremony.

2.4 Relevant Topics

Underlying the selection of each Competition's (and conference) topics has been GDN's concern about the imbalance in the distribution of knowledge between developed and developing countries; the limited transferability of knowledge and multidisciplinary research efforts. Every year, the main topics for the research categories of the Competition are selected primarily, in order to tackle these



concerns, and these are related to relevant topics. The purpose of this section is not to provide a detailed view of all the topics that have been researched over the last 10 years. Rather, this section is intended to provide an overview of some of the research topics that have been treated innovatively by some of the winners and other researchers. Highlighted below are samples of research themes and topics finalists and winners have pursued.

2.5 Research Topics for Outstanding Research on Development and Medals for Research on Development: A Snapshot

In the first year, the theme was ‘Beyond Economics: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Development,’ which was also the topic of the Second GDN Annual Global Development Conference held in Tokyo, in December 2000. Interesting submissions were received for this Competition. One of the competitors submitted a paper on how ‘Collective Action Overcomes Problems of Institutional Access to Information, Credit, and Problems of Seed Supply’ in the Indian semi-arid tropics. Another competitor provided insights on why Russian workers do not migrate, thus leading to a geographical segmentation of the country’s labor market. Yet another participant received the ORD award to continue research on 1,000 peri-urban households in Lima, Peru, in order to identify ways in which adults transmit advantages and disadvantages to children of both genders, and the conditions under which young men and women start their own domestic life cycles.

The topic of the second Competition (and of the Rio de Janeiro Conference in December 2001), was ‘Blending Local and Global Knowledge’, which again attracted high-quality research. One of the researchers, for example, shed light on how to improve urban rail infrastructure in developing countries, particularly Turkey, based on the experience of eight developed economies. Another researcher explored the fundamental constraints imposed by the local institutional environment, underlying the ambiguous economic performance of Pacific Island countries. Another paper considered alternative solutions for secure land tenure in South East Asia, taking into account particular cultural features of low-income communities in Thailand.

In 2002, the theme was ‘Globalization and Equity’. Again, submissions were received for this broad topic which comprised the challenging categories of growth, inequality and poverty, education and technology, trade, health, and financial markets. As an example, one researcher examined the ability of Tunisian firms to invent and innovate, in comparison to their competitors. Roberto Duncan, from Chile explored the implications of dollarization on the volatility of the main macroeconomic variables in an emerging, small, open economy that faces terms-of-trade shocks. Tadesse Gole, from Ethiopia discussed the challenges and opportunities derived from a proposed management approach incorporating issues of conservation and use of coffee genetic resources in Ethiopia.

The subject matter of the 2003 Conference in New Delhi was ‘Understanding Reform’. Submissions covered a range of issues like social safety nets, special education programs, impact of agricultural reform, and the role of international institutions. Few examples include a winning research proposal which examined the ‘Impact of Distributional Costs on the Pace of Institutional Reform in Developing Countries’, using a case study from the Indian power sector. Another proposal elucidated the pro-market reform in the transport sector in Turkey through the introduction of privately-operated buses, and its impact on urban livelihoods. Another, titled ‘Attending School, Two “Rs.” and Child



Work in Rural Ethiopia’ revealed that while the availability of agricultural machinery reduces the demand for child labor, other technologies, such as the spread of improved seeds, at least in the short run, increase the burden of work.

In 2004, the topic of the Competition ‘Developing and Developed Worlds: Mutual Impact’ again attracted many interesting research proposals. For example, one examined welfare losses resulting from forced internal displacement in Colombia, and factors that determine ‘the desire to return’. Another research paper analyzed to what extent FDI flows help structural reforms, and to what extent the growing presence of transnational corporations generate productive spillovers for domestic firms in the Argentine manufacturing sector.

In 2005, the focus of the Competition was ‘Institutions and Development’, in accordance with the GDN Annual Global Development Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia. The winning proposal examined the impact of the Buenos Aires’ public health insurance scheme aimed at guaranteeing access and quality health services to those without other formal types of coverage, or economic resources to afford this. It was considered an interesting piece of research in that it endeavored to provide an example of how research institutions, as some argued, can provide information on how they can participate in the government’s decision-making processes.

Topics of the 2006 Competition focused on analyzing the factors behind Asia’s rapid growth and understanding: whether this growth was sustainable? And, does this economic performance translate to improving the quality of lives and poverty reduction? Issues presented, included an introspection of the pitfalls of poverty alleviation in Asian countries, with a particular focus on the widening gap between the elite and marginalized groups who, more often than not, did not enjoy the fruits of economic growth.

Table I: TOPICS

Conference	Topics
‘Beyond Economics: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Development’ Tokyo, December 11–13, 2000	1. Escaping Poverty 2. Institutional Foundation of Market Economy 3. Gender and Development 4. Environment and Social Stability 5. Science and Technology for Development
‘Blending Local and Global Knowledge’ Rio de Janeiro, December 9–12, 2001	1. Infrastructure and Development 2. Rural Development and Poverty Reduction 3. Management and Delivery of Urban System 4. HIV/ AIDS and Delivery of Health Systems 5. Governance and Development
‘Globalization and Equity’ Cairo, January 18–21, 2003	1. Growth, Inequality and Poverty 2. Trade and Foreign Direct Investment 3. Education, Knowledge and Technology 4. Financial Markets 5. Health, Environment and Development

'Understanding Reform' New Delhi, January 28–30, 2004	1. Pro-Market Reform and the Poor 2. Agriculture Reform and Rural Development in the Lowest Income Countries 3. Reforms, Interest Groups and Civil Society 4. Market Reforms and the New Role of the State 5. Reform, the External Environment and the Role of International and Regional Institutions
'Developing and Developed Worlds: Mutual Impact' Dakar, January 24–26, 2005	1. Mutual Impact, the Global Economic Architecture, and the Millennium Development Goals 2. Trade Policies and Sub-Saharan Africa 3. Investment in Health and Mutual Impact 4. Conflict, Human Security and Migration 5. Foreign Direct Investment, Labor Markets and the Environment
'Institutions and Development: At the Nexus of Global Change' St. Petersburg, January 19–21, 2006	1. Institutions and Poverty Reduction 2. Institutions, Policies, and Long-Run Growth 3. Institutional Development and Change in the Health Sector 4. Political Institutions, Governance and Development 5. Globalization, Institutions and Development
'Shaping a New Global Reality: The Rise of Asia and its Implications' Beijing, January 14–16, 2007	1. Global Health Concerns, Domestic Responses and Reforms 2. Reforms, Public Services and Poverty 3. Resource Flows in an Interdependent World: Implications of Changes in Demand and Supply 4. Changes in Global Trade: Causes and Consequences 5. Industrial Development and Long-Term Growth
'Security for Development: Confronting Threats to Survival and Safety' Brisbane, January 29–February 5, 2008	1. Responses to the Security Threat Without Borders 2. Interpersonal Violence: the Rule of Law and its Enforcement 3. National Security: Deterring and Surviving Civil Conflicts 4. Natural Disasters: Anticipating and Coping with Catastrophes 5. Prevention of Threats and Emergency Response: Challenges for Policy Making
'Natural Resources and Development' Kuwait City, February 3–5, 2009	1. The Governance and Political Economy of Natural Resources Management 2. Exploitation of Natural Resources: Trends and Environmental Implications 3. The Economics of Natural Resources Management 4. Foreign Direct Investment and Natural Resources 5. Societies and Natural Resources Management
'Regional and Global Integration: Quo Vadis?' Prague, January 16–18, 2010	1. Globalization, Regulation and Development 2. International Migration: Crossing Borders, Changing Lives? 3. Regional Integration: Convergence Big Time or an Opportunity Wasted?
'Financing Development in a Post-Crisis World: The Need for a Fresh Look' Bogotá, January 13–15, 2011	1. External Capital Flows and Financing for Development 2. Domestic Resource Mobilization and Financial Sector Development: Another Angle to Look at the MDGs in a Post-Crisis World 3. Innovative Sources of Development Finance

In 2007, the broad theme was on the role of security as a precondition of human development. Participants discussed pervasive threats, whose potential to cause physical or material damage shortens the planning horizons of individuals, communities and enterprises and challenges their survival. Particular reference was made to violent crime, civil conflicts, and major calamities, including pandemics and natural disasters.

The theme of the 2008 Competition was to deliberate on the imminent challenges to the environment, natural resource management, along with conservation and restoration. It was argued that the condition of a region's natural resources can greatly determine the social and economic sustainability of a community. History shows that there is a resource curse where countries rich in natural resources have had lower growth, have low investment rates and very low real savings rates than their resource poor counterparts. The award winners contributed to the subject knowledge by showing that plenty of exceptions do exist and the problem does not lie in resources per se, but in how these countries do not use their resources efficiently, due to weak institutions. Winners argued that to reduce vulnerability to climate change and increasingly scarce natural resources, especially in ways that protect poor people, the world would need to come up with innovative ideas, including innovative financing related to, for example, the preservation of the environment through carbon credits and early action.

