PanAsia RnD Grants Program Evaluation

by

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this program evaluation project is to evaluate the PANAsia RnD Grants Program and to identify successful completed projects with positive change for showcasing the significance of the Grants Program. The Pan Asia Research and Development Grants (PANAsia RnD) Program was formally launched in 1997. The Grants Program is a competitive program, which is available to institutions in the developing countries of Asia to test ideas and innovation through applied research in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Internet Networking. Since the Grants Program inception, it received 130 proposals from applicants and funded 25 projects (19%). Proposals were received from 22 different countries in Asia and projects were funded in 12 countries.

This study surveyed the Grants Program committee members, completed projects, on-going projects, and unsuccessful applicants to obtain their feedback on the Grants Program. The feedback was obtained using written questionnaires, face-to-face meetings, and telephone interviews.

Feedback and analysis of the application process indicated that some aspects are working as intended while other aspects need improvement. The support provided during the application process is helpful and applicants claimed that the information for the application process is clear and easy to follow. However, some applicants submitted incomplete and late proposals, some proposals were outside the scope of the program, and some proposals were for acquisition of hardware and software to implement projects. The guidelines for the application need to be revised to clearly communicate the scope of the Grants Program and to be more stringent on the deadline for proposals and the completeness of proposals. Also, ethical guidelines on the treatment of human subjects must be included or suggested for applicants to follow. The ownership of intellectual property and intellectual property rights arising from the research projects should be detailed on the website.

The selection process for successful projects is done at face-to-face meetings. Committee members mentioned that they are given the opportunity to provide input for the selection of projects; however, the process needs to be improved to make sure high impact projects that are within the Grants Program guidelines are selected. Committee members suggested that there should be higher quality proposals from applicants that conduct applied research on innovative ICT topics and ideas. To facilitate the selection process and to increase the chances of the right proposals being selected, a voluntary Expert Review Committee (ERC) should be established as a sub-committee of the Grants Program. The ERC will rate and rank the proposals and submit to the Grants Program committee. The ERC will also be able to check to make sure ethical guidelines on the treatment of human subjects are followed during the research projects.

Most of the applicants found out about the Grants Program through the PanAsia website while others found out from a variety of other sources. Based on feedback from respondents, the most effective way to publicize the Grants Program is through the PanAsia website. Applicants applied for funding from the Grants Program because they saw the need for using ICTs in developing countries to reach out to local communities and regions so that citizens can have access to current and timely information to improve their businesses and their daily lives. Also, conducting research on ICTs will give local communities the knowledge and skills to use ICTs effectively. The majority of respondents suggested that the Grants Program should use themes for proposals but should be careful since the themes may not capture the needs of some countries. Also, since ICT is an evolving field, themes may limit some of the innovative ideas for proposals. The Grants Program should look at having a "themes" round and a "general" round each year. The themes for proposals that were mentioned by respondents in order of frequency are: distance learning, agriculture, health, small and medium enterprises, rural development, ICT policy, etc. The study respondents showed a preference for the Grants Program to concentrate on "applied research" in ICT rather than "development" projects. Applied research will give citizens of Third World countries innovative ideas in ICT that they can use to improve their life and standard of living. One drawback that was mentioned is that some countries in Asia may not have the expertise to conduct applied research.

One of the objectives of the PANAsia RnD program is to share ideas with other researchers and communities. The Grants Program administration and project personnel need to take a more active role in sharing of ideas, tools, techniques, and results of projects with other researchers and communities. The sharing of information between researchers and the public will prevent duplication of effort and will make sure other researchers do not make the same mistake. Completed and ongoing projects should make available all information on their websites with a link to the PANAsia website and vice versa. Other methods for sharing of project information suggested by respondents include: hosting conferences or symposiums, widely distribute project final reports, publish results of project research in professional journals, etc. The Grants Program should encourage sharing of ideas by asking applicants to specify in their applications how they intend to share project information. Also, some funding in the project budget should be allocated to the sharing of project information.

Researchers in Asia found the Grants Program to be very helpful since it is providing funding to complete projects on ICTs in Asia. Some countries do not have this type of funding available to conduct research on ICTs. Most of the funded projects suggested that because of the funds from the Grants Program they were able to obtain funding and resources for other related activities. Also, other agencies provided additional funds or expertise for the successful completion of the projects. These include private organizations, universities, governments, boards, and foundations. There were suggestions that the Grants Program work with other agencies and organizations to obtain additional funding to conduct research on ICTs in Asia.

The projects that have been funded by the Grants Program are having a large impact on the use of ICT in Asia. The funded projects are allowing people in local communities to gain

the expertise on how to use ICTs and to see the potential of ICTs. The use of ICTs is providing information to the local people that empowers them to make decisions and hence, to become more competitive. The funded projects are opening the "eyes" of organizations and governments in Asia on the potential of ICTs in helping people, rural communities, and countries to develop. Project personnel are able to network with other local, national, and international researchers to share their results and to obtain information on ICTs. However, more networking should be encouraged between projects and between the projects and the public to make sure the project ideas and results are used.

Summary of Recommendations

The recommendations that are made at the end of this report are summarized below.

1. The name of the Grants Program (PANAsia Research and Development) should be changed to reflect the mandate of the program.
2. The text of the Grants Program should be reviewed to ensure that it is sending the message that although this is a program that encourages innovation and research, it is a program that is oriented towards research that serves the needs and benefits of disadvantaged communities.
3. The Grants Program should re-examine its objectives to determine if they are still valid in light of the feedback from grant applicants and committee members.
4. There should be a "themes" round and a "general" round each year.
5. To receive more high quality innovative ICT research proposals, concurrently with the grants competition, the program should consider training and educational programs to strengthen the research ability and research methodology of developing country ICT practitioners.
6. The Grants Program should partner with funding agencies that have ICT programs in the Asia Pacific region to increase the pool of funds for ICT research in Asia.
7. A voluntary Expert Review Committee (ERC) should be established to review the proposals.
8. The application guidelines should include ethical guidelines for the treatment of human subjects during research.
9. The RnD Grants website should be redesigned into a multimedia site with images, audio, and video. The website should be an exemplar website to model the design of a good website. The present website is text-based only and "cold".
10. The ideas and courses generated from projects, the techniques used in projects, and the results of projects should be shared throughout Asia to prevent duplication and to deter other researchers from making the same mistakes.
11. Five percent of the project budget should be allocated for sharing ideas, tools, techniques, and results of the project.
12. A virtual meeting should be scheduled once per year to minimize travel and to allow members to experience the communication technology.

13. The Grants Program should give priority to "applied research" proposals. Developmental proposals should be funded only if they will have a major impact on the community for example, pilot projects that have the potential for up scaling.
14. Projects that support research on the use of wireless communication should be encouraged. This will prevent rural areas from having to build expensive communication infrastructure and pathways.
15. The "copyright" and "intellectual rights" policies of materials generated from project funds should be re-examined and made public.
16. The Grants Program committee should be made up of people with diverse experience to help meet the overall goals of the Grants Program. There should be one representative from the different stakeholders.
17. The two-day face-to-face meeting to evaluate proposals should be continued. This will be possible with the establishment of an Expert Review Committee to review proposals.
18. The meeting honorarium should be replaced with a term retainer, which should be optional. It is up to the committee member to decide whether he or she wants the term retainer.
19. The guidelines for submitting proposals should be very specific to make sure that potential applicants submit proposals within the guidelines.
20. Late and incomplete proposals should not be accepted.
21. The reasons for rejection should be sent to unsuccessful applicants since this could be a learning experience for future proposals.
22. To minimize project delay during implementation, the proposal guidelines should ask the applicants to list problems they foresee during project implementation and how they plan to deal with the problems.
23. The "other criteria" in the application guidelines should be made more specific.
24. Progress reports should still be used to monitor projects. Also, on-site visits and presentations by project personnel at committee meetings should be continued.
25. Keep committee members informed about projects by providing regular reports on the status of projects between meetings. At the same time, committee members should show interest in the project reports by providing comments and suggestions, advising, and sharing insights with the Secretariat. This information should be relayed to the project leaders.
26. Committee members should volunteer to monitor one or more projects that are approved in each round.
27. One-year projects should have two reports. Two-year projects should have four reports.
28. To improve the quality of reports there should be details on how to prepare the reports on the Grants Program website.

29. Sponsor or co-sponsor a conference or symposium for funded projects to present their results and to attract potential applicants.
30. The funding agency should track each project individually to make sure the importance and impact of each project is not lost.
31. The deadline for submission of project final report should be one month after the scheduled completion date of the project.

Introduction

Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this program evaluation project is to evaluate the PANAsia R&D Grants Program. The study provides a historical overview of the Grants Program, examines the current processes that are being used within the Grants Program, summarizes the comments and feedback from grant applicants and committee members, and provides recommendations to improve the Grants Program. This study also identifies successful completed projects with positive change for showcasing the significance of the Grants Program.

Background of the Grants Program

The Pan Asia Research and Development Grants (PANAsia RnD) Program was formally launched in 1997. Since inception, 25 projects have been funded. Refer to Appendix 4 for a list of funded projects. The main source of funding for the Program has been the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. The PanAsia RnD Grants Program is a competitive grants scheme, which is available to institutions in the developing countries of Asia to test ideas and innovation through applied research in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Internet networking. Project proposals are evaluated on a competitive basis by an appointed Committee that meets twice a year to review and award grants for carrying out the research. The broad objective of the Grants Program is to encourage original and innovative networking solutions to specific development problems that are identified and proposed by institutions in Asia. The overall emphasis is on projects that focus on practical solutions to real problems in Information, Communication, and Internet Technology applications and policy. The Grants Program aims at promoting creative applied research and development in the areas of technologies, systems and policies by organizations in the Asia Pacific region.

