



INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

FOR

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS COMPETITION

ON

“URBANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT: DELVING DEEPER INTO THE NEXUS”

OVERVIEW

The **IDB-GDN Collaborative Research Grant** is a competitive research grant targeted towards *Strengthening Research and Policy Links between Latin America and Asia*. It is administered by the **Global Development Network (GDN)** and generously supported by the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**.

This initiative seeks to provide research grants to support comparative and systematic research that looks across continents and brings together experts from Latin America and Asia respectively to address fundamental issues on urbanization and development as well as opportunities for researchers from these regions to engage in meaningful academic collaborations in a globally interconnected way.

The initiative looks to support **five research studies** under the overarching theme of *Urbanization and Development: Delving Deeper into the Nexus*. The average grant will be of **US\$30,000**, depending on the scope of the proposed research. The grant will be awarded to the organization/researcher(s) whose proposals to conduct research in this theme holds the greatest promise for improving our understanding of issues pertaining to the above mentioned theme and where the potential for inter-regional learning is greatest.

The last date for submission of the full research proposal in the application template, CVs of applicants (research team members) and other supporting documents is **April 16, 2012 (GMT 11: 59 PM)**.

DESCRIPTION OF THE THEME

The world is facing unprecedented levels of urbanization. Since 2007, and for the first time in human history, more than 50 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas. By 2030, various projections seem to agree that this will increase to almost 60 percent of total population, and to about 80 percent by 2050. With urban areas becoming the source of livelihoods for a majority of the population around the globe, a huge toll on resources is undertaken. Planning of urban areas, and

their impact on the environment become extremely important issues of consideration. Development, in other words, becomes synonymous to Urbanization. The future of the world will surely be urban and this is likely to be a good thing. Per capita incomes are five times higher and infant mortality rates are two thirds lower in those nations that are more than 50 percent urbanized relative to those countries that are less than fifty percent urbanized. While this correlation does not imply causality, it is almost impossible to imagine the world's poorer countries becoming rich countries unless they too become largely urbanized. Urban concentration has historically enabled the flows of knowledge, the division of labor, the movement of goods and the combination of labor and capital that help transform poor places into prosperous ones. But urbanization also creates enormous challenges, including contagious disease, congestion and crime, that often seem to be far beyond the capacities of many governments. Mega-cities (but also small ones) throughout the world struggle with providing decent living space, clean water and other amenities for their rapidly growing number of residents. These urban problems do not just harm the current residents of the cities, they stop also others from coming to cities and enjoying the economic benefits that can come from agglomeration. Making cities more liveable is not just about quality of life, it is also about economic development.

Against this background, the Global Research Project on *Urbanization and Development: Delving Deeper into the Nexus* will take a fresh look at the development mantra that cities are the engines of growth. This is essential in order to delve *inter alia* deeper into gender-related issues, the role of local elites and how they may shape the character of a city (and thus its developmental or non-developmental focus), the role of local culture, and the overall nexus between urbanization process and poverty reduction (since it is precisely this link that currently places the urbanization issue in the international development agenda). Furthermore, negative externalities arising from the urbanization process in Latin America and Asia, such as crime, congestion and disease will also be studied in the context of the project. Finally, a particular effort will be made to shed more light on the overall relationship between migration and urbanization. This research will also build on the excellent work of IDB in this important research and policy area, epitomized in the recently published book "The Quality of Life in Latin American Cities", edited by E. Lora, A. Powell, B. van Praag and P. Sanguinetti (IDB, 2010). The proposal related to the above component of the Global Research Project foresees carrying out comparative studies across urban areas in Latin America and Asia. This component of the Global Research Project aims at providing specific recommendations and strategic guidance for governments and development agencies regarding urbanization issues (thus paying particular attention to the so-called 'enabling policy environment' in the area of urbanization). Comparative analysis will be undertaken as part of the case studies to improve understanding of the urbanization issue and major differences between Latin America and Asia will be highlighted and assessed so useful policy lessons can be derived.

The topics to be covered include (but are not limited to)

- Cities as Engines of Growth
- Agglomeration Economies and Urbanization
- Urban Externalities: Congestion, Contagious Disease and Crime
- Urbanization and Poverty
- Innovation, Technology Infusion and Smart Cities
- Migration and Urbanization

- Ethnic Minorities and the Urbanization Process
- The Enabling Policy Environment: Housing, Transportation and Other Public Infrastructure
- Urban Governance
- Financing Urban Infrastructure

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COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

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

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The research grant is open only to researchers in developing and transition countries in Latin America and Asia with the requirement that the applicants (researchers) need to be permanent residents of these countries. They could either submit the research proposal individually, or, jointly as a team.

- Citizens of developing and transition countries temporarily residing in a developed country for no more than five years are eligible to apply as part of a team. However, the principal investigator of the research proposal must currently reside and be a permanent resident of a developing or transition country in Latin America and Asia and she/he should be affiliated to an organization headquartered in either of these countries. In case of more than one researcher, at least half of the researchers (including the principal investigator) of the team must currently reside in a developing or transition country.
- The upper age limit for applicants is 45 years as of April 16, 2012.
- Staff members of multilateral and bilateral organizations (World Bank, IMF, IADB, UN agencies, DFID, AusAID, etc.) and previous employees of the GDN are not eligible to apply, although they can be brought in as advisors later.
- The proposal should not be receiving or scheduled to receive funds from other sources to be eligible for consideration for this grant unless it is clearly explained how the additional funds provided by the grant would reinforce the existing funds for successful completion of the research.
- We welcome applications that focus on cross-country comparisons, have multidisciplinary research teams and/or are joint applications from researchers with affiliation to institutions based in different developing and transition countries in Latin America and Asia

HOW TO APPLY

- Send the application by email with the subject line “Research proposal for Urbanization” to the following email address: **ssangita@gdn.int**.
- Please ensure that the application follows the provided application template.
- Remember to attach the CVs of the research team and any other supporting document.
- Please attach a document with a brief profile of the organization of affiliation of the principal researcher.
- Proposals must be submitted in the English language only.
- Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.
- Please note that all forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable to GDN, plagiarism being one of them. 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.
- 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.
- In case of any questions or concerns please contact **Seema Sangita** at the following email address: **ssangita@gdn.int**.

TIMELINE OF THE PROJECT

Timeline for the part of the project on *Urbanization & Development: Delving Deeper into the Nexus*:

- a. Identify Research Teams: April 2012
- b. Draft Case Study Reports/Papers: December 2012
- c. Final Case Study Reports/Papers: February 2013;
- d. Final Synthesis Report: May 2013;

- e. Complete Dissemination & Outreach and Final Evaluation Report: September 2013.