The 2009 Competition focused on globalization and regional integration in the context of the recent economic crisis. Presentations deliberated on the economic and political consequences of the crisis, which cast a deep shadow on the economies of the developing world and hastened the shift in global economic power from western countries to emerging economies. Questions addressed during the Conference included: Will political pressure to push back globalization now come from the West? How can developing countries counter it? And, is a new variant of globalization likely to emerge from this crisis? One of the proposals, which won the ORD, focused on survival strategies of Uruguayan manufacturing firms in open trade processes. Another winning proposal from India, submitted under the MIDP, focused on how schools could become self-sufficient using innovative financial systems.

3. The Selection Process

For each of the Competition categories, the selection process consists of a multilevel external evaluation, as highlighted below:

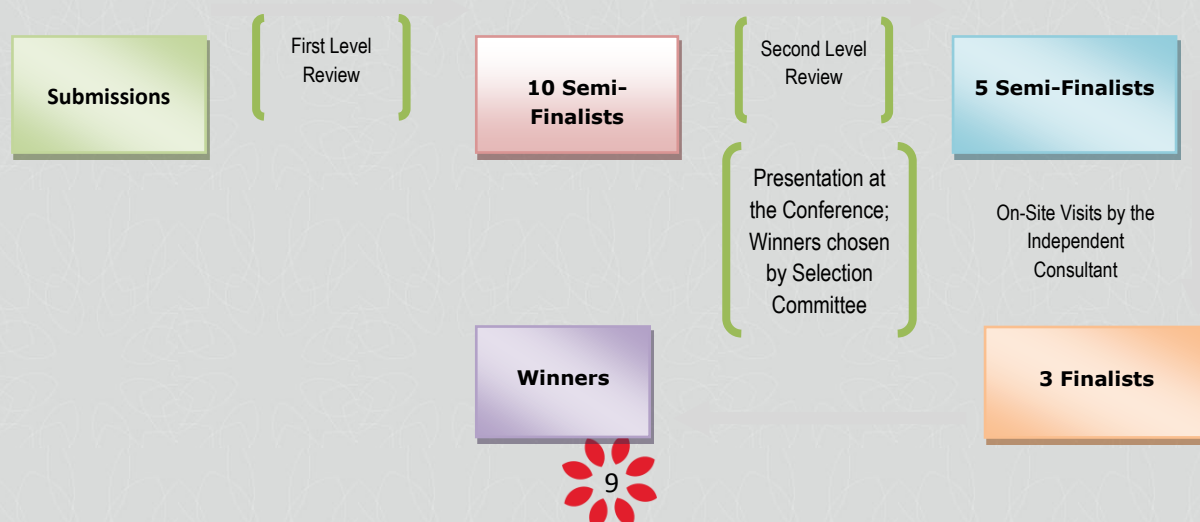
3.1. The Awards and Medals

a) The Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP)

After a preliminary screening and assessment of eligibility criteria by GDN staff, submissions for the MIDP are reviewed by a committee established by an external organization. In the first level evaluation, from 30 promising proposals that represent regions and sectors, this committee selects ten potential projects. These proposals are then assessed with inputs from field staff of the independent organization and narrowed down to five semi-finalists. In the final stage, an independent reviewer visits all five sites and selects three finalists who present to the Selection Committee for the Award. The three finalists present their organization's work at the subsequent GDN Annual Global Development Conference, where the Committee chooses and announces the winners. The Selection Committee not only considers the substantive and operational merits of the submissions, but also takes into account the potential for expansion into other settings and countries. The winner is asked to report on the use of the Award funding that is tied to monetary tranches over the grant period.

Selection Committee members have, in the past, included prominent names such as the former WB President, James Wolfensohn; the Asian Development Bank President; the Japan Bank for International Cooperation Institute's Executive Director; representatives from the African Capacity Building Foundation, Kenya; Rohinton Medhora from IDRC, Canada; President of European Association for Development Institutes (EADI), Germany; Director, as well as Deputy Director, Japan International Cooperation Agency-Research Institute (JICA-RI), Japan; Senior Policy Advisor, Partnership and Trust Fund Policy, Global Partnership and Trust Fund Operations, the World Bank, USA; Director, Australian National University (ANU), Australia; Manager, Development Research Program, AusAID, Australia; Academic Director, Kyiv School of Economics, Ukraine; and Vice President, Communications and Policy Outreach, Center for Global Development (CGD), USA. This is an indicative list.

D I: MIDP Awards Selection Process



b) The Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD)

The ORD submissions are reviewed by an external committee with subject matter expertise in each of the three or five thematic topics. Each review committee selects two shortlisted candidates on the basis of certain criteria³. These proposals are then reviewed by independent experts who submit a shortlist of three candidates to GDN. The three shortlisted candidates present their work at the GDN Annual Global Development Conference, where a Selection Committee for research submissions selects the winners. In selecting the ORD winner, the Selection Committee considers the overall academic quality of the proposal, the likelihood of successful completion of the work, the contribution to development knowledge, and its implications for policy development. In some cases, ORD winners have been invited to a subsequent GDN Annual Global Development Conference to make presentations on their completed research.

Over the years, some of the institutions that have organized the selection process for research submissions have been the Ronald Coase Institute, USA; the International Food Policy Research Institute, USA; the National Institute of Health, USA; the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan; University of Pittsburgh, USA; Japan External Trade Organization, Japan; CGD, USA; Agence Universitaire Francaise, France; Mario Einaudi Centre for International Studies, Cornell University, USA; University of York, UK; EADI, Germany; Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, ANU, Australia; and School of Law, University of Queensland (UQ), Australia, among others.



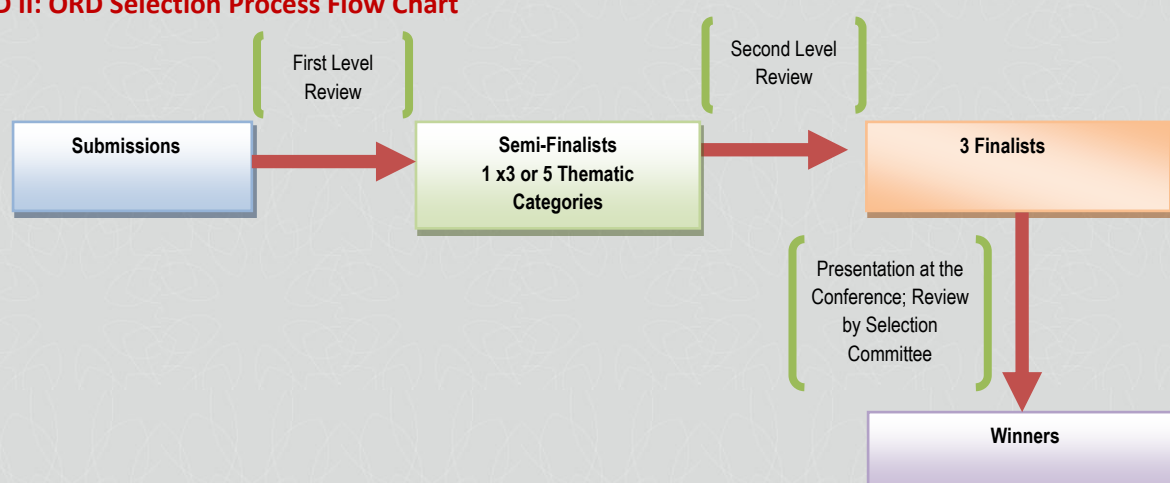
Juhua Yang from China, 2006 First Prize Winner of ORD, presenting her findings at the GDN Annual Global Development Conference, in Kuwait.

³The criteria include quality of the proposal and the ability of the researcher to undertake high quality research.

Reputed experts have served on the Selection Committees in different years, including Nobel Laureates Joseph Stiglitz and Amartya Sen; Nicholas Stern, former WB Chief Economist and Senior Vice President; Masahiro Kawai, the President of the Policy Research Institute of the Japan Ministry of Finance and former Chief Economist of the WB's East Asia Region; Alfred Nhema, Director, CAD Management and Research Institute, Ethiopia; Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Professor of International Affairs, the New School, New York, USA; Mansoob Murshed, Professor of Economics of Sustainable Development, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Netherlands; Steve Taylor, Manager, Development Research Program, AusAID, Australia; Pierre Jacquet, former Executive Director and Chief Economist, Agence Française de Développement, France; Tim Finch, Head of Migration, Equalities and Citizenship and Director of Strategic Communications, Institute for Public Policy Research, UK; David Potten, former Senior Policy Advisor, Partnership and Trust Fund Policy, CFPTP, Global Partnership and Trust Fund Operations, WB, USA; Natalia P. Dinello, Political Environment Scanning Advisor, United Nations Family Planning Agency (UNFPA); Priya Nanda from International Centre for Research on Women, India; and Guido Ashoff, GDI, Germany.

The diagram below provides a step-by-step picture of the selection process for this Award.

