**Global Development Awards Competition
Japanese Awards at 20 years**

Call for IT Consultant | Development of the Competition Network Platform

The Global Development Network (GDN) is a public international organization that promotes better policies and better lives through high-quality policy-oriented social science research conducted in developing and transition countries. It provides researchers with financial resources, global networking, research management support, access to information, training, peer review and mentoring. Founded in 1999, GDN is currently headquartered in New Delhi.

The year 2020 marked the 20th anniversary of the Global Development Awards Competition (also known as the Japanese Awards). The Competition is generously funded by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan since 2000 and organized by the Global Development Network since its 1st edition. In two decades, the Competition has gained visibility and prestige, becoming a standard feature of 19 consecutive GDN's Global Development Conferences. Part of its uniqueness is the combination, in the same competition, of awards for development research and for innovative development implementation projects.

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Call for IT Consultant (Development of the Competition Network Platform)

A.   Background

The year 2020 will marked the 20th anniversary of the Global Development Awards Competition (also known as the Japanese Awards). The Competition is generously funded by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan since 2000 and organized by the Global Development Network since its 1st edition. In two decades, the Competition has gained visibility and prestige, becoming a standard feature of 19 consecutive GDN's Global Development Conferences. Part of its uniqueness is the combination, in the same competition, of awards for development research and for innovative development implementation projects.

Several initiatives have documented the impact of the Competition along the years. Among these, a recent evaluation describes the positive impact of the Competition on individual trajectories of past winners and the contribution of the Japanese Awards towards promoting research-based evidence and innovative implementation in development.

A consultation of past winners on the sidelines of the 2017 Global Development Conference in New Delhi, India, documented the interest of the community built through the last two decades of awards to connect with likeminded initiatives. At this meeting, it was proposed to create a network of 'excellence' associated with the demand from past winners to 'activate' the pool of expertise represented by past winners into a global network.

Building towards this goal and in coordination with the celebration of the Competition's 20th anniversary, GDN is now working on the design and launch of an interactive platform that will support the visibility and growing impact of the Competition for the years to come, allowing networking and an overlap with other expert communities both locally and globally.

A high-visibility event in the Fall of 2021, postponed from 2020 due to the COVID pandemic, will celebrate these 2 decades of collaboration between GDN and Japan on strengthening capacities for development in the global South, and launch the platform.

B.   Scope of the call

GDN seeks technical support to design and launch a low-maintenance and user-driven interactive online platform centered around an interactive map of (current and former) Awardees, which would give access to synthetic information about their work. The platform will also serve as a strategic support to the Competition's Monitoring & Evaluation functions, which implies that it enables tracking and visualizing the Competition's reach and impact over its entire existence, and in the future. The platform will also allow non-Awardees who are part of related and likeminded network to easily

identify and interact with competition winners. The platform will therefore be at once the information hub and networking platform, facilitating peer-to-peer support in development, across development research and implementation.

C.   Characteristics of the platform

a) <u>Visual search of the grantee's location, field and skills</u>
A visual and interactive interface will provide an otherwise complicated understanding of the wide geography and multiple fields covered over the past 20-year time period. The database would be searchable through the visual interface.

b) <u>Individual trajectories</u>
A backtracking exercise shows the evolution in the profile of each researchers/practitioners till today, on a voluntary but incentivized basis, to highlight the impact and relevance of the competition to individual trajectories. GDN already has the initial information and the rest will be updated by grantees. Success stories will be featured on the platform.

c) <u>Tailored community space</u>
The platform will feature the possibility to create discussion groups and/or invitation lists/mailing lists based on keywords that would connect past projects, registered organizations, donors, and individuals with key development topics: specific SDGs, climate change, inequality, exclusion, gender, etc. Different levels of access to this feature will have built in incentives for past winners to update their information: the capacity to contact through the platform other members will be linked to the existence of an updated profile for past grantees. Users will also be allowed to follow specific individuals which would be connected to other professional social networks like LinkedIn. A tailored made interface connecting the personal/professional interests of the grantees with their peers and externals will enable the engagement of all users.

