



## **JAPANESE AWARD FOR MOST INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

### **THE AWARD**

The **Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP)** is a competitive grant program administered by the **Global Development Network (GDN)** and supported by the **Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan**. The program identifies and funds *innovative, early-stage projects with high potential for development impact to exceptionally marginalized and disadvantaged groups located in developing and transition countries*.

Since its inception in 2000, GDN has awarded roughly **US\$ 2.2 million** in travel and grants to finalist and winners. Nearly **7,000 researchers** and development practitioners from developing and transition countries have participated in this competition. Using GDN funding as a launch pad, many projects go on to scale up or replicate elsewhere.

The winning project receives a grant of **US\$ 30,000**, travel and other related expenses to GDN's **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Development Conference**<sup>1</sup> in June 2012. The award will be given to the organization whose project embodies an original and innovative approach to an important development need and holds the greatest promise for benefiting the marginalized and disadvantaged in developing and transition countries. In addition, the World Bank-administered **Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF)** team will review the suitability of the proposal winning the First Prize for a much larger grant of **up to US\$ 200,000** under the auspices of the JSDF. The runner-up project will receive a grant of **US\$ 5,000**.

The last date for submitting the application for MIDP is **January 31, 2012 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**. For details on 'how to apply' see below the relevant section.

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<sup>1</sup> The conference venue is to be confirmed and will be updated on GDN's website ([www.gdnet.org](http://www.gdnet.org)).

## **COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES:**

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

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The MIDP Award is open to all development projects being implemented in *Africa, Asia, Commonwealth of Independent States, Middle East, Latin America, the Caribbean, Pacific Islands, and the transition economies of Eastern Europe and Central Asia*. The project must be managed by a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with its headquarters in a country in one of the above regions. The project must have been started before **June 01, 2010**. Applications concerning a more recently started project or only a project idea or a feasibility or baseline study will not be considered. Applications for funding conferences and seminars will not be considered. Applicants from previous years (except winners) may re-apply, but they must update the application to include new aspects of the project. Winners from previous years cannot submit an application in the subsequent three years. On completion of the three-year period they may resubmit applications only if there have been significant and visible new developments in the ongoing projects. Their applications must demonstrate new and innovative aspects of the ongoing projects for eligibility for funding in subsequent rounds.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

*The project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:*

- **Creativity/Innovativeness:** How is your project (or aspect of your project, including its approach) different from existing approaches? Note that transferring an approach to solve a common problem from one beneficiary group or from one geographic area to another is not considered innovative for the purpose of this award.
- **Objective & Measuring Results:** What development idea is this project addressing? Does it have clear and measurable results that will have a direct impact on improving individuals' or communities' livelihood? Does the project have a realistic plan with concrete steps/activities to achieve its objectives within the one year span of implementation after receiving the funds? Does the organization have capacity to implement the project?
- **Social Impact & its Sustainability:** Does the project contribute to poverty alleviation and social development in the short and long term? Is the development impact sustainable in the long run? How does the organization assess the project's impact? Does it have the capacity to sustain the results of the project? Has the project generated local ownership? Or is there a plan to transfer ownership?

- **Replicability:** How easily can the project be replicated in other countries, regions, sectors and cultures? Can it be expanded within a geographic area to benefit more people in the project area? Does the project have potential to have a large scale development impact?
- **Cost Efficiency:** What are the measurable impacts/outcomes (performance) of the project in comparison to the cost of the program?
- **Capacity Building:** Does the project help strengthen capacity of the targeted population to continue with the work themselves in the long run? Has the targeted population demonstrated an increase in skill development or an increased willingness to learn new skills?

## HOW TO APPLY

Follow the steps given below:

1. Download the proposal template by [clicking here](#); fill it in and save it on your computer.
2. Prepare a document providing the profile of your organization and save it on your computer.
3. Logon to GDN's **Online Proposal Appraisal** system (OPA) using the following internet link; <http://opa.gdnet.org> and fill in the online application form for MIDP (i.e. Call for Proposal: CFP-1) and submit it. (On completion of this step, you would receive an automated response from OPA via email (at the address that you provided in the application form) confirming successful submission of your application. Please note here, however, that your application is not yet complete. You have to follow the rest of the steps given below).