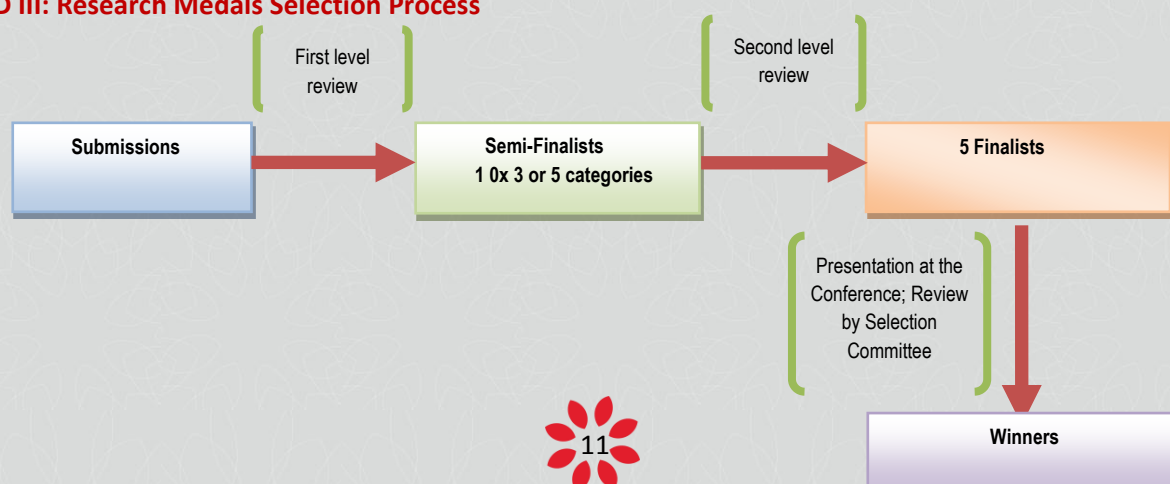
D II: ORD Selection Process Flow Chart



c) The Medals for Research on Development (MRD)

In the case of research medals that are presented to excellent completed research papers in the thematic categories, submissions are reviewed by committees of independent experts in each thematic area. Steps involved in the process of selection are highlighted in the flow chart below:

D III: Research Medals Selection Process



3.2 Reviewers and Selection Committees

The review and selection process for the research related categories of the Competition involves a multi-stage, external review process by an eminent panel of individual experts and institutions, many of whom review these submissions. GDN provides honorariums to the review committees. Several experts have served as honorary members on Selection Committees for their contribution towards promoting research in the developing and emerging countries. In the recent past, both the research and MIDP Selection Committees have been honorary.

Members of the Selection Committee for the research prizes have included: Gary Fields, Cornell University, USA; Mourji Fouzi, University Hassan II, Morocco; Barbara Stallings, Watson Institute for International Studies, USA; Shankar Acharya, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, India; Boris Vujcic, Croatian National Bank, Croatia; Masahiro Kawai, Government of Japan. Past Chairs of the Research Selection Committees have included several representatives from the WB, including Francois Bourguignon, Alan Gelb and Professor L. Alan Winters, among others.

4. Participants and Regional Coverage

4.1 Participants

The most rewarding feature of the Competition is that it attracts applicants from several countries and regions in the developing world. **Table II** provides information on the number of submissions received each year, since its inception, and the number of countries represented.

Table II: Participation from 2000-2010

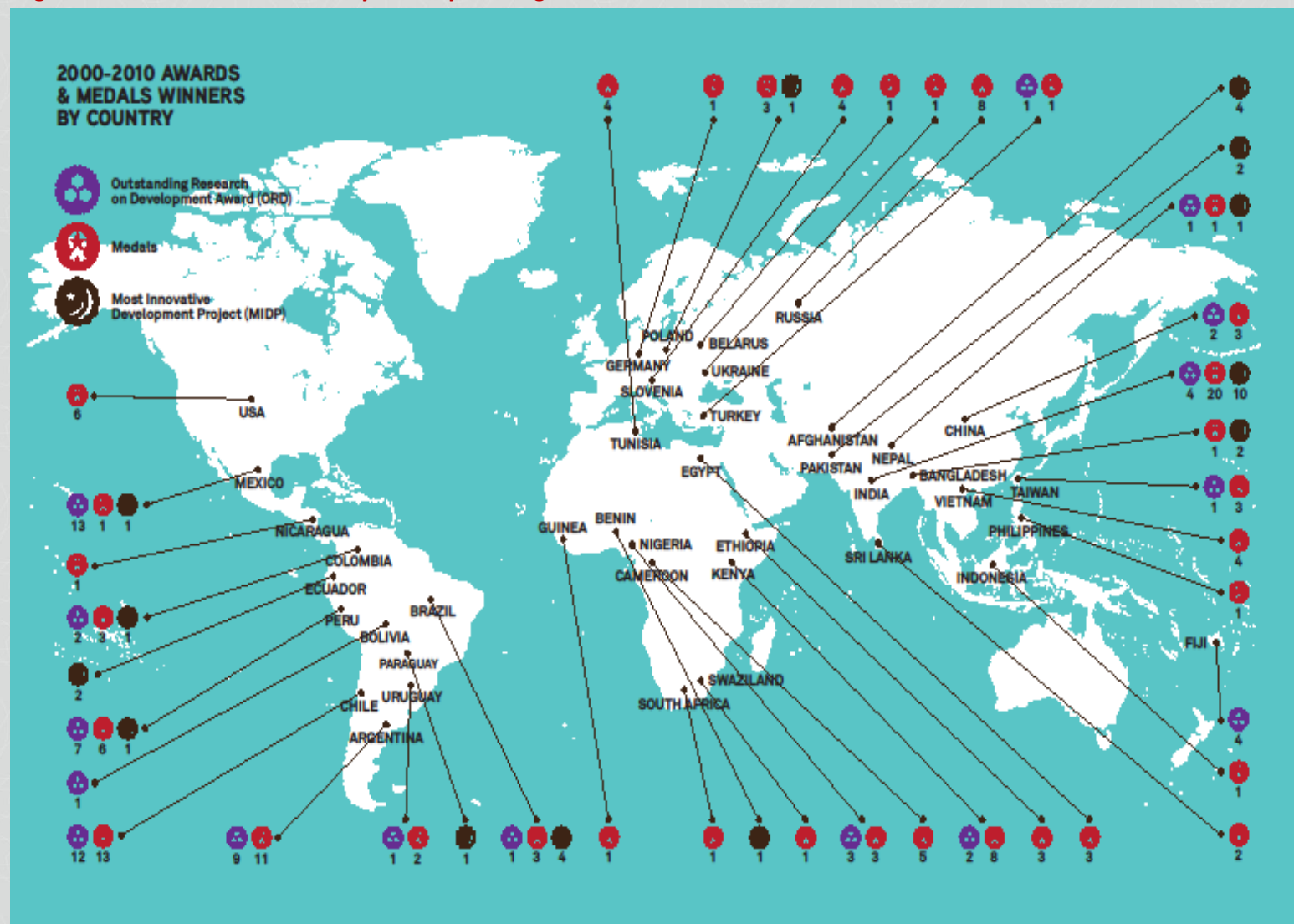
Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of Participants	784	351	402	700	500	704	611	625	497	486	499
No. of Countries Represented	93	73	80	93	93	93	95	97	74	95	97

4.2 Regional Coverage

There is a broad regional distribution of the applicants, which is reflected in the composition of the finalists and winners of the Competition. The contest is particularly popular among researchers and development practitioners from the Latin American and Caribbean region, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. An illustrative map (see pg. 14) provides information on the regional distribution of finalists, since its inception spanning 10 years. The map shows that GDN has been successful in its objective of promoting local research throughout the developing world, including regions and countries traditionally under-represented in academia, like Africa and the Middle East.⁴

⁴Winners shown to be located in the USA and other developed nations hail from developing countries, but were, at the time of the Competition residing in developed countries.

Regional Distribution of Winners by Country and Region



Source: GDN Legacy Document, 2011

5. Gender and Discipline

One of the main objectives of GDN's capacity building activities is to increase the participation of under-represented groups of researchers not just by region, but also in terms of discipline and gender. Economists were originally over-represented in the Competition, and efforts have been made to increase the Competition's appeal to researchers from other social science disciplines. In 2006, 64% of the applicants represented disciplines other than economics. Since 2003, nearly half of the themes were intentionally designed to attract research from other social science disciplines, and subsequently, multidisciplinary themes were introduced. Highlighted below is evidence of GDN's efforts to diversify its research activities to include subjects other than economics.

5.1. Awards and Medals

Prior to 2007, GDN's default discipline was economics and the Competition was the most multidisciplinary activity undertaken by GDN. This is evident by looking at the statistics from the 2005 Competition where 55% of applicants were non-economists and 19% of winners were from non-economics background. This further increased in the 2006 Competition where 64% of applicants were and 31% of winners were non-economists.

There has also been a strong representation of non-economists in various GDN conferences over the years. For instance, in the Cairo Conference (2003), 48% of all participants were non-economists; in the St. Petersburg Conference, non-economists represented 39% of all participants; and in Beijing (2007), non-economists represented 42% of all participants (*GDN Legacy Document*, 2011).

Gender balance is also gradually improving. To attract more women, gender-focused themes were constructed for the 2006 MIDP Competition; 31 submissions were received for this Award, which were from women. In the 2006 Competition, 28% of applicants were female. However, female submissions are correlated to the theme; in 2010 this ratio dropped to 19%. Encouraging to note is that there has also been a gradual increase in the number of females participating in GDN's Annual Global Development Conferences. For example, in 2003, 28% of all participants were female. This gradually rose to 30% in 2006 and 33% in 2007. Between the years 2004 and 2006, two of the three first prize winners of the ORD Award were females. It is also worth noting that between 2006 and 2010, the percentage of female winners and finalists reached 33%.⁵

The gender ratio in GDN activities has been steadily improving, both in terms of the number of female researchers involved, as well as in the range of topics covered. Over time, there has also been a conscious endeavor to address gender-focused themes. Some of the topics covered, include: women in governance, empowerment of women in the labor force, education of girls and women, maternal health, trafficking and sex abuse and property rights.