IDRC Mandate

The cornerstone of IDRC's work will be an ever-stronger link to the aspirations and needs of the people in the developing countries of the world. Sustainable and equitable human activity depends on men and women's control of their own social and economic progress, on equitable access to knowledge, and on an indigenous capability to generate and apply knowledge. IDRC mandate is also to initiate, encourage, support, and conduct research into the problems of the developing regions of the world and into the means for applying and adapting scientific, technical, and other knowledge to the economic and social advancement of those regions.

IDRC Objectives

1. To assist scientists in developing countries to identify sustainable long-term, practical solutions to pressing development problems.
2. To mobilize and strengthen the research capacity of developing countries, particularly capacity for policies and technologies that promote healthier and more prosperous societies, food security, biodiversity, and access to information.
3. To develop links among developing-country researchers, and provide them access to the results of research around the globe, in particular through developing and strengthening the electronic networking capacity of institutions in developing countries that receive IDRC funding.
4. To ensure that the products from the activities it supports are used by communities in the developing world, and that existing research capacity is used effectively to solve development problems.

PANAsia RnD Grants Program Objectives

The PANAsia program operates under the IDRC mandate. The objectives of the PANAsia program are:

1. Supports applied research in Information and Communication Technology conducted by Asian developing nations.
2. Provides opportunities to develop country personnel to learn to use emergent Internet-based technologies through hands-on experimentation, networking and training.
3. Develops a critical mass of change agents to help integrate technology into the processes, systems and structures of R&D agencies in the region.
4. To encourage developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region to innovate solutions for defined and specific developmental problems in Asia through applied research in the field of ICTs.
5. To promote an active research and development environment for information and communication technology applications, systems and policy research in the Asia Pacific region.

Methodology

Four groups were surveyed to evaluate the Grants Program. These include the Grants Program Committee members, Unsuccessful Applicants (applicants who were not funded), Completed Projects, and On-going Projects. Four questionnaires were developed to collect the information for the evaluation. The questionnaires were reviewed by the Committee members before they were sent out to the different groups for completion. Refer to Appendix 1 for the four questionnaires. In addition, face-to-face and telephone interviews were conducted to obtained details on how the Grants Program operates and the processes involved.

Proposal Data

Proposals Reviewed and Funded

A total of 130 proposals were submitted in seven grant rounds. The May 2000 round had the most proposals submitted (31) while May 1999 had the least amount of proposals submitted (9). Of the 130 proposals submitted, 25 projects (19%) were funded. Figure 1 shows the percent funded and Figure 2 shows the distribution of the proposals for the different rounds.

Figure 1
Percent Funded

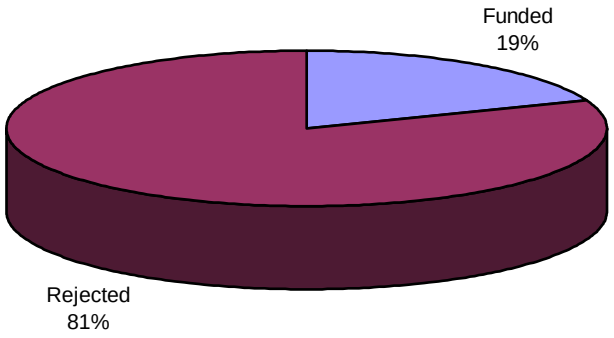
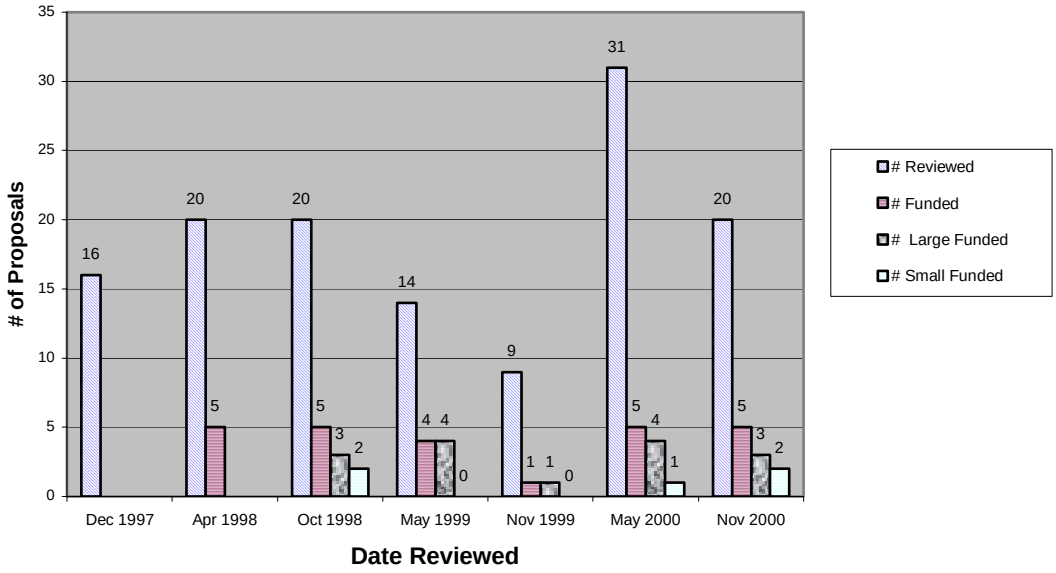


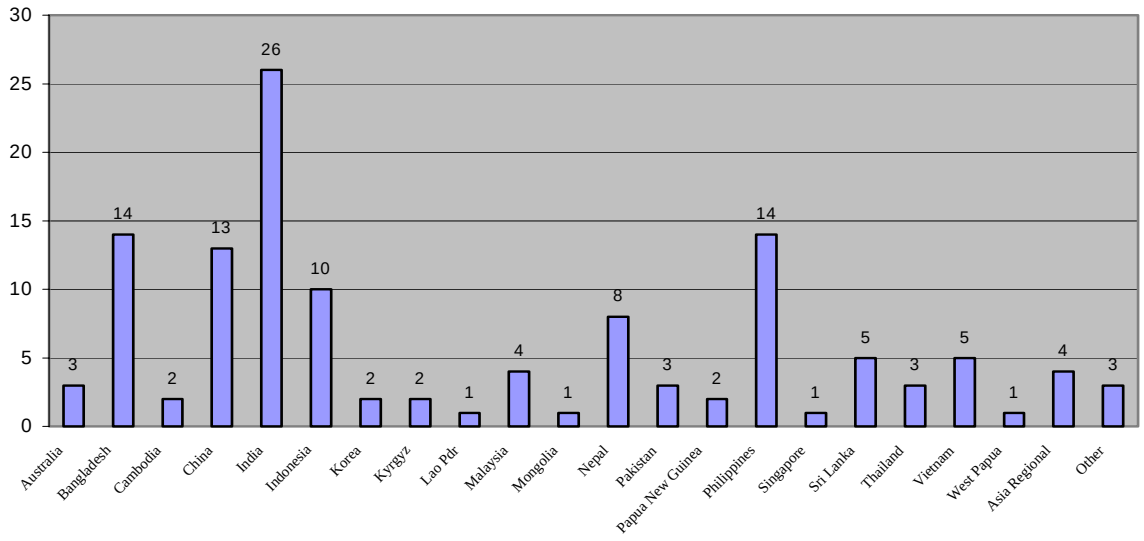
Figure 2
Proposal Reviewed and Funded



Number of Proposals Submitted by Country

The number of proposals submitted by country in each round is shown in Figure 3. India submitted the most proposals followed by Philippines, Bangladesh, China, and Indonesia. The least amount of proposals (one each) was submitted by Singapore, Mongolia, Lao Pdr, and West Papua.

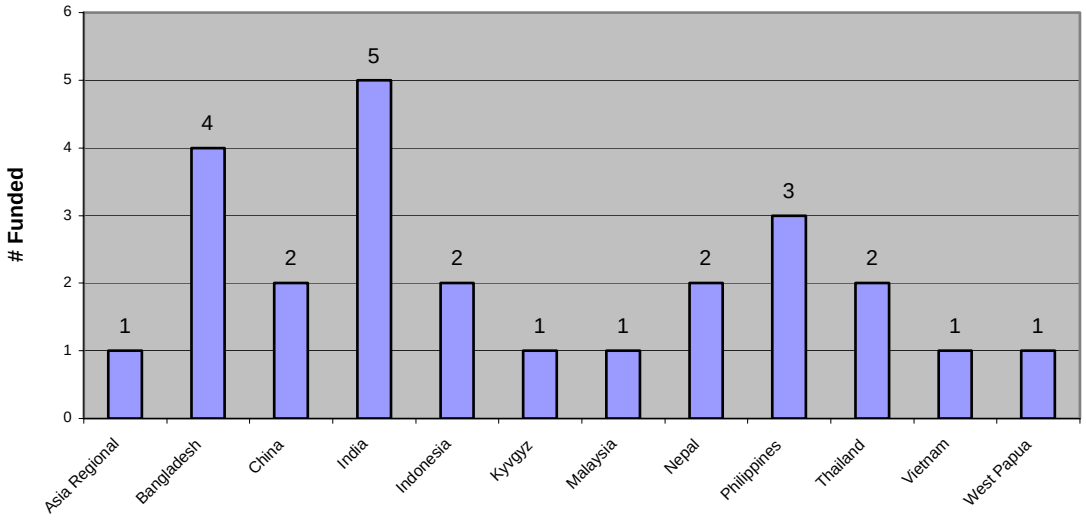
Figure 3
# of Proposals by Country



Number of Projects Funded by Country

Projects were funded in eleven different countries and one project was funded in Regional Asia (Figure 4). India received the most funded projects followed by Bangladesh and Philippines.

