

## Research Award: Think Tank Initiative

**Deadline: August 6, 2014**

**Please note that all applications must be submitted online.**

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.

Research proposals 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:

- How do think tanks communicate effectively in policy environments?
- What role does context play in the development of an effective communications strategy?
- 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 to monitoring and evaluation are most successful or effective when assessing think tanks?
- 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 successful candidate will allocate about 50% of the time to his/her own research project under the guidance of a Senior Program Officer, and will be expected to present his/her research plan and provide progress updates during the year. The Research Awardee will also contribute to the management of the

program (the remaining 50% of the time) through a variety of tasks which may include synthesizing and disseminating project outcomes and results, participating in project development, monitoring and evaluation, communication and learning activities, and preparing internal and external reports. Applicants should clearly outline their qualifications for this position, and explain how this opportunity will advance their career goals.

### 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 a developing country, preferably one in which the Think Tank Initiative is active.

### The candidates should have the following qualifications:

- Experience researching/working in a developing country (preferably in Africa, South Asia, or Latin America);
- 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;
- Proficiency in English;
- Knowledge of French or Spanish (would be an asset).

Priority will be given to proposals outlining focused and feasible objectives, and clearly defined methodology. Further, the proposal should demonstrate the relevance of the proposed research to local/national/regional policy debates in Asia, Africa or Latin America.

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

## **APPLY NOW**

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A key part of Canada's foreign policy efforts. IDRC supports research in developing countries to promote growth and development.

#### **International Development Research Centre**

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