⁵See 'List of AMC Winners – 2006 to 2007', GDN database.



(From L-R): Joy Kiiru, from Kenya, 2010 Medal Winner for Research on Development, with Ernesto Zedillo, former President of Mexico; Catalina Trujillo, from Colombia, 2008 Medal Winner for Research on Development.



Asmaa Elbadawy, from Egypt receiving the Medal from Jan Kohout, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic, at the 2009 GDN Annual Global Development Conference, in Prague, Czech Republic.

6. Languages

Until 2003, submissions were accepted in English. In 2004, with support from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GDN started accepting submissions under one or two selected themes in French. This was primarily geared towards encouraging greater participation from Francophone researchers across the developing world. Submissions continue to be accepted primarily in the English language.

L'Afrique et le commerce international des services de télécommunications : *Obstacles institutionnels et performances*

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A research paper submitted in the French language by Sékou Falil Doumbouya, from Guinea. It won the Second Prize in 2005 in the Medals for Research on Development category.

7. Why Do Some Win and Some Don't? A Brief Analysis

GDN's philosophy has been to promote early career researchers so that they can go on to establish themselves in the field of development research. It aims to raise the visibility of aspiring young researchers and, as the *GDN Legacy Document*, 2011 states: GDN uses the Competition as a 'launch pad function' and a 'necessary springboard to illustrious careers in both academia and development'. In order to confirm this statement, a rapid assessment was carried out comprising 11 randomly selected finalists from the ORD and MRD groups who did not finally win the prize, though they were shortlisted. They were taken as the 'comparison group.' Similarly, 11 competitors, who won the ORD and Medal prizes, were taken as the 'treatment group'. This was done mainly to enable a comparative (rapid) assessment of why some won the prize, and others did not. The assessment based itself on the following fields of information gathered through their CVs: a) academic degree; b) professional position; and c) contribution to journals, working papers, research papers, publications, policy briefs and participation in seminars, and academic events.⁶

The assessment of both groups revealed some interesting findings:

- **Degree held at the time of the Competition:** Of the 11 finalists in the 'comparison group', all had a doctorate degree, whereas amongst the 'treatment group', five had completed their doctorate degree. Three were pursuing their doctorate degree, and three were postgraduate students.
- **Professional positions at the time of the Competition:** Among the 'comparison group', all 11 occupied relatively senior and distinguished positions in leading academic institutions in Europe, Asia and Africa. The junior most position occupied among the 11 was that of a researcher. Others occupied positions of senior consultant, research associate, lecturer, assistant professor, and associate professor. In the case of the 'treatment group', only one held a senior researcher's position, while others, i.e. four held mid-level researcher's position, and six held the position of a junior researcher.
- **Publications/ working papers/ research papers/ policy briefs/ journals:** A combined total of 46 working papers, publications, research papers, policy briefs, journals were produced between the 11 finalists in the 'comparison group'. Compared to this, a combined total of only 18 working papers, publications, research papers, policy briefs, contribution to journals were produced by the 'treatment group'.

The analysis reveals that the background of each of the 11 finalists in the 'comparison group' was relatively more accomplished than those in the 'treatment group.' It is also clear that all 11 finalists in the 'comparison group' held recognized research positions. On the other hand, Award winners in the 'treatment group' held mid-to-junior level research positions. It is not surprising then that the

⁶Detailed background information of winners and finalists was made available by the GDN Headquarters, in New Delhi. There is no particular logic behind the random selection of 11 of the 'comparison' and 11 of the 'treatment' group. The only consideration taken into account was that there is sufficient background information across the three pre-determined fields for 11 of the contestants taken in each group. This allowed for a fair comparative analysis between the two groups.

Award winners, when interviewed in an online survey, mentioned how valuable the awards and medals were in their endeavor to move up in their careers, besides giving them opportunities to present their ideas at global conferences and seminars.⁷

If anything, the analysis presented above reiterates GDN's commitment to encourage and promote young, and relatively, obscure researchers by giving them recognition at the global level and providing them with funds to continue with their research. For many young researchers, this is a significant step in their careers. What this analysis also shows is that when assessing research papers submitted for the Competition, GDN may not necessarily look at only, *rather solely*, at the quality of the work. GDN also considers other factors, like how the researcher could, if provided an opportunity, grow in his/her career and how much of the research will add value to the existing pool of knowledge in a particular field of work. It is perhaps for this reason that it is not always the case that more established researchers, like the ones highlighted in the 'comparison group', would go on to win the Awards or Medals. What is, however, certain is that researchers, regardless of how established they are, tend to win Awards and Medals as long as their work is of good quality and importantly, demonstrate that these prizes will provide them with the much needed impetus for visibility and growth.



Winners of the 2008 AMC, in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

⁷From GDN online survey of Awards and Medals Winners, undertaken in 2010.

8. Outcomes

As seen from the analysis above, the intent of the Global Development Awards and Medals Competition (AMC) has been to develop capacities of individual researchers from the South, particularly in terms of improving their knowledge of the discourse on development studies. The Competition also aims to strengthen their networks of the early career researchers so that they are able to gain more exposure to globally-relevant research activities, increase their visibility to advance in their careers, and to provide them with an opportunity to access more funds for future research work. The Competition has also assisted GDN to raise its organizational profile and strengthen its reputation as a leading global development organization that promotes informed and relevant development research and exchange of ideas between the North and the South, and across the southern countries.

The GDN Independent Evaluation carried out in 2007 revealed that researchers associated with the Competition valued the Awards and Medals higher than other GRPs or RRCs, in terms of networking and increased opportunities for career advancement.⁸

8.1. What has the Awards Competition done for GDN?

The AMC has been successful in bringing GDN's appeal to a broader clientele of researchers. The most rewarding features of the Competition are its geographical receptiveness, comprehensiveness, innovation, sustainability and replicability. The broad regional distribution of the applicants is reflected in the composition of finalists and winners of the Competition. Additionally, the wide range of themes covered over time demonstrates GDN's focus on multidisciplinary approaches to development.

Through the Competition, GDN has made concerted efforts to reach researchers across nations:

- It aims at early career researchers and provides financial support to promising local research on development issues;
- It provides visibility and recognition to researchers through showcasing their research to a global audience; and
- It helps in building capacity of researchers.

GDN has benefited immensely from the Competition, which has helped to broaden the constituency base, as well as significantly increase participation from developing country NGOs for the MIDP. The Competition has become increasingly established and well known, and crucial for GDN's recognition among researchers in the South.⁹ Since 2008, GDN has provided a two-day Research Communications Training Workshop designed by the GDN program for the finalists to communicate effectively for increasing research impact. The workshop has been aimed at strengthening the capacities to identify key messages and tailor the research to different audiences.

⁸Summary Note: *Achievements of and Benefits to the Winners of the Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development and Japanese Award for the Most Innovative Development Project*, GDN 2007.

⁹Ibid

8.2. Building Pathways to Recognition and Visibility

A capacity building evaluation study was conducted in 2004-2005 to assess the impact the Competition has had on the professional lives of awardees, particularly in terms of increased visibility and recognition. The study revealed that prize winners rate the contribution of the Competition to their visibility (presentations, press response) on an average at 3.3 on the five-point scale, where contributions were rated by various groups within the GDN constituency on the five-point scale ranging from 'very low' (1) to 'very high' (5).

Illustrated below is some evidence of the increased visibility winners and finalists have received as a result of their participation in the AMC:

1. Many winners and finalists have received attention from leading media houses, such as *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *TIME* magazine, top national newspapers, TV channels, and radio stations in their home countries.¹⁰
2. The Rogi Kalyan Samiti Project (India), which won the MIDP in the first AMC in 2000, was rated as one of the greatest administrative initiatives in India by the Planning Commission, Government of India and UNDP.
3. Martin Medina (Mexico), a finalist in the Medals for the ORD category in the fifth AMC, received attention from the San Diego Union Tribune for his work on best practices in solid waste management. *The Tribune* published part of his work from the University of California Center for US-Mexican Studies (UCMEXUS). Similarly, Comfort Hasan, a finalist in the ORD category in 2002, held an advocacy workshop in her country, which was reported in the Nigerian national newspaper.
4. Two researchers from Peru, who shared the Award in 2000, received significant recognition in their home country. The main national newspaper in Peru, *El Comercio*, published an article on them after they returned from Tokyo.
5. *The New York Times* referred to the work of Sergei Guriev, one of the awardees of the Medals in 2003 who focused his research on payments that illegal migrants promise traffickers who arrange long-term moves.
6. In another instance, *The Economist* published two articles on water privatization based on a research paper by Ernesto Schargrotsky and his team (Argentina), which won a Medal in 2002.
7. *Gram Vikas*, the institution which received the MIDP in 2001, used part of the funds to produce a film titled '100%', based on its initiatives in poor, rural communities in India.
8. *TIME Europe* presented the programs undertaken by the Barka Foundation (Poland), and nominated the institution — a GDN finalist at the third AMC (2002), for the Award of European Heroes.
9. 'Community-Habitat-Finance (CHF)', Romania's Integrated NGO and Economic Development Project was featured in a documentary produced by Visionaries and Broadcast on the American Public Television.