Figure 4
Total # Funded by Country

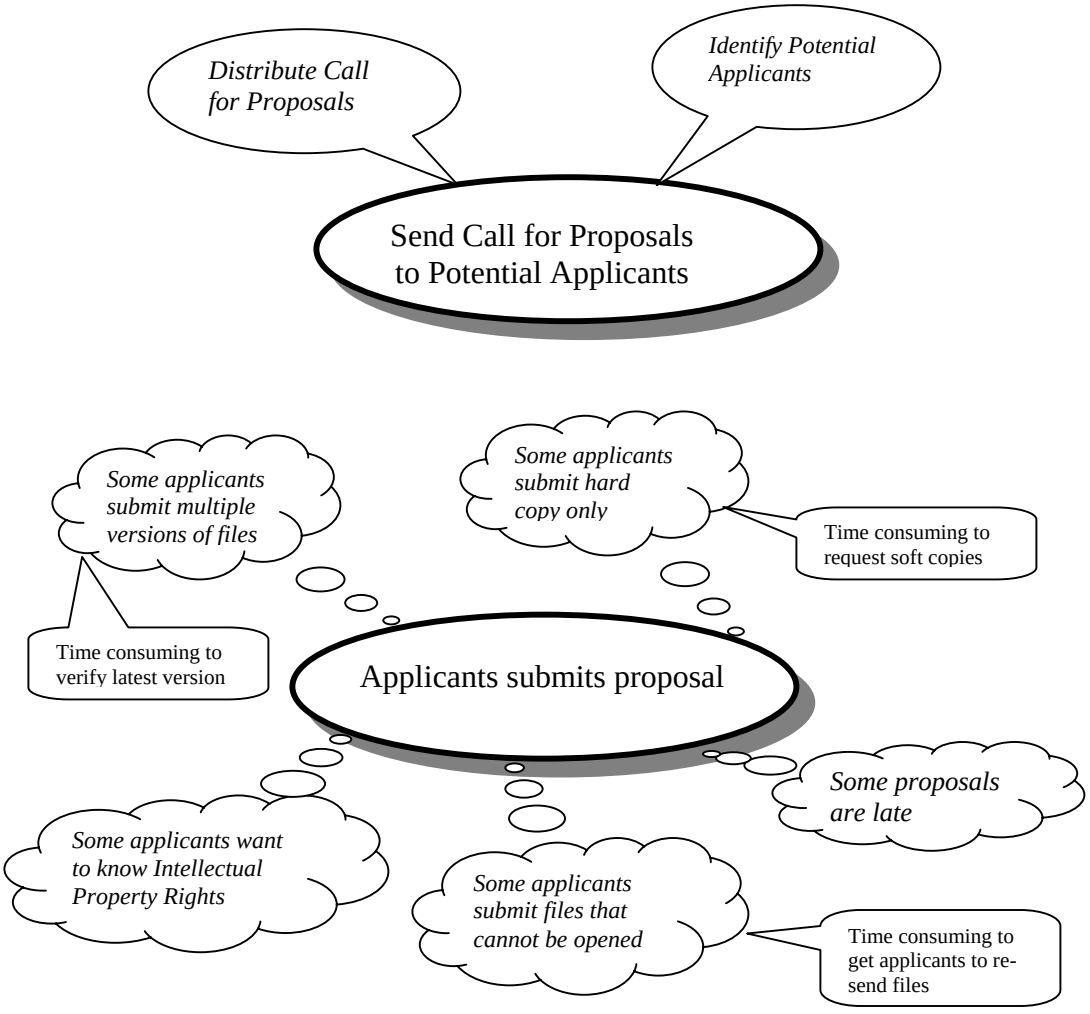


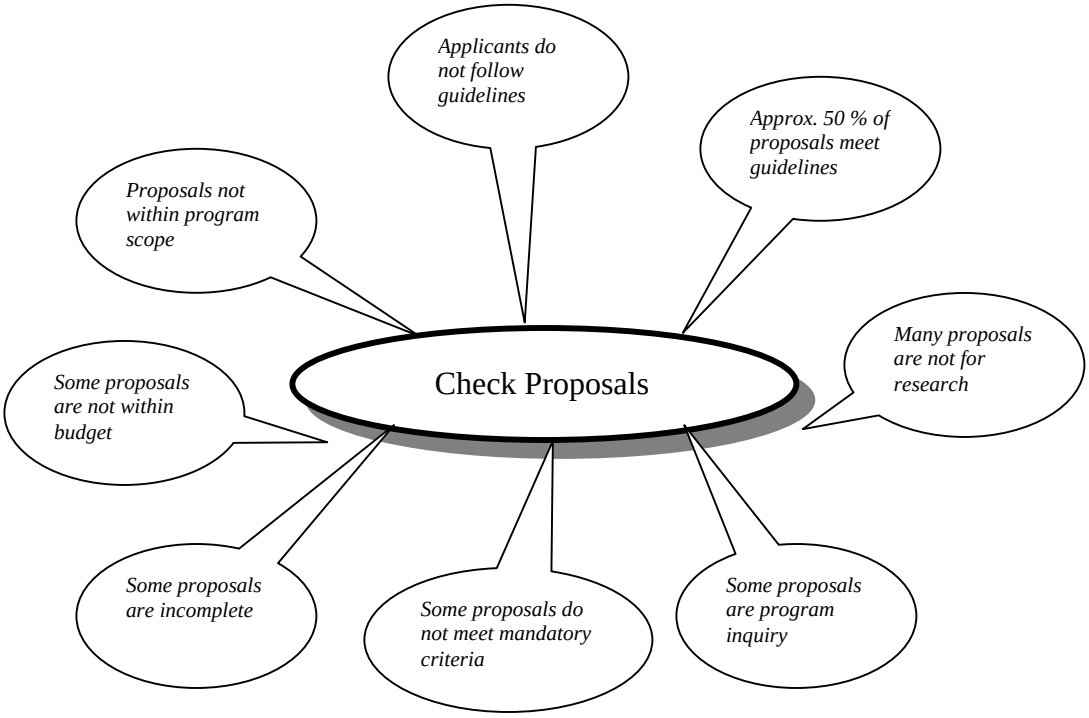
The Grants Program Processes

The overall Grants Program has many sub-processes. These include: the Application Process, Proposal Selection Process, Project Initiation Process, Project Implementation Process, and Project Completion Process. The following sections outline the different processes within the Grants Program and present the results obtained from the survey of project applicants and committee members. Recommendations on the different processes are included in the recommendation section of this report.

The Application Process

The Grants Program developed detailed guidelines for the completion of grant applications. These are posted on the Grants Program website for potential applicants to access at any time. A copy of the guidelines is included in Appendix 2. The application process and the challenges encountered are illustrated in the following Rich Pictures.





How Applicants Conceptualized Project Ideas

The project idea for the grant application was an outcome of our efforts to establish an e-commerce site for promoting products made by NGOs and rural artisans to leverage e-commerce for a non-profit cause.

Applicants were asked how they conceptualized the project ideas for their proposals. Some respondents mentioned that people in rural communities need to use ICTs to access current and timely information. As a result, they see the need for ICT projects to help local communities. Other comments on how applicants conceptualized the ideas for their projects include: ideas were generated from other projects, the need to access information and improve communication, to try a model of electronic communication, to implement existing ideas, establishment of an e-commerce site, to help the disabled, the ideas came after discussions and workshops in their organizations, requests for users, and from previous studies.

Below is a list of how applicants conceptualized the ideas for their projects.

- I explored the similar idea from the internet, for example from the NDLTD (Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertation), and then conceptualized the idea especially for Indonesia, which has very different internet infrastructure. I developed strategies on technical and social aspects to develop the tools and establish the community of IndonesiaDLN. This is the first digital library network in Indonesia so that I need to develop specific concept for IndonesiaDLN.