d) <u>Scope of users</u>
Grantees beyond the competition can join the platform, and GDN will actively broker the use of the platform by related or likeminded networks, while clearly signaling the Competition awardees in the network platform will host. Other donors may be involved as to further widen the usage of the platform and its potential for becoming a collaborative and networking space.

e) <u>Information and Partnerships hub</u>
The Competition's network platform will aim to gather information from decentralized information dissemination platforms/websites – e.g., *Idealist*, *CharityVillage* or even *AsianResearchNews* - that share opportunities through a subscription or mandatory individual search. These would then be linked to dedicated elements on our platform and therefore turn into the place for people to connect with each other, create

partnerships and be informed of external opportunities. These same partnerships' feature would look like the advertised opportunities with users indicating their interest for them and following up discussions for eventual applications. This feature would enable the platform to further address the sustainability and future of projects as we would be providing the grantees a platform to increase their outreach, create the opportunity for synergies which can lead to funding and research capacity, (local, national and international) visibility, establishment of strategic partnerships among other important outcomes.

D.   Application structure

To apply, interested individuals or institutions must submit their Expressions of Interest (EoI) with the following information:
1. Full CV (of the individual or team of people) focused on documenting experience on similar assignments
2. Detailed timeline of actions envisaged (before, during and after launch) and comments on the feasibility of different functionalities listed above.
   a. Optional: Mocks of the platform would be a plus to demonstrate the possible visual interface
3. Financial Offer, within the ceiling specified above

E.   Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed against the following weighed criteria:
1. Quality of Application (60%)

   A. Quality of proposed process for undertaking the necessary functionalities of the platform
   B. Feasibility of work plan and proposed milestones based on overall task timeline
   C. Appropriateness of proposed budget

2. Capacity of Applying Team (40%)

   D. Experience of Team Member(s)
   E. Relevant experience of team in conducting similar assignments
   F. Appropriateness of the composition of the team to cover the different aspects of the development of the platform

F.   Application Procedure

Demonstrations of interest should be expressed by sending the following documents to both email addresses awards@gdn.int and jcosta@gdn.int (all communications to be addressed to both emails mandatorily)

Enquiries must be addressed to awards@gdn.int.

G.   Deadline

Expressions of Interest must be submitted by **6 PM (Indian Standard Time) on 21 May, 2021.**

Terms of Reference

1. Background

The year 2020 will marked the 20th anniversary of the Global Development Awards Competition (also known as the Japanese Awards). The Competition is generously funded by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan since 2000 and organized by the Global Development Network since its 1st edition.

As part of the celebration of the Competition's 20th anniversary, GDN is now working on the design and launch of an interactive platform that will support the visibility and growing impact of the Competition for the years to come, allowing networking and an overlap with other expert communities both locally and globally.

2. Objective of the assignment

GDN is recruiting a consultant (IT developer), either on an individual basis or as a team, to develop the interactive platform, generate manuals for its operation, and provide assistance for on its initial management. The first stage of the development of this platform, pertaining the core structure and functions, will be timed in line with GDN's plans for a major event in Fall 2021, during which GDN plans to launch the platform publicly. The second stage of development, regarding social media and interactive functionalities, will continue until around Spring 2022.

3. Milestones of the assignment

1st stage of the assignment

Mapping of all grantees and projects
● Information from the Grant Agreements and proposals over the course of the Competition and other grant schemes at GDN will be analyzed extracting personal data about the grantees (Name, Contact information, Institutional affiliation, grant source and years of implementation + granting) and the project (Title, grant source, years of implementation + granting, summary, key outcomes fields and partners on dissemination or follow-up actions, partner organizations/institutions and keywords)
● **Outcome**: GDN will work with the consultant to create a database with several fields that would be used to populate the initial map of the platform regarding individuals and projects