### Uploading the Project Proposal

4. Click '**Next**' and then press on '**Add Document**'
  - In the '**Title**' field, typewrite the words '*Project Proposal*'.
  - Put the applicant's name as its '**Author**'.
  - **Browse** and locate the proposal on your computer that you had fill in during step one and click 'open'.
  - Write an '**Abstract**' about the project.
  - Under document type, choose '**Project Proposal**'

- Click **‘Submit’**. On completion of this step, an on-screen message would say ‘Document Successfully Added!’

### Uploading the CV

5. Click on **‘Add Document’**
  - In the **‘Title’** field, typewrite the *‘Applicant’s name’*.
  - **Browse** and locate the CV on your computer and click **‘open’**.
  - Under document type, choose **‘CV’**
  - Click **‘Submit’**. On completion of this step, an on-screen message would say ‘Document Successfully Added!’

### Uploading the Organizational Profile

6. Click on **‘Add Document’**
  - In the **‘Title’** field, typewrite the words *‘Organizational Profile’*.
  - **Browse** and locate the document (that you saved during step two) on your computer and click **‘open’**.
  - Under document type, choose **‘Appendix’**
  - Click **‘Submit’**. On completion of this step, an on-screen message would say ‘Document Successfully Added!’

Remember, the last date for submitting the application is **January 31, 2012 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)**.

### **Important Points:**

- All applications and documents must be submitted as electronic files at GDN’s Online Proposal Appraisal system - OPA (<http://opa.gdnet.org>). **Please note that GDN accepts applications through OPA only.**
- All applications must be submitted only in the designated application template ([Click here to download](#))
- If you are unable to submit your application through OPA, please contact us at [awards@gdnet.org](mailto:awards@gdnet.org), with the subject line: ‘MIDP – Application Request’
- An organization can not submit more than one application.
- Submissions should not exceed 12 pages (excluding cover page and the table of contents page). Format should be in Times New Roman, 11-point font with single line spacing.
- Submissions must be in English language only.
- Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.

## THE SELECTION PROCESS

Once the call of proposals is closed, the following process is used to select the winners:

- After a preliminary assessment by the GDN Secretariat, the submissions will be reviewed by a committee established by an independent organization. The selection process will include on-site visits to the short-listed projects. The names of three finalists will be announced in **May 2012**.
- Short-listed candidates will be invited to present their work at GDN's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Development Conference to be held in June 2012. The venue of the conference will be announced at a later date. Travel and expenses of one project representative from each short-listed organization will be covered by GDN.
- The selection committee for the Award will consider the substantive and operational merits of the submissions but will also take into account the potential for expansion into other settings and countries.
- The selection committee will select and announce the winners at the conference. The committee reserves the right not to give out one or more prizes.

## **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The selection committee for this year's competition is not yet determined. Previous selection committees' members included representatives from:

- Association of African Universities, Ghana
- AusAID, Australia,
- Australian National University, Australia
- African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Kenya
- Center for Global Development, USA
- EADI, UK
- IDRC, Canada
- JICA Research Institute, Japan
- OECD Development Centre, France.
- Peking University, China
- The Brookings Institution, USA
- The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, Egypt
- The Partnership for African Social & Governance Research (PASGR), Kenya
- The School of Social and Economic Development at the University of the South Pacific (USP), Fiji
- The World Bank, USA
- VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Zagazig University, Egypt.

## **MOST INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LAUREATES**

- Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), Pakistan Fundacion Paraguaya, Paraguay
- BARKA Foundation for Mutual Help, Poland
- Biodiversity Conservation in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Mexico
- Butterflies, India
- Byrraju Foundation, India
- Camara Rwanda, Rwanda
- Citizen's Proposal Group, Peru
- Colegio Virtual Iberoamericano, Ecuador
- Dream A Dream, India
- IRRAD, India
- ONG Bethesda, Benin
- The Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB), Nepal