- To conduct within a 12-months period comprehensive research of Kyrgyzstan Internet market consumers and suppliers, to assess relevant market infrastructure and market environment.
- There was a need to improve communication with other organizations. We had specific problems in exchanging information and communication with IRRI. Beside this, Internet and new IT were perceived as a powerful tool to improve access to agricultural information to the rural population.
- The idea of our project (automatic translation of ICSCs and chemical management) was formed already in our mind and when reading the guidelines of PanAsia R&D Grants Programme, we thought it somehow fits to the criteria of the programme. The nature of our project is to put IT in chemical information management and transfer in Vietnam.
- Wanted to try the model of Tele Center going on in various developed countries in the villages of Tamil Nadu, India to find the effect of electronic communication and its application part through the University set up. Faculty members of Cornell University, USA gave the idea on its application and started preparing the project and submitted to Pan Asia RnD Grant Program.
- I have been working in this area since 1998 in pioneering the development of internationalized domain names systems
- From our experience in running the e-commerce site we found that the success of an e-commerce site largely depends on securing the trust of users who are more comfortable with the "offline" shopping experience. Further it has been observed by us that rural women cooperatives and NGOs producing indigenous products are at present working in isolation within a market that is restricted to their local area. Their limitation in promoting the sales of products has often been exploited by middlemen.
- We proposed to initiate research that can offer possibilities of utilizing Internet E-commerce technology within the specific cultural environment to promote products manufactured by rural women co-operatives and NGOs working in remote areas.
- We felt the need for information on crop production was needed on the internet as this was growing as a new media.
- I am the Head of the Agro-industrial Development Program at SEAMEO SEARCA and one of the thrusts of this program is to build institutional capacities in the Southeast Asian region to promote sustainable agriculture through results utilization of agricultural development researches. We have initial activities in the project sites and we wanted to develop projects that would support this thrust further through an assessment activity with the academe and/or research organizations in the region.
- I had been working on computer and Internet applications in agriculture since 1980, while working on plant protection as entomologist and ecologist. From the long-term working experience an idea was formed to use Internet technology for vegetable production in Beijing region, because vegetable production is more profitable than other crops in China and Beijing region is more advanced in Internet infrastructure, even in its suburban areas. So, this project would become a model of Internet applications in agriculture for sustainable development in developing countries.

- Judging from low course passing rates at UT, it can be inferred that most UT students need learning support. Unfortunately, they cannot obtain that support since face-to-face learning support was not feasible due to qualified tutors are not available in any place close to student residences or when tutors are available, the number of student who take the same courses were small that make face-to-face learning support expensive (unaffordable). Therefore, there is a need to provide a communication means so that UT student, wherever they are, regardless individually or in small groups, students can contact their tutors at UT Head Quarter for requesting learning support, that communication channel must be cheap (affordable) by most UT students, fast, accurate and reliable. Given the proliferation of internet and telecommunication café that offer fax services to the community and a technology to integrate fax into the internet to reduce/avoid long distance charges, therefore there is a need to study the utilization of fax-internet to provide learning support to UT students.
- I was inspired by the MS Swaminathan Village Information Shops in India.
- It was one of the process through which disabled people can show their ability and secondly through this there is a possibility to self-development of the person with disability and to present the disabled persons as a productive force of the society. The project idea evolved throughout several discussions and workshops involving CDL development stakeholders.
- Our research group had many ideas of research and the resulting symbiosis was a common project, which the group submitted for the grant.
- Utilization of website as media to giving information and counseling.
- This media is appropriate to encourage adolescents to tell their problem especially about sex and reproduction health.
- We were getting requests for information on our crops to be placed on our home page. The was a growing segment of users who were looking at this medium for quick response and when they didn't find what they required they used the email to the webmaster to seed more information.
- An earlier study conducted by TERI indicated the need for awareness building on bio-medical waste management.
- In this part of the world the IT concept is not rightly disseminated and thus the idea is felt with much innovations.

Initial Application In Accordance With The Grants Program Guidelines

All applicants were asked whether the initial application was in accordance with the Grants Program guidelines. Twelve applicants said Yes while three applicants said No. Those that said No, provided the following reasons.

- I wrote the wrong statement for the project objectives, so I had to fix it.
- We were asked to re-work the budget so that it would fall within the ceiling.
- The cost was slightly in excess of the ceiling.

Ratings on the Application Process

The ongoing projects, completed projects, and unsuccessful applicants were asked to rate the different elements of the application process and to provide comments on the application process. The following sections summarize the responses.

Ongoing Projects Rating of the Application Process

For the ongoing projects, the following statements were given a rating over four on a scale of one to five (1 – Strongly disagree, 5 – Strongly agree). This suggests that respondents agree with the statement.

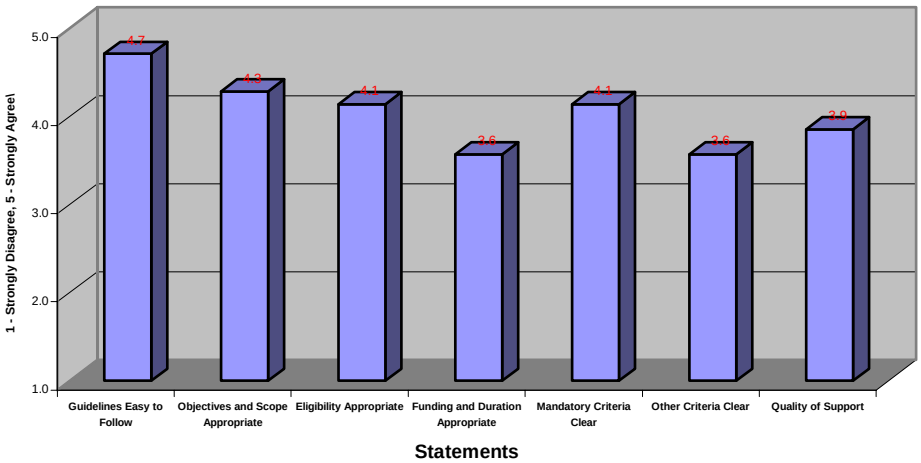
- The guidelines and steps for submitting proposals to the Grants Program for project funding are easy to follow.
- The objectives and scope of the Grants Program are appropriate for your region.
- The eligibility for funding by the Grants Program is appropriate for your region
- The mandatory criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the Grants Program.

The following were given a rating between three and four on a scale of one to five (1 – Strongly disagree, 5 – Strongly agree). This mean rating indicates that respondents do not agree strongly with the statements.

- The funding limits and grant duration are appropriate for your region.
- The other criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the Grants Program.
- The quality of the support from the granting/administering agency during project implementation and reporting is high.

Refer to Figure 5 for the mean ratings from the Ongoing projects respondents.

Figure 5
Ratings on Application Process - Ongoing Projects



Completed Projects Rating of the Application Process

For the completed projects, the following were given a rating over four on a scale of one to five (1 – Strongly disagree, 5 – Strongly agree). The completed projects respondents indicated that they are in high agreement with the statements.

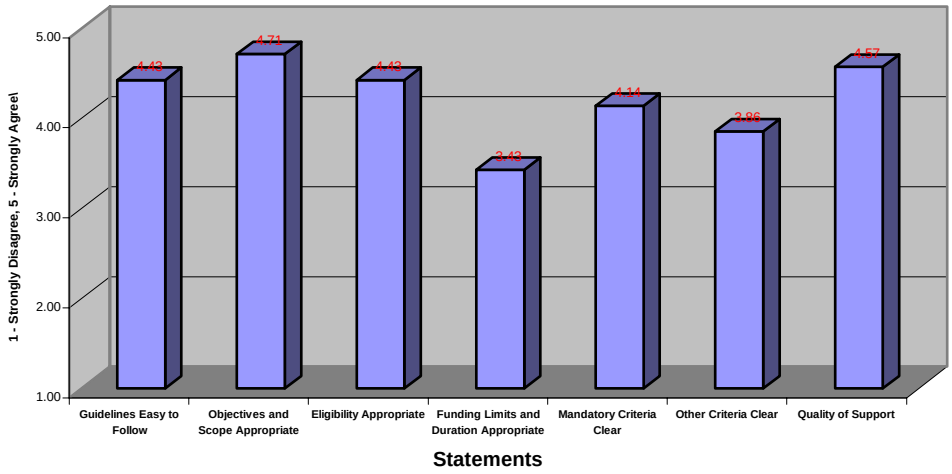
- The guidelines and steps for submitting proposals to the Grants Program for project funding are easy to follow.
- The objectives and scope of the Grants Program are appropriate for your region.
- The eligibility for funding by the Grants Program is appropriate for your region
- The mandatory criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the Grants Program.
- The quality of the support from the granting/administering agency during project implementation and reporting is high.

The following were given a rating between three and four on a scale of one to five (1 – Strongly disagree, 5 – Strongly agree).

- The funding limits and grant duration are appropriate for your region
- The other criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the Grants Program.

Refer to Figure 6 for the mean ratings from the completed projects respondents.

Figure 6
Ratings on Application Process - Completed Projects



Unsuccessful Applicants Rating of the Application Process

For the unsuccessful applicants, the following were given a rating four or over on a scale of one to five (1 – Strongly disagree, 5 – Strongly agree).

- The guidelines and steps for submitting proposals to the Grants Program for project funding are easy to follow.
- The objectives and scope of the Grants Program are appropriate for your region.
- The eligibility for funding by the Grants Program is appropriate for your region

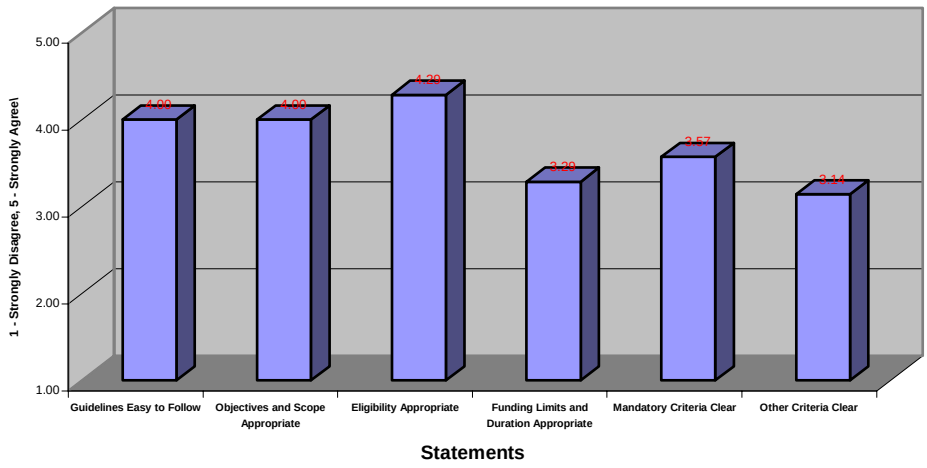
.