Match-up between projects and grantees
● Both datasets would be intertwined in order to have a dependency between key players and keywords
● **Outcome**: *Mindmup* of the outcomes per project with a web of connections on the

external actors (institutions, governments, donors) that had contact with (as part of all steps of the project or present for the dissemination of their results)

Interface requirements

i. **Intuitive data visualization**
   ● Each "point" of the database will be associated with the grantee and project with different visual traces so that they can be distinguished. GDN, eventually other donors and institutions involved in the research would be set apart as well
   ● **Requirement**: Each database/set of keywords would have a different symbol/color to be easily distinguishable

ii. **Temporal visualization**
   ● The platform will be able to *go back in time* as to visualize per year what kind and where projects were being developed. At the same time, each user will be able to introduce per year where they were at as to visualize their path
   ● **Requirement**: Databases will be time bound and associated the timeline of each project

iii. **Filter/search capable interface**
   ● The entire platform would be capable of being filtered or retrieve results based on a search at any time by all fields inputted independently of their kind
      ☐ Grantees by common denominators (age, sex, field of studies, type of grant, areas of interest, position….)
      ☐ Project type (length, ongoing, status, key words, number of beneficiaries)
   ● **Requirement**: Embedded filtering/search tool by any denominator embedded on the website plus the ability to filter by several fields

2nd stage of the assignment

Interface requirements

iv. **Creation of interest groups, mailing lists and other gathering features**
   ● Beyond the filtering capability, the platform would create groups based on specific terms taken from keywords, project type, competition, among others,
   ● **Requirement**: Connection with Google Groups or other platform (LinkedIn) with the user being added there based on interest.

v. **Integration of externals**
   ● Externals would be able to follow on discussions taken by user groups (donors that would be working on "climate change" could subscribe to discussion

taking place by grantees on that subject
- ● **Requirement**: Platform would have the additional category of user for external as to integrate groups and interact with other users

    vi.   **Integration of content from other websites/platforms**
- ● Content from other sources such as advertisements and other content would be brought into a news feed, banners or tab on the platform as to centralize all sort of opportunities spread across different sources.

Development of support documents
- ● Development of manuals and FAQs to support the user's interaction with the platform
- ● Development of Manuals for maintenance and troubleshooting of the platform
- ● Training of GDN staff for troubleshooting and general maintenance of the platform

Every step of the assessment will be done in close collaboration between the Consultant and GDN. GDN will have the possibility to request more information from the Consultant, if needed.

4. Timeline of the assignment

The key tasks of this assignment are highlighted below with more details in the previous section:

A. 1ˢᵗ stage - **by October 15th 2021**
   a. Development of the core version the platform with prior beta testing prior to the deadline
B. 2ⁿᵈ stage - **by April 1st 2022**
   a. Development of the final platform with all characteristics including
      i. User registration beyond the initial dataset with unlimited amount of users
         i. Management interface for approval of users, content-editing among other moderating tasks
         ii. Intuitive data visualization with the capacity to distinguish individual entries and label content from different categories
         iii. Temporal Map with the capacity to visualize the location, related projects and other relevant inputted by users on their profile by year
         iv. Filter/search capable interface by all tokens (fields of the database) independently if user, time, category, project, keywords or any other aspect
         v. Creation of interaction methods between users within the platform (forums or messaging) and/or on an external platform (google groups, mailing list, LinkedIn or other) both by direct method (between users) or through other tokens (like keywords, project type, competition, among others)

b. Development of manuals and FAQs to support the users
c. Development of Manuals for maintenance and troubleshooting of the platform
d. Training of GDN staff for troubleshooting and general maintenance of the platform

5. Finance and Budget

The budget for this assignment cannot exceed **USD 17,000.** Financial offers will be assessed based on the nature and level of services included in the offers. Value for money will be among key evaluation criteria. The payment plan will be discussed with the successful bidder based on milestones and the working plan agreed.

6. Reporting

All reporting will be done to João Costa, Program Associate, through the email addresses awards@gdn.int and jcosta@gdn.int (all communications to be addressed to both emails mandatorily).