



The Global Development Awards Competition Communications Training 2020

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Global Development Network wishes to recruit a consultant to undertake online communications training for the finalists of the Global Development Awards Competition 2020 under the Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development category.

This training would usually take place over two days, in person, but in light of the current limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire training will be conducted online.

Background

The Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) is a competitive research grant program under the Global Development Awards Competition 2020. The Awards Competition is administered by the Global Development Network (GDN) and supported by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan. This award program identifies and funds outstanding research proposals in low-income or middle-income countries with high potential for excellence in research and clear policy implications for addressing development issues.

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

The three winning projects will receive grants worth US\$ 45,000. Finalists will be invited to join a communications training in preparation of a pitch of their project in front of a high-level Jury, which will decide which research proposal to award. A physical Award ceremony might be held in 2021, if conditions allow, but projects are expected to start on 15 Jan 2021. The awards will be given to the organization(s) or researcher(s) whose proposals hold the greatest promise for improving our understanding of development issues and puts forth clear, articulate and well researched policy implications to address relevant development problems.

The first prize winner will receive a grant of US\$ 30,000. The second prize and third prize winners will receive a grant of US\$ 10,000 and US\$ 5,000 respectively. The funds will be

used to support the research work proposed by the winners towards the completion of their research. Additionally, awardees will be paired with world-class academic in their area of work who will play the role of a Scientific and Technical Advisor to the winners.

Objective

The training will strengthen the three finalists' presentation and communications skills on their proposals, preparing them for their presentation in front of a high-level academic jury and the general public. The event in 2020 will be online, with particular attention to online delivery.

Activities

The activities under this assignment include the following:

1. Preparation of online training

The consultant will design the agenda for online training, prepare materials, provide an equipment check-list, and draft questionnaire to gather participants feedback and the effectiveness of the training. The consultant will access the paperwork submitted by the finalists for the award, and will be able to interact with them before the training if needed. Background reading on the finalists' proposals will help to tailor the training to its participants by identifying potential headlines and key messages.

Deliverables: training agenda focused on learning objectives; training materials; equipment check-list; feedback/evaluation questionnaire (pre- and post-).

2. Facilitation of the online training

The consultant will facilitate the online training for the three finalists of the competition. In doing so, s/he will provide personalized feedback to help them improve their communications skills, refine their draft presentations, create a handout document, and prepare an elevator pitch. GDN will provide the platform, arranged in coordination with the consultant according to the agreed format. The training will enable participants to tell their stories, and make a pitch for an international award. At the end of the sessions, each participant must be able to connect with key audiences to clearly communicate the context and importance of their work, and provide details without losing sight of the big picture.

Deliverables: One PPT and handout per participant; online communications training.

3. Reporting

The consultant will prepare a brief report discussing his/her learning, insights on the needs of the trainees, a brief and critical presentation of pre- and post-training feedback from the participants, and suggestion for GDN for future trainings.

Deliverable: Final training report.

GDN will share several documents with the consultants, including: proposals of the finalists; draft PPT and handouts of the finalists; training agenda and training report from previous editions.

The training will be conducted in English.

Profile Specifications

GDN seeks to engage a professional trainer with strong experience in translating and communicating research products for a wide audience, and proven experience in using online media to disseminate research.

Application Procedure

Applicants are required to submit an up-to-date CV, evidence of previous experience for two similar assignments or relevant projects, and a proposition of draft agenda for the online training through the email addresses awards@gdn.int and jcosta@gdn.int (all communications to be addressed to both emails mandatorily).

The **training must take place during the week of 7-11 December**, possibly with multiple sessions across the week since the finalists can be from multiple regions of the world and therefore different time zones.

The deadline for submission of demonstrations of interest is on **30 September 2020 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**.

Selection Criteria

- Expertise in research communications (1/3)
- Relevance of previous similar training assignments (1/3)
- Quality of the methodology (draft training agenda) (1/3)

Timeline and Budget

A budget of **USD 2,250** is available for this assignment. In addition, GDN will cover the costs of the platform to be used for the delivery of the training. The full payment will be processed in one installment upon completion of the activities.