Gram Vikas, 2001 First Prize MIDP Winner organizing capacity building activities in rural communities, in India.

¹⁰The Global Development Awards and Medals Competition Report (FY '04-FY '07), GDN, February 2007.

10. A Medal-winning paper on 'Property Rights for the Poor: Effects of Land Titling' was highlighted in the Economics Focus section of *The Economist*, in August 2006.
11. Another Medal-winning paper titled, 'Institutions, Geography and the Development of Regional Returns to Schooling in Mexico' was featured in two Mexican newspapers – *The Financial* and *El Economista*.
12. Winners of the MIDP in 2003, the Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Bangladesh received considerable press coverage on the Award. This included articles in the *Bangladesh Observer*, *Independent*, *New Nation*, *News Today* and two Bengali language dailies, *Ajker Kagaz* and *Prothom Alo*.
13. ETV, a television channel in Sri Lanka, ran a program based on Dilani Gunewardena (Medal winner in 2008), where they interviewed academics, activists, private sector senior-level female employees, and the Secretary, Ministry of Women's Affairs on wage discrimination. This program was initiated by the Centre for Poverty Analysis as a follow up to an open forum discussion.



Ajker Kagaz, a Bengali daily in Bangladesh reports on the 2003 First Prize MIDP Winner – DAM.

Winners in all categories have been interviewed by different media channels to speak not only specifically on their work, but also on the overall opportunity the GDN Competition provides to individuals and institutions from developing countries.

Camara Rwanda, a social enterprise based in Kigali, has been awarded with the 'Most Innovative Development Project Award' by the Global Development Network (GDN). The firm received the Award during the 12th Annual GDN Conference in Bogotá, Colombia last week. Camara is currently working with 33 academic institutions spread across the country, with numbers set to grow. It has set up computer labs in all those schools which are equipped with Camara PCs that are fine-tuned and installed with pre-configured Linux software based on the educational package, Edubuntu. The package includes programme that develop mouse and keyboard skills, interactive software and an offline version of Wikipedia amongst others. Schools partnering with Camara Rwanda receive a wide range of support services that include teacher training on ICT usage as a pedagogical tool, technical support on PCs and parts, as well as supply of relevant software and material. A representative mentioned that ownership and responsibility is bestowed on the schools through payment of a levy on the machines. Explaining one of the reasons why his organisation emerged best in the Competition, the representative said that volunteers, drawn from the local youth, are responsible for a lot of what Camara does.

(Excerpts from an article in *The New Times*, Rwanda, January 2011)

I think there was a big impact of my winning this Award. At the time of winning this Award, I was a post doctorate at the International Water Management Institute. This was a two-year, non-renewable position.

However, soon after winning this Award, I was offered a regular position of international researcher. While I cannot attribute it solely to this Award, but winning this Award certainly helped.

(Aditi Mukherji, Medal Winner, Brisbane, 2008)

As Mizanur Rahman, a young researcher from Bangladesh who received a Medal in 2010 put it succinctly, when asked about the impact of the Award on his career: "...the Ministry of Finance and the Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister have involved me in their various economic planning activities" (*GDN Legacy Document*, 2011). Visibility and



recognition has also come to researchers through showcasing their research to the global audience. For example, a researcher who participated in the Competition said that “the Award has advanced my career in that I have won a number of consultancies with the Uganda Ministry on many research projects they have concerning adherence issues.”¹¹

8.3. The Competition: A Platform for Exposure and Networking

GDN has endeavored to connect researchers through its global conferences and its partner research organizations and existing networks. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that this is the case. For example, Lakshmipathy

Vedantham, a finalist from India acknowledged that GDNNet gave him access to literature relating to Middle East countries, and he now could get basic knowledge on the differences in approaches to development studies (*GDN Legacy Document*, 2011). Another Medal winner in 2008, Nguyen Viet Cuong mentions that receiving the Medal helped him to connect to more researchers across the globe and that there are now more researchers who want to collaborate with him on various research projects (GDN Online Survey, August 2010). What is also important to note is that regions, which are perceived to fall behind in terms of quality research in development like Africa, have benefited tremendously from interacting and networking with other regions and countries through the platform of the Competition. Dr. Olusanya Ajakaiye, the former Research Director at the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Kenya, remarks that “GDN is becoming a reference point for global research. It helps to bring an end to the progressive isolation of African researchers through involvement in global research projects.” (*GDN Legacy Document*, 2011)

5,500 participants from more than 100 countries networked through GDN Annual Conferences; GDN has endeavored to lend support to five existing research organizations and three new networks which together form a global grid.

(GDN Legal Document, 2011)

The real value of AMC is reflected by the 2007 Independent Evaluation of GDN, which revealed that the Award winners rated the contribution of the Award as relatively high in building their capacities to improve research contacts and network, especially, with institutions around the globe.

8.4. Constructing Lives, Building Futures: GDN’s Contribution to Career Advancement

The Awards have also been useful for several winners in terms of contribution to their career advancement, receiving job offers and promotions. For some, the Awards have been a springboard to illustrious career moves in both academia and development. Laura da Costa Ferre, a researcher from Uruguay who won in 2010, puts it eloquently: “The Award and the publication of the paper will give me the chance of improving my career to join the National Research System in my country and support my application for a PhD program abroad.” (*GDN Legacy Document*, 2011) Dileni Gunewardena from Sri Lanka said that her visibility had increased because the Award was given by an internationally-recognized institution, and that it would go a long way to supporting applications for promotion (*GDN Legacy Document*, 2011). Another Award winner mentions that “the Award single-handedly doubled my income that year (2003), and gave me the leverage for a promotion in

¹¹Summary Note: *Achievements of and Benefits to the Winners of the Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development and Japanese Award for the Most Innovative Development Project*, GDN 2007.

the following one. But most important of all was the recognition that my work was valued by my peers. I consider it to be one of the three most important events in my eight years' professional life."¹² In a survey conducted in 2007, it was observed that about 43% of all awardees in the Japanese Award for the ORD received promotions in their careers; 28.5% received job offers and 43% secured research grants.¹³

8.5. Workshops and Presentations to Policymakers



Byrraju Foundation, 2007 MIDP Winner holding workshops on issues related to safe drinking water in rural areas, in Hyderabad, India.

1,115 researchers from 86 countries trained in 15 GDNNet workshops to engage more effectively with policy audiences. GDN is interested in generating policy-relevant research and building the capacity of researchers to effectively engage with non-academic audiences. An Independent Evaluation published in 2007 found evidence of building a cadre of professionals capable of policy-relevant work and helping build policy-relevant research

(GDN Legacy Document, 2011)

AMC finalists and winners have often been successful in exposing policymakers directly to their work. Many of them have presented their ideas to relevant stakeholders at seminars and workshops organized by their institutions, country governmental bureaus, and international organizations. One researcher presented her paper to the Mexican Club of Industrialists in the presence of Julio Frenk, former Minister of Health, Mexico; Manuel

¹²Ibid

¹³Ibid

Ruiz de Chavez, Executive President of the Mexican Health Foundation; the Director of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; and various other distinguished members of the Club and the Mexican Health Foundation. Award-winning papers were also presented at several forums including the Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford University, UK; ISS, The Netherlands; and to policymakers at the International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy, Ethiopia. Research papers were presented at a number of workshops including 'The Second Annual Workshop: Key Issues in the Micro-Level Analysis of Causes, Functioning and Consequences of Violent Conflict' organized by The Households in Conflict Network, Belgium, 2007.

Other Medal winning papers were presented at seminars at Princeton and Harvard Universities, USA and the New Economic School, Russia. In a highly engaging workshop on power sector reforms in New Delhi in 2006, one Indian Medal winner presented his findings to an audience of policymakers, representatives of multilateral and bilateral organizations, members of private sector enterprises, development practitioners and academics. Another presented his paper at several universities including PUC-Rio de Janeiro (2007); NBER Inter-American Seminar, Bogotá (2006); MIT (2006); Harvard (2006); Yale (2006); Columbia (2006); UCLA (2006) and Brown University (2006).

A Medal winner from India, Kala Sridhar presented the results of her study on technological change in small enterprises at prominent academic environments, including the conference on 'New Economy in Development' organized by the World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER), in Helsinki, Finland. Others were provided an opportunity to present their work at important forums organized by the WB and leading global universities. For example, work of two researchers featured in the sources of ethnic inequality in Vietnam. Their research findings featured in the *World Development Report*, 2001. Moreover, the study methodologies adopted by them were widely replicated in subsequent WB reports. More still, one of the Medal winners, Marcela Eslava continues to receive large number of requests from the media and people working on policy issues to provide her opinion, alongside, academicians and scholars who are increasingly citing her works. Most notably, references, on more occasions than one, have been made to her work by the highly recognized economist, Dani Rodrik.

The AMC has generated opportunities for young researchers. A Uruguayan winner of the 2010 ORD feels that the Award will make a difference in her academic career by giving her a chance to conduct her own research projects. She feels that she will now be able to join the National Research System in Uruguay. Another research Medal winner believes that winning the Award was an important personal achievement since his paper was accepted for presentation in international conferences in the US and Europe. As Jaideep Gupte, a 2007 Medal winner from India puts it, "...winning the GDN Medal was an excellent start to my academic career in international development... the GDN platform seriously enabled me to engage directly with policy makers in the regions my research focuses on."

