Global Development Awards Competition
Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) 2024 Edition

CALL FOR RESEARCH (ORD) PROPOSALS

Competition Theme

The Global Development Network (GDN) invites researchers from low-income or middle-income countries to submit research proposals within the theme '**Sustainable Climate Action for Human-Centered Development**' for the Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD).[1]

The Award

The Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development is a competitive research grant program under the umbrella of the Global Development Awards Competition (GDAC), administered by GDN, funded under the Policy and Human Resources Development Fund (PHRD) trust fund managed by the World Bank, and generously supported by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan. This award program identifies and funds outstanding research proposals in low- or middle-income countries with high potential for excellence in research and clear policy implications for addressing development issues.

The **three winning projects will receive grants worth US$ 60,000**. 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. The awards will be given to the 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 developmental problems.

---

[1] More information about the theme of the competition is available at the end of this document.

GDN IO: 2nd Floor, West Wing, ISID Complex, 4 Vasant Kunj Institutional Area, New Delhi-110070, India | T: +91 11 4323 9494
GDN Europe: 63 Boulevard François Mitterrand - CS 50320, 63009 Clermont-Ferrand Cedex, France | T: +33 4 73 17 75 30
GDN Inc: C/o Ms. Latha Saikrishnan, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, 901 N. Glebe Road, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203, USA | T: +1 202 861 4364

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$ 20,000 and US$ 10,000 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.

The deadline for submission of applications is on the **May 24, 2024 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**

Gender Bias

GDN recognizes the imbalance in the opportunities provided to women in professional research, as well as the consequences of unconscious gender bias in review processes in environments across the world. GDN also recognizes the impact these factors can have on the prospects of women researchers in securing awards and funding.

Since the 2022 edition, GDN embed more equitable grant-making processes to guarantee that more women can compete and win while still maintaining a high-quality standard on the evaluation. Therefore, GDN instituted a selection process for GDAC where we will make all efforts to guarantee gender representation amongst the 3 finalists of the ORD category.

GDN strongly encourages female researchers to engage and apply.

Connector Grant

The Connector Grant aims to stimulate international cooperation through the development of collaborative projects to support scale-up efforts with research-based evidence. The Connector grant will be awarded to ORD grantees, based on a project developed in collaboration with the MIDP grantees who received the JSDF grant. This grant will support the award recipients' collaborative efforts towards measuring and analyzing scale-up impact, as well as to enhance the robustness of their M&E activities. The application to this grant will only take place after the full

GDN IO: 2nd Floor, West Wing, ISID Complex, 4 Vasant Kunj Institutional Area, New Delhi-110070, India | T: +91 11 4323 9494
GDN Europe: 63 Boulevard François Mitterrand - CS 50320, 63009 Clermont-Ferrand Cedex, France | T: +33 4 73 17 75 30
GDN Inc: C/o Ms. Latha Saikrishnan, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, 901 N. Glebe Road, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203, USA | T: +1 202 861 4364

implementation of the funded ORD project and will not be part of the selection of the ORD winners.

Important Dates

- Deadline for submissions: May 24, 2024
- Eligibility screening results: June 3, 2024
- First Level review results (shortlisted applications) & comments from reviewers: July 15, 2024
- Resubmission of the updated application by the shortlisted applicants: July 28, 2024
- Second Level review results (finalists) & comments from reviewers: September 13, 2024
- Resubmission of updated applications by the finalists: September 29, 2024
- Announcement of finalists: September 30, 2024
- Announcement of winners: November, 2024

Finalists are expected to be available for the Communications Training and the physical event for the presentation of their projects to the jury in November 2024 during the Global Development Conference to take place in November 2024 in Fiji.

Competition Rules and Guidelines

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

General Rules

- Please note that the **submission of all documents is mandatory** for your application to be treated as complete and eligible.
- For a joint research pro**posal with more than one researcher, only the principal investigator should apply.** However, the institutional affiliation, position/designation, e-mail address, citizenship and current residence of

each co-researcher **MUST** also be included in the application. In cases with more than one researcher, all researchers must meet the eligibility criteria.

