

ICT R&D Grants Programme Committee

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Partners

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

IDRC (www.idrc.ca) is a public corporation created by the Canadian government to help communities in the developing world find solutions to social, economic, and environmental problems through research.

Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme (APDIP)

APDIP (www.apdip.net) is an initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that aims to promote the development and application of new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for poverty alleviation and sustainable human development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)

APNIC (www.apnic.net) is one of four Regional Internet Registries currently operating in the world. It provides allocation and registration services which support the operation of the Internet globally. It is a not-for-profit, membership-based organisation whose members include Internet Service Providers, National Internet Registries, and similar organisations. APNIC represents the Asia Pacific region, comprising 62 economies.

Internet Society (ISOC)

The Internet Society (www.isoc.org) is a not-for-profit membership organization founded in 1991 to provide leadership in Internet related standards, education, and policy. With offices in Washington, DC, and Geneva, Switzerland, it is dedicated to ensuring the open development, evolution and use of the Internet for the benefit of people throughout the world. ISOC is the organizational home of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Architecture Board (IAB), the Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG) and other Internet-related bodies who together play a critical role in ensuring that the Internet develops in a stable and open manner.

Microsoft Operations Pte Ltd

Founded in 1975, Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software, services and Internet technologies for personal and business computing. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to empower people through great software - any time, any place and on any device.

Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC)

The Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) is a non-profit NGO with the mission of spearheading the development of media and communication expertise in the Asia-Pacific in order to foster socioeconomic progress. It was established in 1971 with the support of the government of Singapore and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. The Centre is housed in the School of Communication and Information of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore with whom it has a close working partnership.

Pan Asia ICT R&D Grants Programme



... *Building institutional research capacity in the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region, in the area of Internet networking*

... *Encouraging original and innovative networking solutions to specific development problems*

Partners



Introduction

This regional information communication technology (ICT) competitive grants scheme was launched by IDRC's Pan Asia Networking (PAN) Programme Initiative in October 1997 as "The PanAsia RnD Grants Programme".

The Programme took a new title, "Pan Asia ICT R&D Grants Programme" with the participation and contribution of funds from UNDP's Asia Pacific Development Information Programme (APDIP), Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) and the Internet Society (ISOC). Microsoft Operations Pte Ltd joined this programme in 2004. These important collaborations catalyses the evolution of the Programme to a broader ownership-base involving key national, regional and international agencies in the Asia Pacific region. We hope that the Programme can help to facilitate the pooling of resources among the organisations which share common interests in building capacity for ICT research and development in the region.

Funding for the Pan Asia ICT R&D Grants meeting is provided by the Pan Asia Networking Programme of the **International Development Research Centre** (IDRC), the **Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme** (APDIP) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the **Asia Pacific Network Information Centre** (APNIC), the **Internet Society** (ISOC) and **Microsoft**. The programme is administered by the **Asian Media Information and Communication Centre** (AMIC).

The Programme is overseen by a Committee established by Pan Asia Networking, APDIP, APNIC, ISOC, Microsoft and AMIC.

There are 2 rounds of grant competition, held in March & October every year.

Scope

- Research and development into innovative ICT applications, with a clear focus on practical and replicable approaches and techniques
- Research on Internet infrastructure design, performance, management policy, and related topics
- Development of practical solutions based on the application of proven and readily available Internet technologies with a minimum of basic research
- Research on the outcomes and social impact of specific ICT policies, interventions and application of Internet technologies
- Research on policy matters affecting Internet networking in the Asia Pacific region, especially where linked to areas such as policy impact, gender equity, social equity, sustainable communities, technology diffusion/transfer, and benefits to rural areas
- Technology related issues such as broadband connectivity, last mile innovation, mobile and wireless technologies for the developing world, and Increasing the capacity/efficiency of existing network infrastructures.

We will not entertain proposals which fall outside the scope of the grants programme.

Eligibility

Applications to the Pan Asia ICT R&D Grants Programme are encouraged from organisations in developing countries from the Asia-Pacific region. A consortium of developed and developing country organisations can also apply as the Programme promotes cross-country research partnership, team work, transfer and sharing of research experience and know-how. Project proposals that reflect co-funding by other agencies are favourably considered.

- Applicants must be a government body or a legally incorporated entity.
- Applications from unaffiliated individuals, or

from teams of such individuals, will not be accepted.

- Applications that have been rejected by the Programme may not be re-submitted for consideration again.

Funding & Duration

The Pan Asia ICT R&D Grants Programme is for project funding only, and may not be accessed to cover core or recurrent funding needs.

Two types of grants can be applied for, as follows:

- Grants, up to a maximum budget of **US\$9,000** will be available over a term not exceeding **12 months**.
- Grants, up to a maximum budget of **US\$30,000** will be available over a term not exceeding **24 months**.

Download Application Form

Visit this website http://web.idrc.ca/en/ev-11786-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html to download your version of the application form and submit accordingly.



Monitoring & Evaluation

Specific monitoring and evaluation processes will be used throughout the project will have been outlined in the proposal. Regular project progress reports (normally on a semi-annual basis), including internal formative evaluation reports and administrative and financial status reports, will be required. From time to time, the Programme may conduct evaluation that involves clusters of individual projects.