8.6 Publications

Several research proposals and papers submitted for the ORD and the Medals have been published in renowned academic journals. The 2007 Independent Evaluation shows a better publication record emerging from grantees and prize-winners over time. The amount of published research has also

increased. The evaluation reflected an increase in published outputs from GDN-funded research: from 67% to 87% over five years, between 2002 and 2007 (*GDN Legacy Document*, 2011). Many have published their work either as chapters in books, or in journals or as working papers and policy briefs (See **Tables IV and V**). The winners who have published, among others, are:

- Juhua Yang (first prize ORD, 2006) published a paper in the *Chinese Journal of Population Science*, in 2007 and submitted two papers for upcoming international conferences – one at the 2009 conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study in Population, China and the other at the conference of Family Change and Wellbeing organized by the Chinese Academy of Social Science, in December, 2008.
- Devarajulu Suresh Kumar (second prize ORD, 2005) published a report and a policy brief with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University bulletin in association with GDN, in 2008.
- Ana Maria Ibanez (first prize ORD, 2004) has published several working papers with colleagues, submitted three papers to academic journals (*HiCN* and *Economia*) and also published a book on the research.
- Andres Lopez and Daniel Chudnovsky (second prize ORD, 2004) published their findings in an edited volume and journal *Red MERCOSUR Montevideo*, 2006 and *Siglo XXI Editora Iberoamericana*, 2006.

Table III below sums up the achievements of awardees who published their work in various journals, developed working papers, contributed to chapters for a volume, wrote a book, presented at conferences/ seminars, and engaged in international collaborative research efforts.

Table III: Achievements of Winners of the ORD (till 2008)

Achievement	Award Winners
Published:	
Working Papers	33%
Article in Journals	38%
Chapter for a volume	14%
Book	20%
Presented in:	
Academic Event (Conference/ Seminar)	57%
Policy Briefing/ Seminar	28%
Press Conference	28%

Table IV: Selected Publications (some examples)

Author	Country	Title	Publication
Bhagirath Behera and Stephanie Engel	India	How Participatory are the Joint Forest Management (JFM) Institutions in Andhra Pradesh, India?	In Dinello, N. and Popov, V. (eds.) Political Institutions and Development: Failed Expectations and Renewed Hopes; Edward Elgar Publishing, UK (2007), 200-227
Sergei Guriev and Guido Friebe	Russia	Smuggling Humans: A Theory of Debt-Financed Migration	Journal of the European Economics Association; December 2006, Vol. (4)6, 1085-1111
V. Santhakumar	India	Analysing Social Opposition to Reforms: Evidence from Indian Electricity Sector	Analysing Social Opposition to Reforms: Evidence from Indian Electricity Sector; Sage Publications; India, July 2008
Lykke E. Andersen, Bent Jesper Christensen and Oscar Molina	Bolivia	The Impact of Aid on Recipient Behavior: A Micro-Level Dynamic Analysis of Remittances, Schooling, Work, Consumption, Investment and Social Mobility in Nicaragua	Grupo Integral Stud, No. GI-E12; December 2005
Ekaterina Zhuravskaya and Ruben Enikolopov	Russia	Political Institutions and Decentralization	Journal of Public Economics, Elsevier, December, 2007, Vol. 91(11-12), 2261-2290,
Kazi Rafiqul Alam	Bangladesh	<i>Ganokendra</i> – An Innovative Model for Poverty Alleviation	Adult Education and Development; 63/2005. Weblink: http://www.iiz--dvv.de/englisch/
A. M. Ibáñez and A. Moya	Colombia	The Impact of Intra-State Conflict on Economic Welfare and Consumption Smoothing: Empirical Evidence for the Displaced Population in Columbia	HICN Working Paper 23; 2006
A. M. Ibáñez and A. Moya	Colombia	Cómo el desplazamiento deteriora el bienestar de los hogares desplazados?: análisis y determinants del bienestar en los municipios de recepción	Documento CEDE 2006-26
A. M. Ibáñez, and A. Velásquez	Colombia	El proceso de identificación de víctimas de los conflictos civiles: una evaluación para la población desplazada en Colombia	Documento CEDE 2006-36
Daniel Chudnovsky and	Argentina	Inversión Extranjera Directa y Desarrollo: la experiencia del	15 años de MERCOSUR, Red MERCOSUR; Montevideo, 2006

Andres López		MERCOSUR”	
D. Chudnovsky, A. López and G. Rossi	Argentina	Derrames de la Inversión Extranjera Directa, políticas públicas y capacidades de absorción de las firmas nacionales del sector manufacturer argentino (1992-2001)	In M. Laplane (coord.), El desarrollo industrial del MERCOSUR: qué impact hand tendon las empress extranjeras?, Siglo XXI Editora Iberoamericana, 2006
Arjun Bedi and Assefa Admassie	Ethiopia	Attending School, Reading and Writing and Child Work in Rural Ethiopia	In Jose Maria Fanelli and Lyn Squire (eds.) Economic Reform in Developing Countries: Reach, Range, Reason; GDN Series: Edward Elgar: Cheltenham, UK

Table V: Literature References for Select Awardees’ Submissions and their Revised Versions

Japanese Award for ORD			
Author	Country	Title	Publication
Martin Medina	Mexico	‘Municipal Solid Waste Management in Developing Countries: Lessons Learned and Proposals for Improvement’	In Saskia Sassen and Peter Marcotullio (eds.), Human Resource System Challenge VII: Human Settlement Development; Oxford, UK: Eolss Publishers
Jeanine Anderson	Peru	‘Accumulating Advantage and Disadvantage: Urban Poverty Dynamics in Peru’	DPU University College London, Working Paper, August 2003
Javier Escobal and Maximo Torero	Peru	‘Adverse Geography and Differences in Welfare in Peru’	In Ravi Kanbur and Tony Venables (eds.), Regional Disparities in Human Development, UN WIDER, 2003
Medals			
Author	Country	Title	Publication
Juan Pablo Montero	Chile	‘A Market-Based Environmental Policy: Experiment in Chile’	Journal of Law and Economics, 2002, Vol. 45: 267-287
Roberto Duncan	Chile	‘Exploring the Implications of Official Dollarization on Macroeconomic Volatility’	Central Bank of Chile Working Paper
Shyamal Chowdhury	Bangladesh	‘Attaining Universal Access: Public-Private Partnership and Business-NGO Partnership’	ZEF Discussion Paper in Development Policy, No. 48, Bonn University, 2002,
Boyan Belev	Bulgaria	‘Privatization in Egypt and Tunisia: Liberal Outcomes and/ or Liberal Policies?’	Mediterranean Politics, 2001, Vol. 6, Issue 3

Vonthanak Saphorn	Cambodia	'How Well do Antenatal Clinic (ANC) Attendees Represent The General Population? A Comparison of HIV Prevalence from ANC Sentinel Surveillance Sites with a Population-Based Survey of Women Aged 15-49 in Cambodia'	International Journal of Epidemiology, Apr 2002; 31(2): 449-55
Juan Camilo Cardenas	Colombia	'Real Wealth and Experimental Cooperation: Evidence from Field Experiments'	Journal of Development Economics, 2003, Vol.70, 263-289
Tatineni Bhavani	India	'Towards Developing an Analytical Framework to Study Technological Change in the Small Units of the Developing Nations'	Working Papers Series, No. E/216/2001, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
Rajat Acharya	India	'International Trade, Wage Inequality and The Developing Economy: A General Equilibrium Approach'	Springer-Verlag, Heidelberg, 2003
Nisha Taneja	India	'Characteristics of India's Formal and Informal Trading with Nepal'	Indian Economic Review, Delhi School of Economics, India, with S. Pohit, September, 2002
Gana Pati Ojha	Nepal	'Partnership in Agricultural Extension: Lessons from Chitwan, Nepal'	Agriculture Research and Extension Network, Paper 114, July 2001. Overseas Development Institute, London
Dominique Van De Walle and Dileni Gunewardena	Sri Lanka	'Sources of Ethnic Inequality in Vietnam'	Journal of Development Economics, 65 (1): 177-207
Aditi Mukherji	India	'Metering of Agricultural Power Supply in West Bengal, India: Who Gains and Who Loses?'	Journal of Energy Policy: 37 (12): 5530-5539 (2009)
Marcela Eslava	Colombia	'Trade Reforms and Market Selection: Evidence from Manufacturing Firms in Colombia'	NBER Working Papers
Anton Kolotilin	Russia	'Determinants of Nationalization in the Oil Sector: A Theory and Evidence from Panel Data'	Journal of Law, Economics and Organization
Dileni Gunewardena	Sri Lanka	'Glass Ceilings, Sticky Floors: A Quantile Regression Approach to Exploring Gender Wage Gaps in Sri Lanka'	PMMA Working Paper Series, 2008-04, PEP-PMMA

Mizanur Rahman	Bangladesh	'The Impact of a Common Currency on East Asian Production Networks and China's Exports Behavior'	Paper at the Third International Conference of Asian-Pacific Economic Association (APEA), July 2007, and the ACE Conference, City University of Hong Kong, December 2007.
Jorge Maldonado	Colombia	'Evaluating the Role of Co-Management in Improving Governance of Marine Protected Areas: An Experimental Approach in the Colombian Caribbean'	Documento CEDE June 2009-15, Uniandes, Bogotá

8.7. The Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project: Using it to Leverage Funds and Expand Projects

...when Future Generations Afghanistan received the second place Award for Most Innovative Development Project in 2004, it had been working for two years in Afghanistan's central highlands to teach a process of community change known as SEED-SCALE. This process had enabled villagers to establish over 400 mosque-based schools for women's literacy. These successes were stimulating women's interest in health. To build on this momentum, Future Generations developed culturally appropriate methods to train village women as Community Health Workers (CHWs) and organized women's action groups in villages to support these volunteers. Support from GDN in early 2005 funded the first two health workshops for groups of 20 women in two provinces. (GDN Legacy Document, 2011)



High school students from vulnerable families in the FUVIA program, in Ecuador – a 2008 First Prize MIDP Winner.