The following were given a rating between three and four on a scale of one to five (1 – Strongly disagree, 5 – Strongly agree).

- The mandatory criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the Grants Program
- The funding limits and grant duration are appropriate for your region
- The other criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the Grants Program.

Refer to Figure 7 for the mean ratings from the unsuccessful applicants respondents.

Figure 7
Ratings on Application Process - Past Applicants

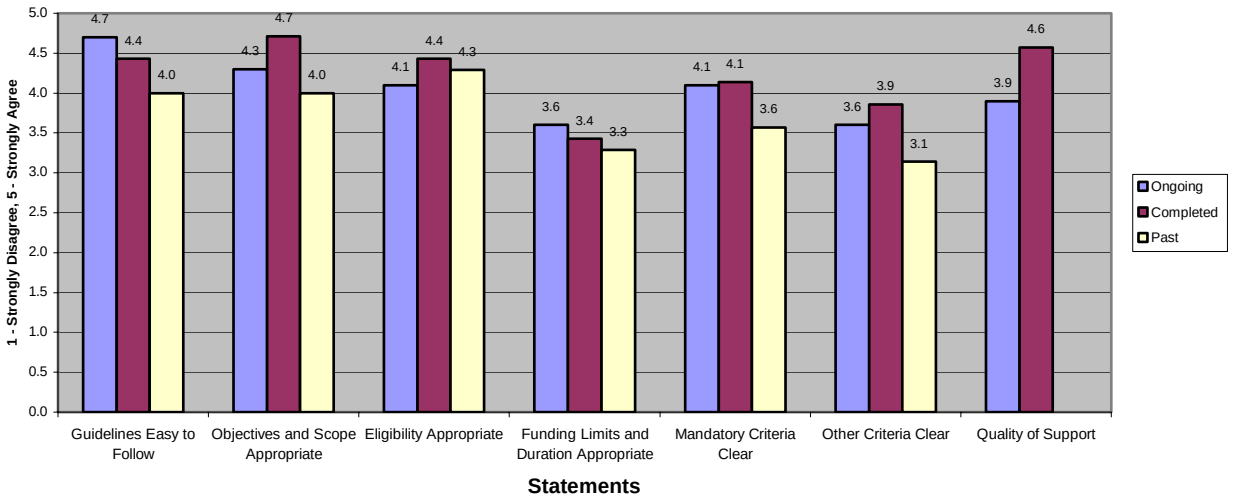


Comparison of Rating for Ongoing Projects, Completed Projects, and Unsuccessful Applicants

Figure 8 compares the mean rating for the ongoing projects, completed projects, and unsuccessful applicants. The ratings on the components of the application process appear to be similar for ongoing projects, completed projects, and unsuccessful applicants respondents. The only obvious difference was the rating on the quality of support. The

respondents for completed projects rated the quality of support higher than the ongoing projects respondents.

Figure 8
All Applicants



Overall Rating of the Application Process

When the ratings by ongoing projects, completed projects, and unsuccessful applicants were combined as an overall rating, the following statements were given a rating over four on a scale of one to five (1 – Strongly disagree, 5 – Strongly agree).

- The guidelines and steps for submitting proposals to the Grants Program for project funding are easy to follow.
- The objectives and scope of the Grants Program are appropriate for your region.
- The eligibility for funding by the Grants Program is appropriate for your region
- The quality of the support from the granting/administering agency during project implementation and reporting is high.

The following were given a rating between three and four on a scale of one to five (1 – Strongly disagree, 5 – Strongly agree).

- The mandatory criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the Grants Program.
- The funding limits and grant duration are appropriate for your region.
- The other criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the Grants Program.

Figure 9 shows the overall mean rating for all respondents.

Figure 9
Overall Average

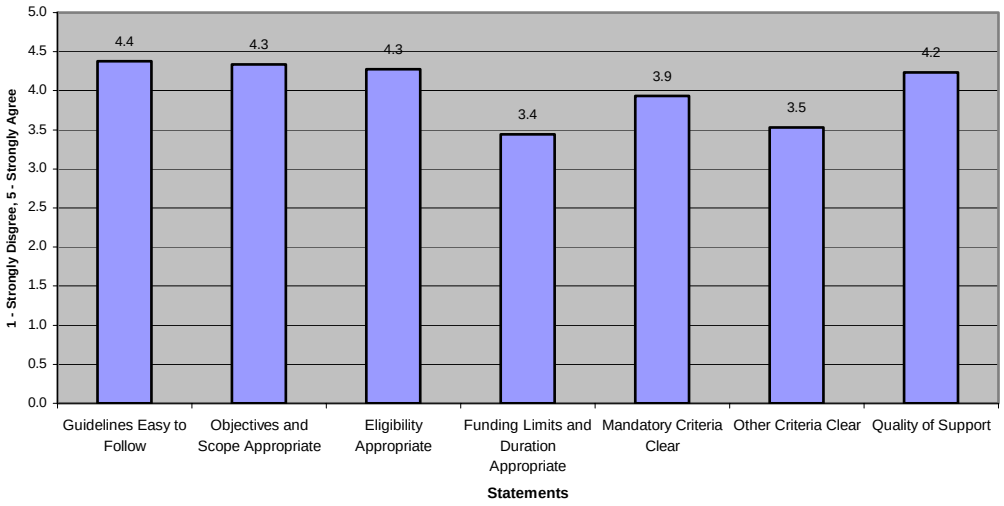


Table 1: Summary of Responses on the Application Process

Statement	Rating (5 – Strongly Agree, 1 – Strongly Disagree)			
	Ongoing Projects	Completed Projects	Unsuccessful Applicants	Mean
2.1 The guidelines and steps for submitting proposals to the Grants Program for project funding are easy to follow.	**4.7**	**4.4**	**4.0**	**4.4**
2.2 The objectives and scope of the Grants Program are appropriate for your region.	**4.3**	**4.7**	**4.0**	**4.3**
2.3 The eligibility for funding by the Grants Program is appropriate for your region.	**4.1**	**4.4**	**4.3**	**4.3**
2.4. The funding limits and grant duration are appropriate for your region.	**3.6**	**3.4**	**3.3**	**3.4**
2.5 The mandatory criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the grants program.	**4.1**	**4.1**	**3.6**	**3.9**
2.6 The other criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the grants program.	**3.6**	**3.9**	**3.1**	**3.5**
2.7 The quality of the support from the granting/administering agency during project implementation and reporting is high.	**3.9**	**4.6**		**4.2**

Guidelines and Steps for Submitting Proposals

The guidelines and steps for proposal submission are listed below. Applicants were asked whether they agree that the guidelines and steps for submitting proposals are easy to follow. The mean response was 4.4 (5 – Strongly Agree, 1 – Strongly Disagree) suggesting that the guidelines and steps are easy to follow. Refer to Table 1.

- A completed PanAsia R&D Grants Programme application form.
- Guidelines can be downloaded from http://www.panasia.org.sg/grants.
- A full project proposal and budget. The application form, proposal and budget must be submitted in soft format (computer readable). When possible, please submit a second copy in HTML format.
- A document or certificate of incorporation of the organisation, if the applicant is not a government body.
- If you do not receive an acknowledgement of your electronic application within three days of submission, you should immediately e-mail Helenad@ccohs.ca to enquire.

Scope of the Grants Program

Below is the description of the scope of the Grants Program. Applicants were asked whether the scope of the program is appropriate for the region. The mean response was 4.3 suggesting that they agree that the scope is appropriate.

- Research and development into specific applications, with a clear focus on practical and replicable solutions and techniques.
- 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 impacts of specific Internet technologies, policies, and approaches.
- Research on policy matters affecting Internet networking in the Asia Pacific region, especially where linked to areas such as policy impacts, gender equity, social equity, sustainable communities, technology diffusion/transfer, and benefits to rural areas.

Eligibility for funding by the Grants Program

When asked whether the eligibility for funding by the grants program is appropriate, the mean response was 4.2 indicating that the eligibility for funding is appropriate. Below is a list of the eligibility criteria.

- Applications for PanAsia R&D Grants funding will be accepted from organizations located in developing countries of the Asian region. However, applications from a consortia of organizations from any part of the world will also be accepted where there are one or more "lead" members from the region. Team projects and co-funding with other agencies or organizations are considered desirable.
- 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.

Funding Limits and Grant Duration

Applicants were asked whether the funding limit and grant duration are appropriate for the projects. The mean response was 3.4 suggesting that respondents do not agree strongly that the funding limit and duration are appropriate. Below is the information on funding limit and duration that is sent to potential applicants.

