

Call for proposals to the 2012 University of Nairobi-IDRC Research Grants on

Innovative Application of ICTs in Addressing Water-related Impacts of

Climate Change

The Asian Management and Development Institute (AMDI), Hanoi is pleased to announce the Call for Proposals to the 2012 University of Nairobi-IDRC Research Grants on Innovative Application of ICTs in Addressing Water-related Impacts of Climate Change. The Research Grants are supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, Canada.

AMDI, in partnership with Can Tho University, Vietnam is coordinating the Call for Proposals in Asia on behalf of the School of Computing and Informatics and the Department of Land Resource Management and Agricultural Technology, University of Nairobi, Kenya. Specifically, AMDI in partnership with Can Tho University will:

- (a) Assist with publicizing the Call for Proposals in Asia to attract potential grantees;
- (b) Assist in the selection of grantees against agreed criteria;
- (c) Assist in facilitating a training workshop on research methodology, scientific writing and

communication. The workshop will cover research problem formulation, literature review, research methods, data analysis and interpretation and scientific writing and also train the grantees on the issues of Water related impacts of Climate Change and ICTs that may be used. The purpose is to enhance the grantees' research capacity and writing skills;

(d) Review progress work of grantees;

(e) Link grantees up with each other and encourage them to interact, share ideas, learn from each other, collaborate, etc through blogs and virtual meetings and thereby help to create a vibrant community of researchers;

1. Objectives

The main objective of the Call for Proposals is to strengthen the capacity of registered Masters and PhD students in universities in Africa, Asia and Latin America to more effectively engage in research on application of ICTs for water management underchanging climatic conditions and attendant policy formulation. The specific objectives of this grant program are to:

(a) Train/support graduate students (Masters and PhD levels) to conduct research on ICTs, climate change and water through research awards.

(b) Build institutional applied research capacity on ICTs and climate change adaptation strategies in the water sector within weakly funded postgraduate programs in the various universities in the three regions.

(c) Increase inter-regional partnerships and collaborations among the participating institutions in this emerging area of applied research.

2. Eligible fields of study

Eligible research grants will address the various dimensions of how ICTs can be used to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacities of communities in developing countries to deal with water insecurity resulting from the changing climate. Grant applications will be accepted for research in the following priority thematic areas:

(a) Modeling and mapping of water resources, weather forecasting and climate monitoring using ICTs.

This theme encourages applicants to explore how various ICT applications such as Climate Modeling in combination with Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) could be deployed in mapping, monitoring and forecasting patterns of water resource availability, accessibility and use within a changing climate.

(b) Use of ICTs to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable communities to deal with stress due to climate change.

This theme will explore how low-cost and emerging ICTs are assisting vulnerable communities employ innovative approaches to prepare for, respond and adapt to water-related impacts of climate change.

(c) ICTs in vulnerability mapping.

The theme will deal with the general assessment of vulnerability of water resources in order to identify the "hotspots" where climate change impacts are projected to become increasingly severe.

(d) ICTs in the “last mile” challenge of Early Warning System (EWS).

This theme seeks to explore the use of various ICTs such as: Radio, Telephone (Fixed and Mobile), Short Message Service etc. in developing and enhancing community preparedness in risk mitigation.

(e) ICTs in social learning and knowledge sharing.

This theme will explore the role of ICTs in fostering knowledge sharing and linkages on climate change and water-related issues at various levels (i.e. global, regional, national and local).

(f) Integration of indigenous knowledge with modern ICTs to cope with the hazards of climate change and water.

In this theme, the centrality of ICTs in improving the availability of indigenous knowledge and enhancing its blending with modern scientific and technical knowledge within the water and climate change sectors will be explored.

(g) ICTs in creating more effective governance mechanisms to manage scarce and changing water resources.

This theme will explore the type of ICT applications that can help to improve water use efficiency at local levels and the role of ICTs in democratizing water management.

(h) Strengthening the building of partnerships, networks and stakeholder collaboration through the use of ICTs.

This thematic area will explore how various ICT tools such as web 2.0 and social media can promote awareness, partnership building, networking, gender equity and stakeholder collaboration in water and climate change issues.

Proposals that differ from the themes outlined above but address the overall research theme of ICTs, Climate Change and Water are also welcome and will be evaluated according to the relevance of the research project to the specific country's needs and priorities on a case-by-case basis. Additional details on the thematic areas can be viewed on the project website:

<http://www.ictwcc.or.ke>

3. Eligibility

Eligible countries

The countries that are eligible for this Call for Proposals are developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Eligible students

The awards are only open to citizens of developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America who are studying in universities in these regions.

Applicants must provide documentary evidence that they are enrolled in a relevant Masters or PhD program in a university in one of the eligible countries (e.g. approved proposal) and a letter from their supervisor that they have started or would soon be starting their field research work. In addition, the applicant must commit to carrying out his/her research work in one of the eligible countries.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate their educational credentials via notarized copies of diploma/certificate(s) and transcripts of grades, submitted directly by the educational institution of graduation. They must also be able to provide a letter from the University Faculty/School Dean stating that the applicant, at the time of the application for eligibility evaluation, is registered with the university.

The application form, research proposal and all other supporting documents must be submitted electronically via the University of Nairobi website (<http://www.ictwcc.or.ke>) in English only.

The Selection Committee will verify information provided by candidates on academic background and status of current funding to make sure that funding goes to the most deserving students. The committee will take appropriate action in the case where an applicant is found to have cheated, including automatic disqualification and/or possible termination of student enrolment by the host university. Any special considerations regarding the student's academic background (e.g. class and specialization of Bachelors and Masters Degrees and relevance to ICT and climate change and water as well as to the themes outlined above) will be enumerated

in the selection criteria and used during the selection process.

4. Project duration

The award tenure of the research grants will be 18 months for PhD awards, while Masters Awards will be for nine months. All grantees will be expected to publish during or after completing their thesis. There is additional funding available to present a paper at an international conference.

5. Value of grants and disbursement

Candidates for the research awards can apply up to a maximum of CA\$15,000 for PhD grantees and CA\$7,500 for Masters grantees. These are only indicative figures and due to the need to support a larger number of students from developing countries, strong proposals seeking modest funding support will receive high priority and have a higher chance of being awarded. These amounts exclude the cost of presenting a paper at a conference. There will be two disbursements. The first will be 80% of the project budget to cover the research costs once the student has been cleared by the supervisor to start field work. The second disbursement (20%) will be done once the student has submitted the final thesis (documentary evidence will be required). This final amount can then be used to produce the final bound copies for submission. To be eligible for the funds for publication, the grantee must have written a paper that has been accepted at an international conference.

6. Deadline for applications

The deadline for applications is **30th November 2012**.

The application form, the research proposal and the supporting documents, should all be uploaded through the project website:

<http://www.ictwcc.or.ke>

Inquiries about the Grants may be forwarded to the Program Coordinator (Asia):

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www.amdi.vn