Not only have these Awards helped bring personal accolades to individual winners, but also assisted several institutions to expand their development activities. This is particularly true of institutions which received the MIDP Award.

Colegio Virtual Iberoamericano (FUVIA), Ecuador is dedicated to providing e-learning solutions to universities and other institutions that may require it. The Foundation was able to reintegrate 1,170 poor students into the country's educational system in one year of receiving the grant. They witnessed a 30%

improvement in knowledge levels between the beginning and end of the school year, and were able to introduce digital technology in their teaching process.

Another example is The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, Pakistan. It received the first prize in the MIDP category, in 2005 for its innovative energy producing project in the Chitral region of Pakistan. The grant has been used to strengthen institutional capacity to enable local communities to expand their micro-hydel projects towards addressing energy shortages in the region. The second prize of US\$7,500 received by the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Mexico was utilized towards a diploma course for teachers in Rural Environmental Education at the Sierra Gorda Earth Center. The

course is an important component of the Biodiversity Conservation project, in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, and the prize money complemented previous financial support.

One of the MIDP winners in 2009, Dream A Dream, an institution which provides vulnerable children with non-traditional educational opportunities, including creative arts, life skills education, and physical activities, states that the Award was a huge boost of confidence to the team in strengthening (their) belief that the work done by them is creating visible impact and enhancing their reputation with donors. Besides, they believe that it helped them expand as an organization.



2009 Second Prize MIDP Winner – Dream A Dream, India builds children's futures through non-traditional education like creative art, life skills and physical activities.

Others like the International Development Enterprises, India (IDEI) have also benefited tremendously by receiving the MIDP Award. Not only has the MIDP Award allowed IDEI to expand its national resource base, it also provided it with ample opportunities to establish international partnerships. IDEI's pioneering project 'Low Cost Drip Irrigation as a Poverty Reduction Tool' won the second place, in 2005. The major objective of the project was to build upon IDEI's vast experience in developing and promoting income-generating affordable drip irrigation systems among smallholder farmers in India and enable expansion in other developing countries where this technology has a mass market. With support from GDN, it has been able to achieve its objective of global expansion and has been able to establish global partnerships. The Award enabled IDEI to ensure a global presence for its products and facilitated the establishment of linkages across the developing world. The Award funds were used to cover travel costs of IDEI staff to Pakistan and Kenya and to establish communications with partners in other countries. Part of the funding was also used to cover cost of product samples and participation in seminars, both at the national and international level.¹⁴

A random analysis done by GDN in 2007¹⁵ came up with some significant findings, particularly in relation to the achievements of and benefits to organizations that received the MIDP first prize, as reflected in the table below.

¹⁴GDN online survey to assess impact of MIDP Awards, 2008

¹⁵Summary Note: Awards Competition, GDN 2007

Table VI: Achievements of and Benefits to Award Winners of MIDP

MIDP Award Winner (Year)	Significant Achievements
Fundacion Paraguaya, Paraguay (2009)	<p>Established an e-learning platform to train teachers and administrators of other schools on how to implement the Financially Self-Sufficient School Model and adapt the model to other local contexts and needs.</p> <p>50 young men and women graduates per year complete the course, 100% of whom are “productively engaged” within 4 months of graduation. The San Francisco Agricultural School is 100% financially self-sufficient.</p> <p>In 2009, the San Francisco Agricultural School had 47 graduates, of whom 72% were men and 28% women obtained a Technical High School certification in Agriculture. 25% of the students from 2009 class reached a university degree, while 75% work on big farms and family land.</p> <p>In 2010, 46 graduates (33% women and 67% men) obtained two Technical High School certifications (in Agriculture and in Hotel Management and Rural Tourism). Many students got jobs as employees in the agricultural and livestock sector or have started their own business and/or continue university studies.</p> <p>In 2011, 37 graduates completed their school degree in Agriculture and in Hotel Management and Rural Tourism. There was an increase in the number of women graduates (46% women and 54% men graduates).</p>
Colegio Virtual Iberoamericano, Ecuador (2008)	<p>Contributed to reducing the educational gap and lower the number of dropouts at the secondary level in Ecuador. In 2008 and 2009 school years, 1,170 poor students across the country were re-integrated to the educational system which corresponded to an increase in the nationwide coverage by 3.2%.</p> <p>Improvement in knowledge level in 31% of all students, between the beginning and end of school year, and relatively, similar in performance among participants from the FUVIA online Baccalaureate and regular public schools.</p> <p>Introduction of digital technology in the educational process at the secondary level as a mechanism to deliver complete educational services to “at risk students”. The program implements virtual modality for the delivery of Baccalaureate courses, using technology.</p>

Ciudad Saludable, Peru (2007)	<p>Creation of an association of recyclers, registered in public records, called ARUPULSA – Urban Recyclers Association Pucallpa Clean and Healthy. 12 recyclers from Pucallpa got access to micro-loans from Scotiabank. Designed the system for segregation at source of origination, with areas and routes for each recycler to collect recyclable material from households.</p> <p>Launched the Program of Segregation of Solid Waste in 14 educational institutions (making an impact on 12,143 students), forming committees and environmental ECOCLUBS.</p> <p>Community leaders of 90 settlements and grassroots organizations were trained on Solid Waste Management and <i>cultura tributaria</i>. 108 teachers participated in the modular training program on Solid Waste Management in Schools. 118 health professionals were trained in the field of Solid Waste Management and Bio-Security.</p>
Barka Foundation for Mutual Help, Poland (2006)	<p>Complemented funding for building of three social economy centers, providing services for recruitment, vocational training and counseling, labor market analysis and micro-loan provisioning.</p> <p>Provision of reintegration services to marginalized labor workers from new Accession Countries – over 2,500 persons have been reintegrated with their homeland.</p>
Bethesda Benin Project, Benin (2006)	<p>Expanded and initiated a long-term program for sanitation and protection of the environment.</p> <p>Developed preventive systems through improved living conditions.</p> <p>Connected the community to efficient health centers and facilitated access to health care by promoting savings for health care.</p>
Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, Pakistan (2005)	<p>Strengthened existing institutional infrastructure for micro-hydel units in Chitral region, Pakistan.</p> <p>Utilized communities' improved capacity and relevant experience to initiate medium-scale micro-hydels to address energy shortage.</p> <p>Increased support of local support organizations (LSOs) in facilitating the formation of associations and networks.</p>
Rishi Valley Rural Education Centre (RIVER), India (2004)	<p>Conducted training and increased networking among teachers through workshops on quality education.</p> <p>Revamped the education system as part of the tsunami relief work in Andaman and Nicobar Islands: liaised with state level officials, held several training sessions of teachers and trainers.</p> <p>Set up a teacher retreat center, and explored viable technologies to facilitate communication.</p>
Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Bangladesh (2003)	<p>Strengthened capacity of 274 <i>Ganokendras</i> or People's Learning Centers in rural Bangladesh.</p> <p>Provided a forum for identification and solving local problems – 75% of community comprises women and adolescent girls.</p> <p>Education grant provided to 20 women for training as rural health practitioners – 49 out-of-school children went back to school.</p>

9. Winning Awards and Capacity Development

Capacity building is a risky, messy business, with unpredictable and unquantifiable outcomes, uncertain methodologies, contested objectives, many unintended consequences, little credit to its champions and long time lags. (Morgan 1998)

The previous section presents the achievements and impact the Global Development Awards and Medals Competition (AMC) have had on the careers of the winners. This is truly encouraging for both the winners and GDN. But what is yet not clearly spelt out is the fact that in a number of other occasions, this has not translated into long-term capacity development and professional and personal growth for some of the winners. A Medal winner from India, in both the 9th and 12th GDN Annual Global Development Conferences, when contacted by the author to offer her views in regard to the importance of the Awards, pointed out that she receives lots of recognition from institutions, including the National Planning Commission, Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India. But this has not really translated into any utilization of the research by these bodies. In Kala Sridhar's own view, "Nobody will take winners too seriously for one or even two Awards."