- **Researchers must have an affiliated institution for the project.** Winners of the Competition will be engaged with GDN through a Grant Agreement signed with the institution which shall provide administrative and financial oversight throughout the implementation of the project (including certifying the use of the budget using the forms provided).

- The application and the required documents **must be submitted as electronic files at GDN's online submission platform.** Please note that GDN accepts applications through the online submission platform **EXCLUSIVELY.**

- **CVs for all team members must be included in the application.** The CVs should clearly state the age of all team members, the citizenships for all team members and the country of residence for the past five years for all team members and the current institutional affiliations for all team members. These details are mandatory, and an application will be deemed incomplete if these details are not submitted.

- Proposals **must be submitted in English** only.

- Please note that all personal information details provided in the application (along with the CV) should be correct, else the **application will be liable for disqualification at any stage of the competition,** including after the grant has been conferred.

- **GDN will take into consideration the geography, gender, issue area among other factors** aiming to increase the diversity and representativeness of applicants and projects awarded.

Eligibility Criteria

Geographical scope

Eligible countries for the ORD competition are those classified by the **World Bank as low-income or middle-income countries**[2]. The **competition is open only to researchers who are citizens or permanent residents of these countries.** The applicants (including team members) can be asked to submit proof of their

---

[2] Press here to visit the list of countries which are recognized as low- and middle-income countries by the World Bank

GDN IO: 2nd Floor, West Wing, ISID Complex, 4 Vasant Kunj Institutional Area, New Delhi-110070, India | T: +91 11 4323 9494
GDN Europe: 63 Boulevard François Mitterrand - CS 50320, 63009 Clermont-Ferrand Cedex, France | T: +33 4 73 17 75 30
GDN Inc: C/o Ms. Latha Saikrishnan, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, 901 N. Glebe Road, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203, USA | T: +1 202 861 4364

citizenship and residency through documents with legal standing, at any point during the competition. The information on the Identity Card will remain strictly confidential with GDN.

- Citizens of eligible countries currently residing in a non-eligible country are allowed to apply only if they have been living in the non-eligible country for no more than five years as of 1 January 2025. This should be clearly shown as in the CV and personal information should be provided. **In case any information is found to be incorrect, the proposal is liable for disqualification during any stage of the competition, including after the grant has been conferred.**

Age limit
The upper age limit for all applicants is **45 years by the end of 2025.** Individuals above 45 years of age as of 1 January 2025 are not eligible to apply.

External funding
The **proposal should not be receiving or scheduled to receive funds from other sources to be eligible.** However, this would be allowed if it is clearly explained how the additional funds would reinforce the successful completion of the research.

Employment
Staff **members of multilateral and bilateral organizations** (The World Bank, IMF, IADB, UN agencies, UKAid, etc.) **are not eligible to apply.**

Previous and current employees of GDN or its Regional Network Partners[3] are not eligible to apply up till 5 years from the completion of their tenure. Previous GDN Board Members, project mentors and members of evaluation teams are not eligible to apply.

Previous GDN funding
Similar proposals or papers resulting as products from full or partial GDN funded activities (Global Research Projects and other competitions not limited to Regional Research Competitions, Global Research Competitions etc.), **cannot be submitted for this competition.**

---

[3] Press here to visit the list of GDN's Regional Network Partners

GDN IO: 2nd Floor, West Wing, ISID Complex, 4 Vasant Kunj Institutional Area, New Delhi-110070, India | T: +91 11 4323 9494
GDN Europe: 63 Boulevard François Mitterrand - CS 50320, 63009 Clermont-Ferrand Cedex, France | T: +33 4 73 17 75 30
GDN Inc: C/o Ms. Latha Saikrishnan, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, 901 N. Glebe Road, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203, USA | T: +1 202 861 4364

Previous winners

Past ORD winners and finalists are not eligible to apply with the same or similar research proposal.