Copyright & Dissemination

The results of the Pan Asia ICT R&D Grants Programme projects will be transparent and made available publicly via the Internet and other sources, as appropriate. Project results, including papers, research data and findings, resources, techniques, and tools will be openly available and distributed in the interests of sharing research results and research experiences widely. Recipients under the Pan Asia ICT R&D Grants Programme agree to the condition of free dissemination of their project research results. The Programme will not seek their permission in disseminating and publishing research results in any form, and will duly acknowledge the authors of the work. Permission is not required for reproduction by users, the only condition being that the project researchers should be appropriately acknowledged, and that copies of such reproductions should be provided to the Programme and the project researchers. Copyright for project results will reside with the research team and the Programme (and additionally with other funding agencies in the case of co-funded projects).

How to Apply for Grants

Information on deadlines for project submission and proposal review dates is made available on the Pan Asia Networking website, the APDIP website and the AMIC website.

All grant applications must include:

- A completed Pan Asia ICT R&D Grants Programme **application form**. Application forms and budget guidelines can be downloaded from http://web.idrc.ca/en/ev-11768-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html.
- **A full project proposal and budget breakdown (Appendix B)**. The application form, proposal and budget must be submitted in Microsoft Word format.
- **A document or certificate of incorporation** of the organisation, if the applicant is not a government body.
- **Annexes** (If any).

The applicant is required to send the above information in **ONE Email attachment to ApplyRnD@idrc.org.sg**

If you do not receive an acknowledgement of your electronic application within three days of submission, you should immediately e-mail to the above email address and the attention of **Ms Nanditha Raman** to enquire.

Questions should be addressed directly to the administering office at the following address:

Asian Media Information & Communication Centre (AMIC)

Attention: Ms Nanditha Raman
Research Associate

Mailing Address:
Jurong Point PO Box 360, Singapore 916412

Street Address:
CS-02-28, SCI Building
Nanyang Technological University
Singapore 637718
Tel: (65) 6792-7570 Fax: (65) 6792-7129
E-mail: nanditha@amic.org.sg

What will not be funded

- Proposals that do not address Internet related problems and solutions.
- Non-research activities such as conferences, seminars, workshops and training.
- Technical assistance-type projects that do not contain strong research elements.
- Electronic or print publishing, e.g. newsletters, magazines, journals, reports, books.
- Supplemental grant and/or time extension requests.
- Project proposals from organisations that are not government bodies or legally registered entities.
- Development of websites.

Approval Process

The Pan Asia ICT R&D Grants Programme Committee meets twice a year to review proposals. Responses to submissions will generally be given by the committee within 3 to 4 weeks of being reviewed. In certain cases this may take longer, depending on the complexity of the proposal and whether further information needs to be sought by the Committee.

Writing Your Project Proposal

A proposal to the Pan Asia ICT R&D Grants Programme should provide full details of the proposed project so that it can be properly assessed by the Committee. Normally, proposals should be between **8 and 15 pages** in length, excluding annexures. Annexures should be of reasonable length or they will not be examined. All important information should be provided in the proposal text and not in the annexures.

Essential Information Required for each Proposal

- **Project background and justification:** state concisely, what development networking problem will be addressed by the project.
- **Project objectives:** state precisely what the project will aim to achieve and what specific outcomes will be reached.
- **Project beneficiaries:** state clearly which segments of the population will benefit from the research.
- **Project sustainability:** state how continuity is to be sustained if your proposal is for developing a system that will exist after the project funding.
- **Project methodology:** state clearly in the methodology how the general and specific project objectives will be achieved.
- **Project time-line:** include a time-table/schedule of key activities.
- **Project outputs:** state what the project will produce and in what form it will be delivered and disseminated.
- **Project monitoring:** state what monitoring

and/or evaluation processes are being proposed.

- **Project budget:** draw up a detailed budget for the project, including other funding sources, if any. **DO NOT** submit a budget of more than US\$30,000 for a Large Grant project and more than US\$9,000 for a Small Grant project. Please **use the template provided in Appendix B** to fill up this section of the project proposal.
- **Project applicant:** provide full details of the applicant, including organisational contact details, a document or certificate of incorporation of the organisation, if the applicant is not a government body, and background information (as an annex).
- **Project staff:** provide full contact details of the organisation applying for the grant, including project leader(s) and staff critical to the project's success. Give their names, qualifications, and relevant experience (as an annex).

Additional Information

- Provide details of existing research results, technologies or techniques on which this project will build or depend.
- Provide details of previous projects undertaken, where relevant.
- Provide details of project publicity, if any.

Criteria for Assessment

There are a number of mandatory criteria that all project proposals must meet and which are used in the assessment process. Additionally, other relevant criteria that will be used when considering a proposal, are listed below.

Mandatory criteria

- Clear objectives oriented towards specific issues or problems within the scope of the Pan Asia ICT R&D Grants Programme. The starting point of any proposal will be the definition of the problem that is to be resolved through Internet policy and/or technology applications.
- Demonstrated need for R&D results of the type proposed, and in the form proposed. Relevance to regional development priorities, such as economic policy, gender equity, the environment, education, social development and capacity building concerns will be considered. The targeted beneficiary groups should be clearly identified.
- Demonstrated capacity by the applying organisation to conduct and document the project effectively within the specified budget and time limits.
- Solid participation by organisations from the developing Asia-Pacific region.

Other criteria

- Originality of the proposed R&D project, and assurance that it is not already being undertaken elsewhere.
- Applicability of the R&D results to developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Leverage of existing techniques and technologies to produce innovative practical solutions rather than original "ground-up" development or basic research work.
- Replicability of the application of R&D results, showing potential for use in other countries in the region.
- Demonstrated opportunity to build R&D capacities within other organisations in developing Asia-Pacific countries.
- Availability of co-funding by other agencies or organisations.