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

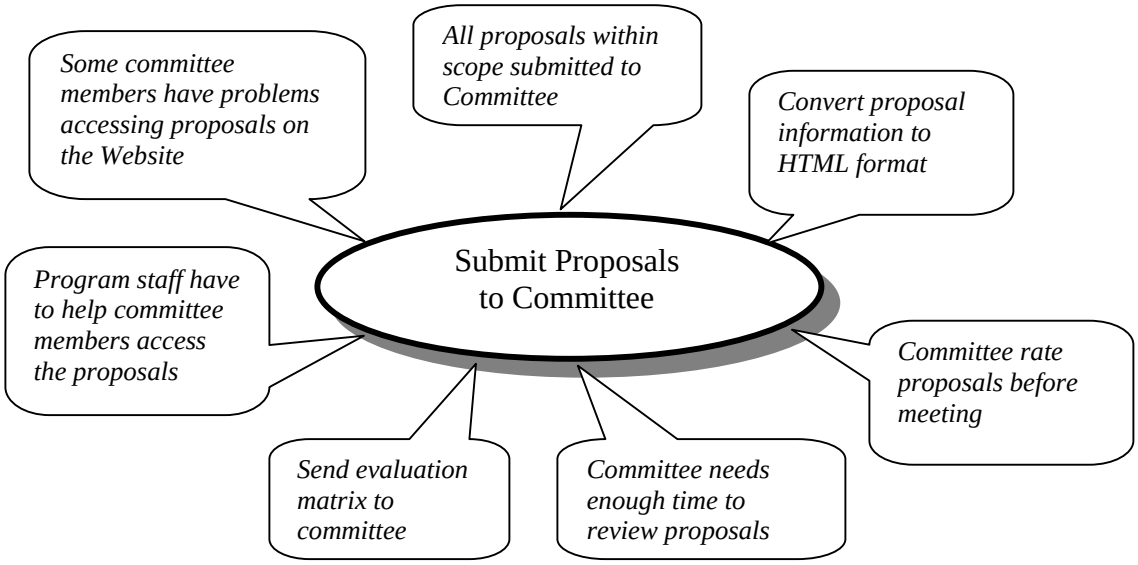
Two types of grants can be applied for, as follows:

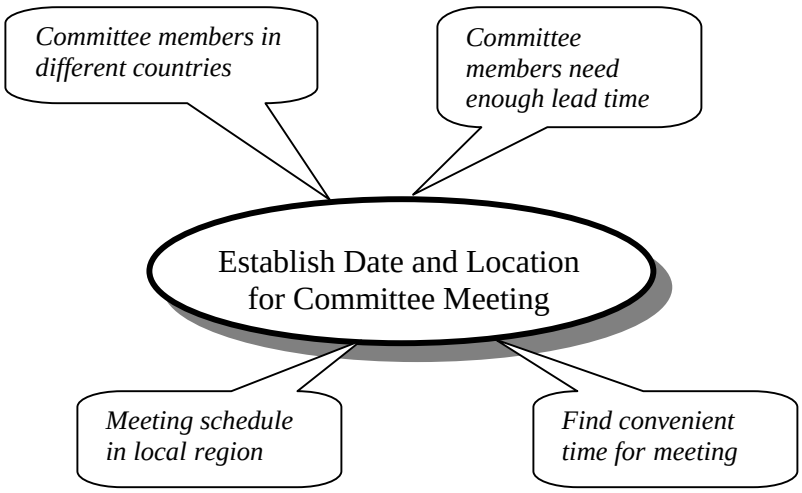
- For Project Grants, a maximum budget of CA$75,000 will be available over a term not exceeding 24 months.
- For Small Grants, a maximum budget of CA$15,000 will be available over a term not exceeding 12 months.

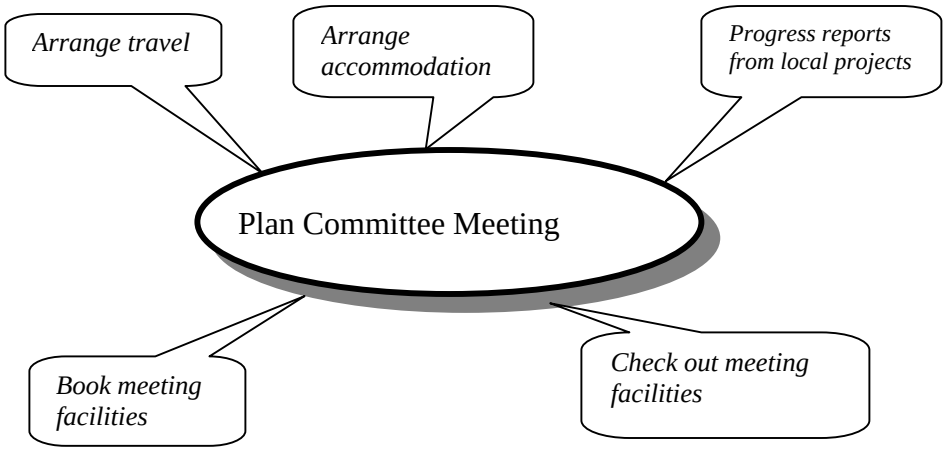
Proposal Selection Process

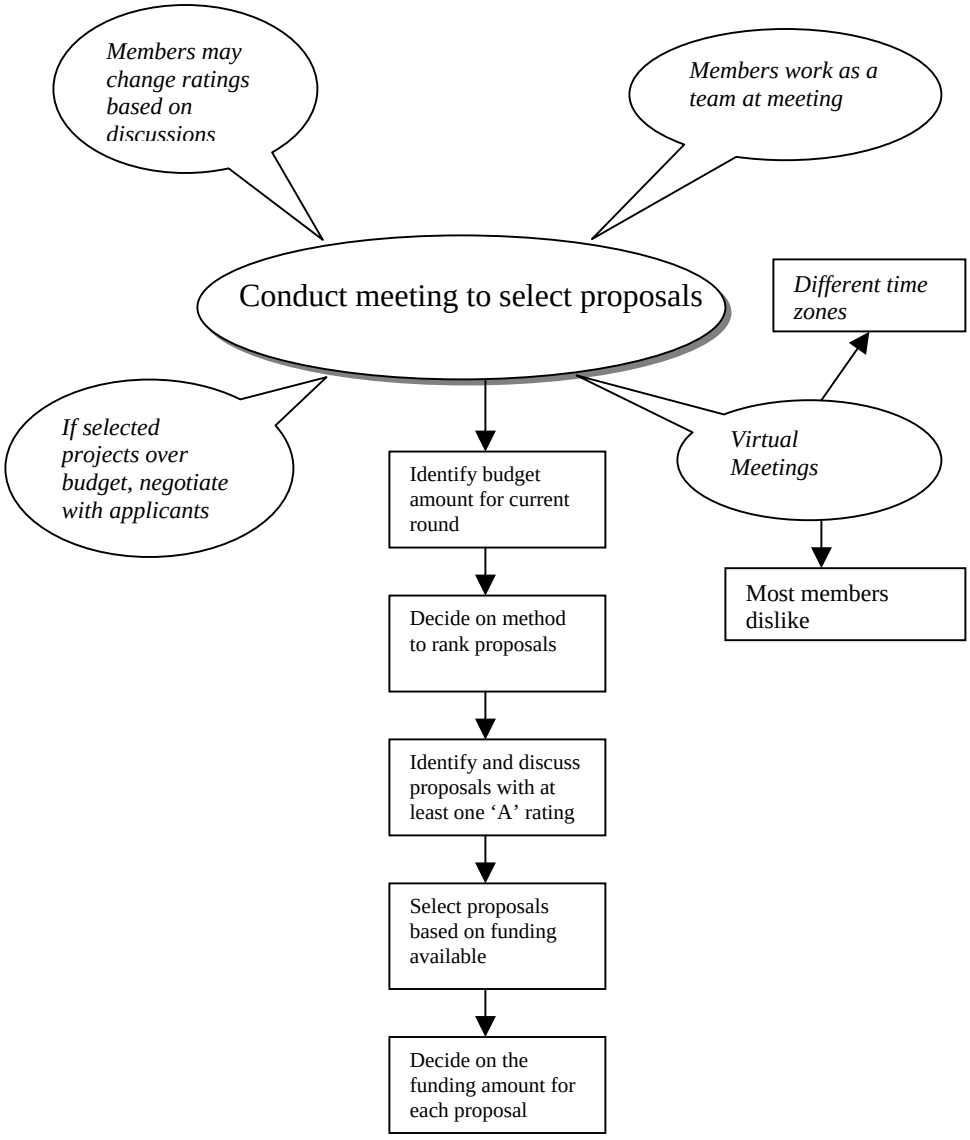
The selection of successful proposals for funding is done at committee meetings. The committee meets twice a year to assess proposals and award grants. The proposals are sent out to committee members before the meeting for review. Members are expected to come to the meeting with their ratings and recommendations on which proposals should be

funded. The process for selecting proposals is illustrated in the Rich Pictures below. The Rich Pictures lists the steps and identify some challenges during the selection process.




Committee members in different countries
Committee members need enough lead time
Establish Date and Location for Committee Meeting
Meeting schedule in local region
Find convenient time for meeting


Arrange travel
Arrange accommodation
Progress reports from local projects
Plan Committee Meeting
Book meeting facilities
Check out meeting facilities



Meeting Time to Review Proposals

The majority of committee members suggested that the two-day session to evaluate proposals is effective. However, some committee members mentioned that the meeting agenda determines the amount of time for the meeting. If there is a large number of projects to evaluate and there are other items to discuss, the two-day session may not be enough.

Virtual Meetings to Select Proposals

Based on the experience with a previous virtual meeting, the majority of committee members do not find virtual meetings effective. Some reasons given are: committee

members live in different time zones, members do not have the expertise to participate in virtual meetings, members do not contribute to the meeting, the meeting tend to be extended, members are not motivated during virtual meetings, and quality of interaction is not as good as face-to-face meeting. On the other hand, some committee members suggested that if moderated properly and if members commit to participate in virtual meetings, virtual meetings can be effective. Participating in virtual meetings is a good strategy for committee members to experience the virtual process and communication technology. Also, participating in virtual meetings will serve as a good role model and send a message to potential applicants on how ICTs can be used to facilitate virtual meetings.