Past ORD winners are not eligible to apply for a period of 3 years after the end of their agreement with GDN.

Plagiarism

Please note that all forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable to GDN, plagiarism being one of them including self-plagiarism. Plagiarism is unauthorized use of other people's work, ideas and/or writings (in part or in full) and presenting or giving notion of these work(s), ideas and/or writings being one's own work, idea(s) and/or writing(s). **GDN takes plagiarism very seriously and will take immediate and appropriate action including and not limited to withdrawal of funding for any such grantees found guilty of plagiarism.**

How to Apply

1. Follow to GDN's dedicated online submission platform using the following link: www.gdn.int/gdac/2024/apply
2. Register or Log-in into the platform to have access to your profile. You will receive an email confirming the successful registration of your profile and define your password. Only after verifying your profile, will you be able to apply.
3. On your profile page, follow the displayed instructions and go to [Applications] "Funding Opportunities" to select the Call you wish to apply to or resume one from the [Applications] "In Progress" section.
   - You must pass the automated *Eligibility Screening* before having access to the *Full Proposal*. If you fail it, you will not be able to apply but reach out to GDN if you are facing issues.
   - A collaborator must accept and fill their Collaborator Form which is found at [Collaboration Forms and Applications] "Action Required" before being filled. Afterwards, he/she will have access to the proposal they are associated with and can make edits and even submit it. This application will not be at [Collaboration Forms and Applications] "Applications"

GDN IO: 2nd Floor, West Wing, ISID Complex, 4 Vasant Kunj Institutional Area, New Delhi-110070, India | T: +91 11 4323 9494
GDN Europe: 63 Boulevard François Mitterrand - CS 50320, 63009 Clermont-Ferrand Cedex, France | T: +33 4 73 17 75 30
GDN Inc: C/o Ms. Latha Saikrishnan, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, 901 N. Glebe Road, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203, USA | T: +1 202 861 4364

o   Take note that you will be able to resume your entry at any time up to the deadline. If there are duplicate entries, the most recent one will be considered as only one proposal per applicant is allowed.

4. You will be asked to provide the details of the proposal and you must invite your team members by placing their name and email address on the "Collaborators" tab. Don't forget to press "Invite" and check if people have accepted by checking their status on this tab.

5. Upload all necessary documents and fill all sections otherwise your application will not be submitted.

6. Once you have completed your application, click on "Submit". You will receive an email notifying you on the successful submission of your application with a copy of the entire submission.

Check our website for additional information on how to interact with the platform or reach out to us if you need any assistance.

Review Criteria

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

Academic quality

- Quality of the research question formulated
- Quality of methodology and methods chosen to answer the research question
- Quality of literature review
- Originality and Innovativeness
- Ethics

Clarity of the links to policy

- Link to specific development outcomes
- Specific relevance to policy process

Feasibility

- Timeline
- Budget
- Research team

Selection Process

Once the submission of proposals is closed, a multi-stage review process will be used to select the winners.

The review process will follow the blind review process wherein identities of the authors and reviewers will be concealed to eliminate any selection bias.

The proposals will be reviewed at all stages based on the review criteria given in the previous section.

- In the first stage, a preliminary assessment will be undertaken by GDN staff to check for eligibility, originality, and coherence.
- The eligible applications are then reviewed by external scholars in two steps. At a first step, *Lot 1: First level review*, reviewers will be selected to conduct a first assessment of proposals and shortlist the best proposals taking into consideration the process GDN installed to counter gender bias. The shortlisted applicants receive comments from reviewers and are allowed to update their proposals. At the second step, *Lot 2: Expert level review*, experienced researchers review the shortlisted proposals. The final ranking is validated by the *Panel Organizer*, selected based on her/his professional experience from the Lot 2 reviewers.
- The final selection of proposals will be undertaken by the ORD High-Level Jury, after a public presentation of the projects by the finalists. The decision of the Jury will be final.

