

# Research Award: Think Tank Initiative

**Deadline: August 7, 2013**

*Please note that all applications must be sent electronically.*

IDRC is one of the world's leaders in generating new knowledge to meet global challenges. We offer a number of research awards providing a unique opportunity to enhance research skills and gain a fresh perspective on crucial development issues. These one-year, paid, in-house programs of training and mentorship allow award holders to pursue their research goals and work in one of IDRC's dynamic program or division teams.

The [Think Tank Initiative](#) is a global program that supports independent policy research organizations – or "think tanks" – in developing countries. The Initiative focuses on countries in Africa, South Asia, and Latin America. Its goal is to strengthen a select group of independent policy research organizations, enabling them to provide objective, high-quality research that both informs and influences policy. To achieve its mission, the Initiative provides organizations with a mix of long-term general support grants (core funding) and access to training and technical assistance to allow them to improve research quality, expand policy linkages, and address other key aspects of organizational development.

One important dimension of the Initiative is to capture and share learning about strategies for supporting and managing policy research organizations. The Think Tank Initiative Research Awardee will contribute to this dimension by providing a better understanding of what makes an independent policy research organization successful in different regions of the world.

Proposals for the Research Award should address one or more key dimensions of "success" for policy research organizations related to research quality, policy links, or aspects of organizational performance. Through the analysis and synthesis of information collected on think tanks supported – or not – by the program, proposals could address one/some of the following research questions:

- What are the factors that enable "leading" think tanks in the world to be perceived as successful, and what can be learned from these examples to help strengthen think tanks more widely?
- What approaches have been used to enhance the capacity and competence of think tanks in influencing policy in developing countries and what have been the outcomes?
- What is the nature of the applied research market in (some) developing countries?
- What is the role of independent policy research organizations in policy influence and policy-making process in (some) developing countries?

The Research Awardee is expected to be able to present his or her research plan and progress during the year during team meetings at the Centre, in regional offices or any other academic or professional forum. The Research Awardee is expected to finalize his or her research paper in the form of an internal or external publication with single or joint authorship.

## Who can apply:

To be eligible, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada, or a citizen of a developing country.
- Be either currently enrolled at a recognized university at the master's or doctoral level or have completed a master's or doctoral degree at a recognized university. These awards may be part of an academic requirement.
- Your proposed research must focus on one or more developing countries.

## Candidates should have the following qualifications:

- Experience researching/working in a developing country (preferably in Africa, South Asia, or Latin America);
- A Master's in economics, development studies, public policy, or political sciences;
- Be familiar with methodologies for social and economic analysis and statistical software;
- Experience working in a policy research organization an asset;
- Strong verbal and written communications skills;
- Proficiency in English; and
- Knowledge of French or Spanish an asset.

As a Research Awardee with the Think Tank Initiative, the successful candidate will also contribute 50% of their time to a variety of other tasks in addition to his/her research work as part of the team.

This position is located at IDRC's head office in Ottawa.

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A key part of Canada's aid program, IDRC supports research in developing countries to promote growth and development.

### **International Development Research Centre**

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