Criteria for Selecting Projects for Funding

When applicants were asked to rate whether the criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the Grants Program, the 'mandatory' criteria was rated as 3.9 while the 'other' criteria were rated as 3.5 (1 – Strongly Disagree, 5 – Strongly Agree). Respondents do not agree strongly that the 'other' criteria are clear. The other criteria should be revised to make them more specific. The following criteria are used to select proposals.

Mandatory Criteria

- Clear objectives, oriented towards specific issues or problems within the scope of the PanAsia 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, 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 existing PanAsia partners and to PanAsia content, communications and policy activities
- 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.

Communicating with Unsuccessful Applicants

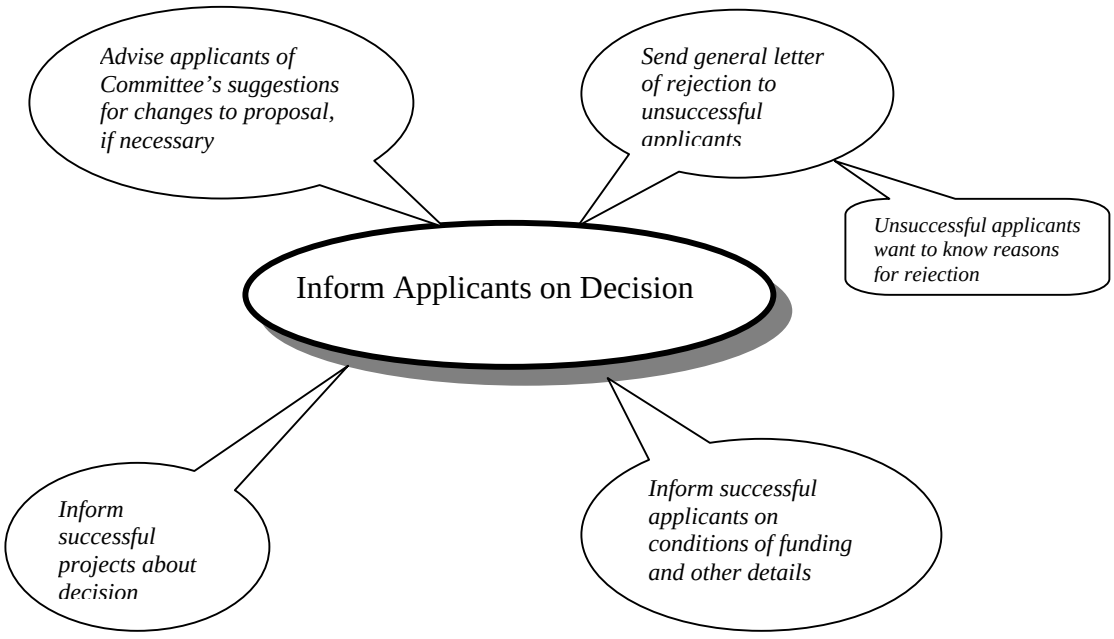
After the proposals are reviewed, the unsuccessful applicants are informed about the decision. Unsuccessful applicants were asked whether they understood the reasons for rejection of their applications and what information they would like to receive with the rejection letter. Two of the unsuccessful applicants said they understood the reasons for rejections while four said that they did not understand the reasons. Those that said they do not understand the reasons said they would appreciate specific details on the rejection so that they can improve their proposals for future proposals.

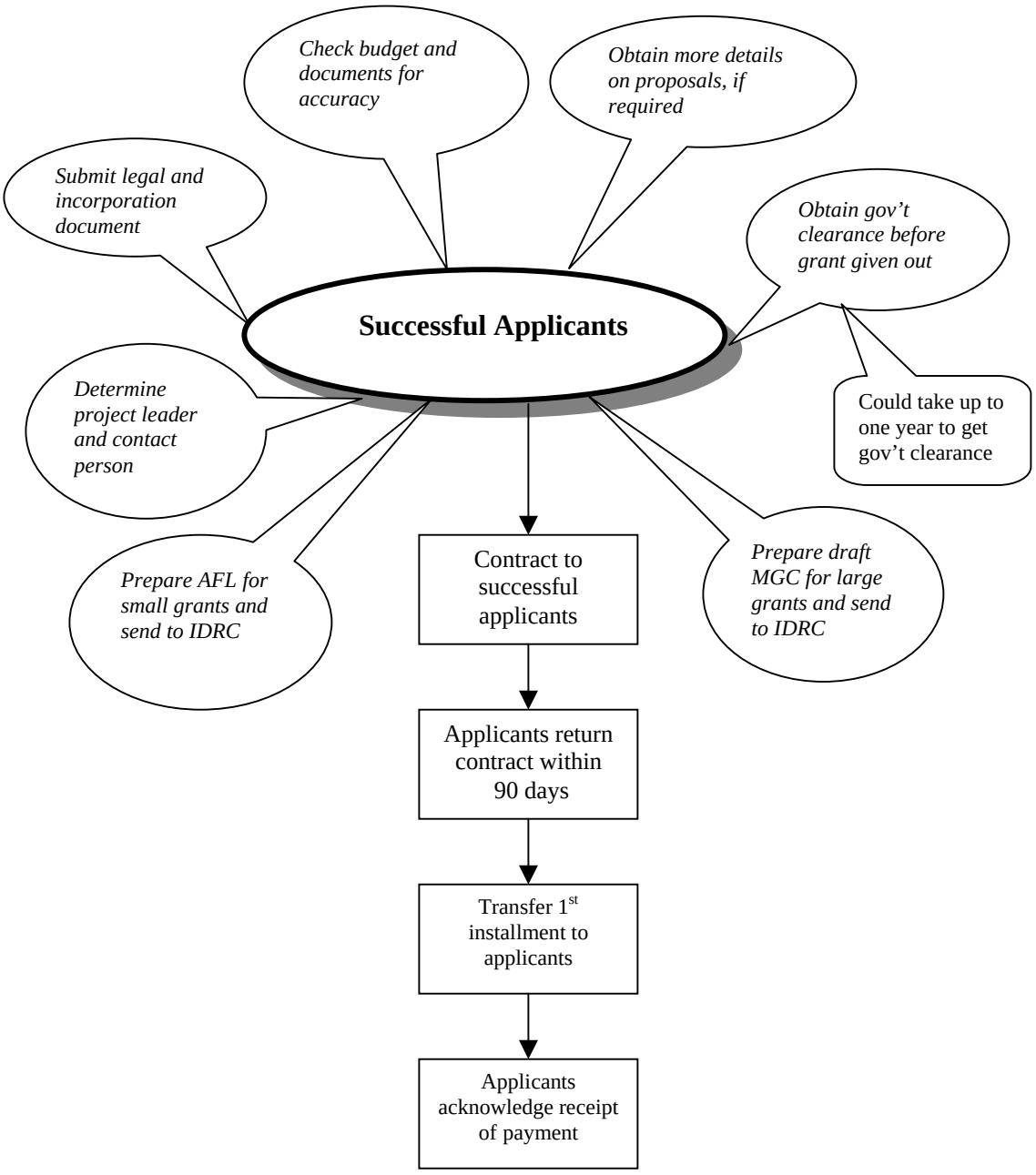
Did Unsuccessful Applicants Apply for Funding Elsewhere?

The unsuccessful applicants were asked whether they subsequently applied for funding elsewhere. Two of the unsuccessful applicants said No while three said Yes. Of those who said Yes, one received funding from UNICEF and Andheri-Hilfe, Germany and one got funding from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Project Initiation Process

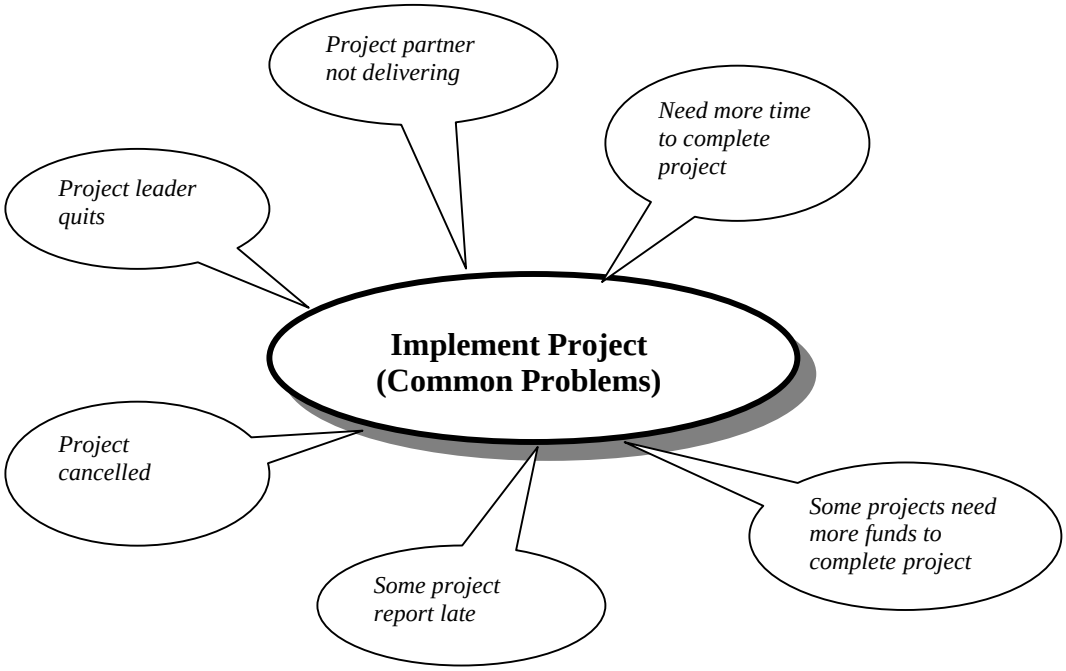
After successful projects have been selected for awards, the projects have to be initiated. The Grants Program administrator has to inform the applicants of the outcome of the selection process and work very closely with the successful applicants to complete paper work to start the project. The following Rich Pictures illustrates the project initiation process.