Terms and Conditions

- GDN reserves the right not to grant one or more than one Award.
- GDN reserves the right to modify, cancel or not award grants at any stage of the competition and grant-making.
- Cancellation of the Award: The Award is liable to cancellation in case of unsatisfactory progress of research work and if any of the researchers in the award team are found ineligible later.
- GDN will award the funds to winners through a written grant agreement.

GDN IO: 2nd Floor, West Wing, ISID Complex, 4 Vasant Kunj Institutional Area, New Delhi-110070, India | T: +91 11 4323 9494
GDN Europe: 63 Boulevard François Mitterrand - CS 50320, 63009 Clermont-Ferrand Cedex, France | T: +33 4 73 17 75 30
GDN Inc: C/o Ms. Latha Saikrishnan, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, 901 N. Glebe Road, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203, USA | T: +1 202 861 4364

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee for this year's competition has not yet been determined. Past Selection Committees have included distinguished scholars and representatives from the following organizations:

- ANU - Australia's National University, Australia
- Ateneo de Manila University, The Philippines
- CEDLAS - Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina
- Czech National Bank, Czech Republic
- EADI - European Association of Development, Research and Training Institutes, Germany
- FERDI - Foundation for studies and Research on International Development, France
- Harvard University, USA
- IIDS - Institute for Integrated Development Studies, Nepal
- INASP-International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications, United Kingdom
- Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands Inter-American Dialogue, USA
- James Cook University, Australia

- James Cook University, Australia
- KOICA - Korean International Cooperation Agency, Republic of Korea
- National Agricultural Research Institute of Tunisia, Tunisia
- South Eastern European University, Republic of Macedonia
- Tallinn University, Estonia
- The Netherlands Institute of Social Research, The Hague, The Netherlands
- The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, Austria
- The World Bank
- Tulane University, USA
- Veolia Environment Institute, France
- West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD), Senegal

List of Eligible Countries

Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; American Samoa; Angola; Argentina; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Belarus; Belize; Benin; Bhutan; Bolivia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cabo Verde; Cambodia; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; China; Comoros; Colombia; Costa Rica; Congo, Dem. Rep; Congo, Rep.; Côte d'Ivoire; Cuba; Djibouti; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Eritrea; Eswatini; Equatorial Guinea; Ethiopia; Fiji; Gabon; Gambia; Georgia; Ghana; Grenada; Guatemala; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; India; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Kenya; Kiribati; Korea, Dem. People's Rep; Jamaica; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kosovo; Kyrgyz Republic; Lao; Lebanon; Lesotho; Liberia; Libya; Madagascar; Malaysia; Malawi; Maldives; Mali; Marshall Islands; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Micronesia; Moldova; Mongolia; Montenegro; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar; Nepal; Namibia; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; North Macedonia; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Romania; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Samoa; São Tomé and Principe; Senegal; Serbia; Sierra Leone; Solomon Islands; Somalia; South Africa; South Sudan; Sri Lanka; St. Lucia; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Sudan; Suriname; Syrian Arab Republic; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Timor-Leste; Thailand; Togo; Tonga; Tunisia; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; Uganda; Ukraine; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; Vietnam; West Bank and Gaza; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe

Theme | 2024 Global Development Awards Competition
Sustainable Climate Action for Human-Centered Development

In the complex and interconnected tapestry of global challenges, climate change stands as a pivotal force, affecting ecosystems, societies, and individuals worldwide. Amidst these challenges, the imperative for sustainable climate action has never been more urgent, especially in regions grappling with unique vulnerabilities. In navigating the intricate challenges of climate change within the Global South, the theme **"Sustainable Climate Action for Human-Centered Development"** underscores the critical need to align environmental preservation with the well-being of communities in these regions. Within this nexus, initiatives that not only protect the planet but also prioritize human-centric development take center stage, acknowledging the unique contexts and vulnerabilities of the Global South.