While this may be an isolated example, it nonetheless points to the need to understand that recognition is only one of the many aspects of the business of capacity development. As GDN's *Legacy Document*, 2011 points out, "Building research capacity, defined as the ability of individuals, organizations and systems to undertake and disseminate high-quality research effectively, and efficiently, requires dedication of purpose and commitment to the cause. It is a long-term ambition not only difficult to realize, but tricky to show in very practical ways how progress is being made." (DFID, 2008)

Can GDN do something about this? Can it build long-term capacity to ensure that Award winners do not go unnoticed after winning Awards? This question becomes more important to answer when taking into perspective GDN's continuing efforts to strengthen partnerships with individuals, organizations, institutions and government bureaus, in order to influence global developmental policy using action-oriented research. An attempt will be made in the following section to highlight what actions GDN could think of to ensure long-term capacity development plans through the recognition of relevant development innovations and research undertaken by individuals.

10. The Way Forward: Some Suggestions

In the GDN *Annual Report* of 2010, erstwhile GDN President, Gerardo della Paolera clearly articulates GDN's vision for the future. In line with what has been stated in the preceding section, he felt that "in an increasingly globalized world, a permanent global interconnected space, offered to GDN's beneficiaries, is a *sine qua non* to ensure that GDN's well-timed interventions through its research capacity building programs and vehicles will have a significant and long lasting impact beyond the grant performance period." Achieving this type or level of impact could well mean that GDN might need to consider the following recommendations:

1. Strategic Partnerships: It may not be enough to give the Awards to participants and not follow up in relation to their career advancement. This may be difficult to do all the time given that resources are a key constraint. However, it would be worth the effort to promote research-based capacity development in developing countries through strategic partnerships; something which the former GDN President himself echoes in his remarks above. At present, GDN has about 11 RNPs and contributed over US\$1.8 million to RRC and Inter-Regional Research Projects implemented through these RNPs. There might however, be a need for GDN to think seriously about expanding this network to include more regional players, particularly because of the sheer size of the developing world and the population that inhabits its spaces. Else GDN may not, perhaps, be able to reach a critical mass through which it could, along with its widened network of partners, be able to influence development policy and actions through continued research undertaken by the awardees, amongst others.

2. Building Longer-Term Research Capabilities and Support Systems: It is critical that GDN develops longer-term research capabilities and support systems for GDN awardees, especially those who have not been able to move ahead with their career aspirations or are looking at GDN to provide them with visibility through its wide network. This requires an innovative approach. One way of doing this could be in the form of medium-to-longer term research fellowships instituted in partnership with leading organizations (government and non-government), academic institutions, publishing houses and the media. Fellowship grants could be given to struggling Award winners who could, with GDN's financial support, be attached to academic institutions and be able to pursue quality research with some sense of recognition.

3. Streamlining Monitoring and Evaluation

(M&E) Systems: Reports and documents shared by GDN from the past indicate enough evidence of the impact Awards have had on the careers of several Award winners. These reports, including this one,

also reflect on how many winners from which countries have participated in GDN's conferences; the number of topics and themes covered throughout the last 10 years; the diversity in the range of topics covered; and gender representation, amongst others. What is clearly missing is a baseline against which progress against each of these could have been measured more systematically using for example, results-based reporting methodologies. It is important therefore, that GDN not only

The role of GDN and the call for research papers needs to be published in various national journals, and if possible newspapers also. So far as publicity of the winners and their research papers, special measures should be undertaken by GDN itself, instead of simply leaving it to the researchers.

(Amarendra Das, Medal Winner, 2009)



creates a long-term strategic plan, but also a results-based matrix wherein more structured progress reports could be developed and disseminated.

Besides, a strengthened monitoring and evaluation system might aid GDN to address the issue of 'attribution vs. contribution'. Several Award winners have indicated that the Awards played a major role in their efforts to progress ahead in their careers, while others are not too sure if this indeed is the case. Having a clearly spelt out list of quantitative and qualitative indicators would assist GDN to understand whether the results achieved have been intentional or unintentional, or if the planned interventions actually contributed wholly, or even partly to results outlined in the M&E system.

4. Chronicling Success Stories: If GDN is to expand its global reach and range of activities, it needs to chronicle success stories of Award winners and its other strategic interventions more strongly. The chronicling of success stories is a proven source of generating resources, and is an effective qualitative monitoring tool. It is particularly attractive since these have their own unique, popular appeal and gives rise to a willingness amongst donors to provide for more funding. At present, GDN does not seem to possess enough records of success stories from Award winners and RNP who have performed exceedingly well, even amidst all the challenges they faced.

5. Increasing Prize Money: Over the last 10 years, over US\$2.6 million has been distributed in research and travel grants to finalists and winners. This does not seem to fit comfortably with the reputation, reach and publicity the Awards generate amongst its partners, donors and applicants. It would therefore, be fair to suggest that increasing the prize money might be one way of attracting better quality research proposals, papers and more innovative development projects. GDN is now considering increasing grant monies for eligible development projects, but this consideration should also extend to the ORD and the Medals.

6. Increased Visibility: GDN might want to consider increasing its visibility not only within the development sector, but also the public at large. The author of this report has, over the last few weeks, interacted with several development practitioners to know if they have heard of GDN's work. Not many actually have. What this perhaps points out to is that for GDN to reach out to a critical mass in the developing world and influence development policy at a much higher level, it should intensify its public outreach activities not only through workshops and seminars, but also by using multimedia dissemination strategies.

7. Regional and Gender Disparities: This report in the form of a map (see pg. 14) shows that there is a global representation of Award winners. It might however, be necessary to point out that there are some country-level and regional disparities. For example, most Award winners are from Asia, and the most number of Award winners are from India. This is not necessarily a bad thing. But what it instead suggests are: a) proposals received from other parts of the developing world like Africa are inferior in quality; b) that not many have heard of GDN Awards from under-represented regions of the developing world; or c) that there is a slight bias on the part of Selection Committees (though this perhaps is most likely, **not** the case) to think that regions like Latin America and Asia, particularly countries like India are better equipped to produce quality work, and therefore, have a better chance of winning the Awards. If one, or for that matter all three scenarios are true, then GDN would seriously need to strengthen its research capacity building initiatives through increased

number of partnerships with regional networks in under-represented regions/ countries, intensified publicity drives and by encouraging more submissions and participation from under-represented regions.

The report also highlighted milestones achieved by GDN to ensure significant gender representation in the Competition and participation in the GDN Annual Global Development Conferences. While it is encouraging to note that a significant percentage of women have participated in conferences or won Awards, more needs to be done to ensure more increased gender representation. Two ways of achieving this goal could be: a) to identify more gender-specific development research topics that might attract applications from women; and b) develop a strategic capacity building plan targeted specifically, at young women researchers who, for the lack of any support at the personal or professional front, cannot spend too much time pursuing their dreams and aspirations.



Winners of the 2011 AMC with (from L-R in first row) Akio Hosono, Director, JICA-RI, Japan; L. Alan Winters, Chairperson, GDN Board and Professor at University of Sussex, UK and Gerardo della Paolera, the then GDN President, along with a few GDN staff, in Budapest, Hungary.

11. Conclusion

The Global Development Awards and Medals Competition (AMC) is an effective mechanism to encourage and promote high-quality research in developing countries. Indeed, GDN has succeeded in reaching out to thousands of researchers and development practitioners from almost every corner of the world through the Competition. It has given recognition to unknown researchers, given them the much needed visibility and provided them with a widened network, which allows them to access more opportunities, including funding for their work. This report not only points to the evidence of the impact of the Awards on the careers of young, early career researchers, but also GDN's efforts to ensure that the Awards is seen as a springboard for intellectual growth and change through quality and well-informed development research.

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“ Winning the Medal not only recognizes my research commitment in the past few years, but also motivates me to work harder to help alleviate poverty and inequality that resulted from the radical urbanization in China. ” — **Zhiming Cheng**, Australia, First Prize, Medals for Research on Development, 2011

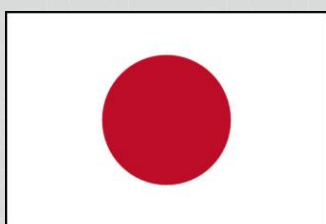
“ As a young researcher, winning the Medal gives me the opportunity to better communicate my work to the international research community, as well as policy makers. It provides me the recognition for my contribution in development research that motivates me to continue doing so. ” — **Rivayani Darmawan**, Indonesia, Joint First Prize, Medals for Research on Development, 2011

“ This Award is important to us since the jury has recognized the merits of our research agenda on the issue of commuting workers emerging as the engine that drives rural-urban interaction in developing countries, including India. We are grateful to the Global Development Network for providing us the platform for highlighting this issue. ” — **S. Chandrasekhar and Ajay Sharma**, India, First Prize, Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development, 2011

“ We will have more awareness at the policy level of this particular program. ” — **Rajat Jay Sehgal**, India, Third Prize, Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project, 2010

“ Our research used to be overlooked by different actors, for instance, in academia and the policy making sector. After the Award, people started to understand the importance of this activity and the implications of considering local participation for improving governance of marine protected areas and common pool resources... the topic has gained visibility in different arenas. ” — **Jorge Maldonado**, Argentina, Joint Second Prize, Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development, 2008

“ I was invited to the St. Petersburg Conference to present my research and was able to access experts from outside the Latin America region. The Award certainly boosted my career. Being recognized by a global organization shows that international quality standards have been used to recognize your work. The Awards give private satisfaction and public recognition for your research. ” — **Daniel Maceira**, Argentina, First Prize, Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development, 2005



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