The **2024 edition of the Global Development Awards Competition** aims to highlight innovative ideas and ongoing projects to celebrate and amplify the voices of those who actively contribute to building a resilient future—one where the human experience is not merely considered but is at the forefront of climate action strategies. The theme underscores the profound need to align our commitment to safeguarding the planet with an unwavering dedication to human-centric development, recognizing the unique contexts, cultures, and vulnerabilities present in the Global South, to realize a society where no one is left behind.

GDN encourages the submission of projects that are either gender-specific or gender-transformative but requires that all projects be designed to respond to gender concerns.

Under the **Japanese Awards for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) category**, GDN invites early-career researchers to submit projects that focus on the vital role of knowledge generation in informing effective climate action. We challenge researchers to contribute to the growing body of actionable knowledge. By exploring novel social science methodologies and embracing diverse approaches that consider different timeframes, researchers can provide nuanced insights into the complex social dimensions of climate change, with a special emphasis on human security and solidarity in the Anthropocene. This category therefore recognizes the significance of methodological innovation in shaping our understanding and response to the social impacts of climate change.

Applications must focus on different aspects from the focus areas below and demonstrate how these are intertwined.

Sub-Theme: **"Assessing the Social Impact of Climate Change in the Global South"**

Focus Areas
- Methodological Innovation
  - Exploring and developing new social science methodologies to assess the social impact of climate change.
  - Integration of qualitative and quantitative approaches for a comprehensive understanding.
  - Utilization of participatory research methods involving local communities in the assessment process.
- Temporal Analysis
  - Examining the long-term and short-term social impacts of climate change.
  - Assessing the evolving nature of climate change effects on human security over different time frames.
  - Understanding the temporal dimensions of vulnerability and resilience in communities.
- Human Security-Centric Approaches
  - Developing assessment frameworks that center around the concept of human security.
  - Exploring the interconnectedness of climate change, poverty, health, and livelihood security.
  - Evaluating the effectiveness of interventions aimed at enhancing human security in the face of climate change.

Under the **Japanese Awards for Most Innovative Development Awards (MIDP) category**, GDN wants to highlight the transformative power of on-the-ground initiatives by NGOs that have moved beyond conceptualization, actively engaging with communities to implement projects that enhance climate resilience. By showcasing participatory project design, adaptation and mitigation strategies, and sustainable livelihood initiatives, we aim to award their impactful work. This category stands as a platform to recognize and amplify the voices of those directly supporting the most marginalized communities, embodying the spirit of community-led climate resilience exemplifying the spirit of human-centered development in the face of climate change challenges.

The MIDP category precedes the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) Award where the most impactful of the winners of that category will have a chance to scale up or replicate their project.

Applications must demonstrate how the project addresses fit into the type of projects displayed below and demonstrate how these are intertwined on the overall topic of the

Competition. Applicants who submit a project that does not showcase this relation will not be considered.

Sub-Theme: **"Community-Centered Climate Action and Sustainable Development"**

Type of projects
- Community-Driven Assessment Initiatives
  - Projects that actively involve communities in the assessment of climate change impacts, ensuring that local knowledge and experiences are integral to the evaluation process.
- Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies
  - Projects that highlight and focus on the direct benefits of these strategies to the most marginalized members of the community based on mitigation approaches to the impact of climate change.
- Sustainable Livelihood Initiatives
  - Projects that integrate climate resilience with sustainable livelihood opportunities for marginalized communities while emphasizing the economic empowerment and improved well-being of community members.
- Temporal Adaptation in Practice
  - Projects that have adaptive strategies that acknowledge the temporal dynamics of climate change impact, demonstrating how community-led initiatives have aligned with different time frames identified through assessments.