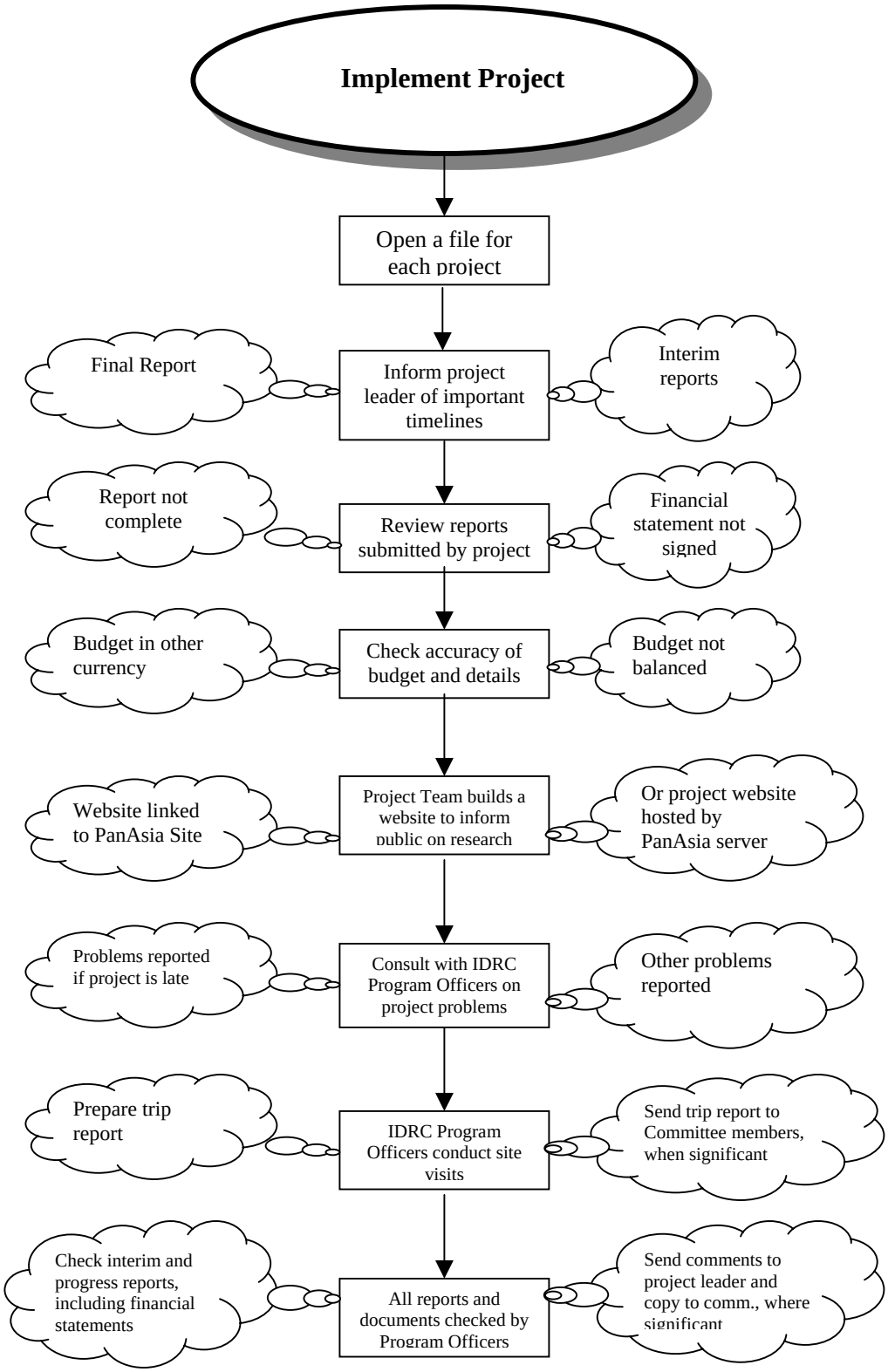



Check budget and documents for accuracy
Obtain more details on proposals, if required
Submit legal and incorporation document
Obtain gov't clearance before grant given out
Successful Applicants
Could take up to one year to get gov't clearance
Determine project leader and contact person
Prepare AFL for small grants and send to IDRC
Contract to successful applicants
Prepare draft MGC for large grants and send to IDRC
Applicants return contract within 90 days
Transfer 1st installment to applicants
Applicants acknowledge receipt of payment

Project Implementation Process

The Grants Program administrator has to work with the successful application to implement the project. The process for implementing projects are illustrated in the Rich Picture below. The challenges encountered during implementation are also identified.




Implement Project
Open a file for each project
Inform project leader of important timelines
Final Report
Interim reports
Review reports submitted by project
Report not complete
Financial statement not signed
Check accuracy of budget and details
Budget in other currency
Budget not balanced
Project Team builds a website to inform public on research
Website linked to PanAsia Site
Or project website hosted by PanAsia server
Consult with IDRC Program Officers on project problems
Problems reported if project is late
Other problems reported
IDRC Program Officers conduct site visits
Prepare trip report
Send trip report to Committee members, when significant
All reports and documents checked by Program Officers
Check interim and progress reports, including financial statements
Send comments to project leader and copy to comm., where significant

Guidance/Support During the Project Implementation and Reporting

When asked whether they needed much guidance/support from the granting or administering agency during the project implementation and reporting, four respondents said Yes while seven respondents said No (Table 2).

Respondents provided the following comments.

- We were fortunate that most things went smoothly. Only a slight change in the project scope was required, and the administering agency was most professional and forthcoming in their response and assistance.
- We received ample support from the Review Committee regarding the reports that we submit and their contents, and both the head of the Review Committee and his assistant, were both accommodating and facilitating.

Quality of Support During Project Implementation

Funded projects were asked to rate the quality of support from the funding agency during project implementation. The mean response was 4.2 (5 – Strongly Agree, 1- Strongly Disagree) suggesting that respondents agree that the support during implementation of the project was good.

Table 2: Project Implementation Ratings

Questions	Yes	No
• Do you need much guidance/support from the granting/administering agency during the project implementation and reporting?	4	7
• Is the ceiling affecting the outcome of the research project?	5	8
• Is the duration affecting the outcome of the research project?	7	4
• Do you have any training needs that are as yet unfilled to implement your project?	2	4

Funding Ceiling and Project Outcome

When projects that were funded were asked whether the ceiling is affecting the outcome of the research project, 8 said No and 5 said Yes (Table 2). One project mentioned that sponsorship was obtained from other agencies to meet the deficit.

Project Duration and Project Outcome

The projects that were funded were asked whether the duration of the project was affecting the outcome of the research project. Four respondents said No while 7 respondents said Yes (Table 2). The reasons given why the duration is affecting the outcome of the project are: additional time was needed to meet with the community, the original proposal was altered due to a change in partner organizations, delays occurred in finding local consultants, the time was too short for activities in the later part of the project, there was delay to cover a two-country activity where communication facilities are not well-developed, and we had to hurry a few things and that caused some friction with the community.

It appears that the reasons why projects were delayed were out of the project control and sometimes they cannot be planned for in advance. The proposal guidelines should ask the applicants to list problems they foresee and how they plan to deal with the problems. In this way, potential problems can be identified in advance and planned for before implementation of the project.

Training Needs

The ongoing projects were asked whether they have any training needs that are as yet unfilled to implement the project. Four projects said No while two projects said they need the following training (Table 2).

- Training for staff to assist with technical problems.
- An exposure to the working arrangement of a Telecenter in a developed country may give first hand information to make the center sustainable even after the closure of the scheme.

Project Monitoring by Committee Members

There were mixed comments on whether committee members should be involved in project monitoring. The majority of respondents indicated that committee members should be involved in monitoring projects. Other respondents indicated that since committee members are busy in their own jobs they may not have time to monitor projects. At time of approval of projects, committee members should identify projects that would most definitely benefit them from a project monitoring visit during the life of the project. The visit could be done while traveling on other business and there should be some a small fee to cover the expense for the visit.

Effectiveness of Progress Reports to Monitor Projects

Most committee members mentioned that providing progress reports is a good method for monitoring projects. The quality of the progress reports is not consistent between projects. Some are very good and some need improvements. Some committee members suggested that progress reports should be complemented by on-site visits to the projects and

presentations at committee meetings. The amount of monitoring of a project should be based on whether the project is small or large.

The majority of committee members suggested that there should be two progress reports for one-year projects while others suggested that there should only be one progress report. Some of those who suggested two progress reports indicated that one should be after six months and the other as the final report.

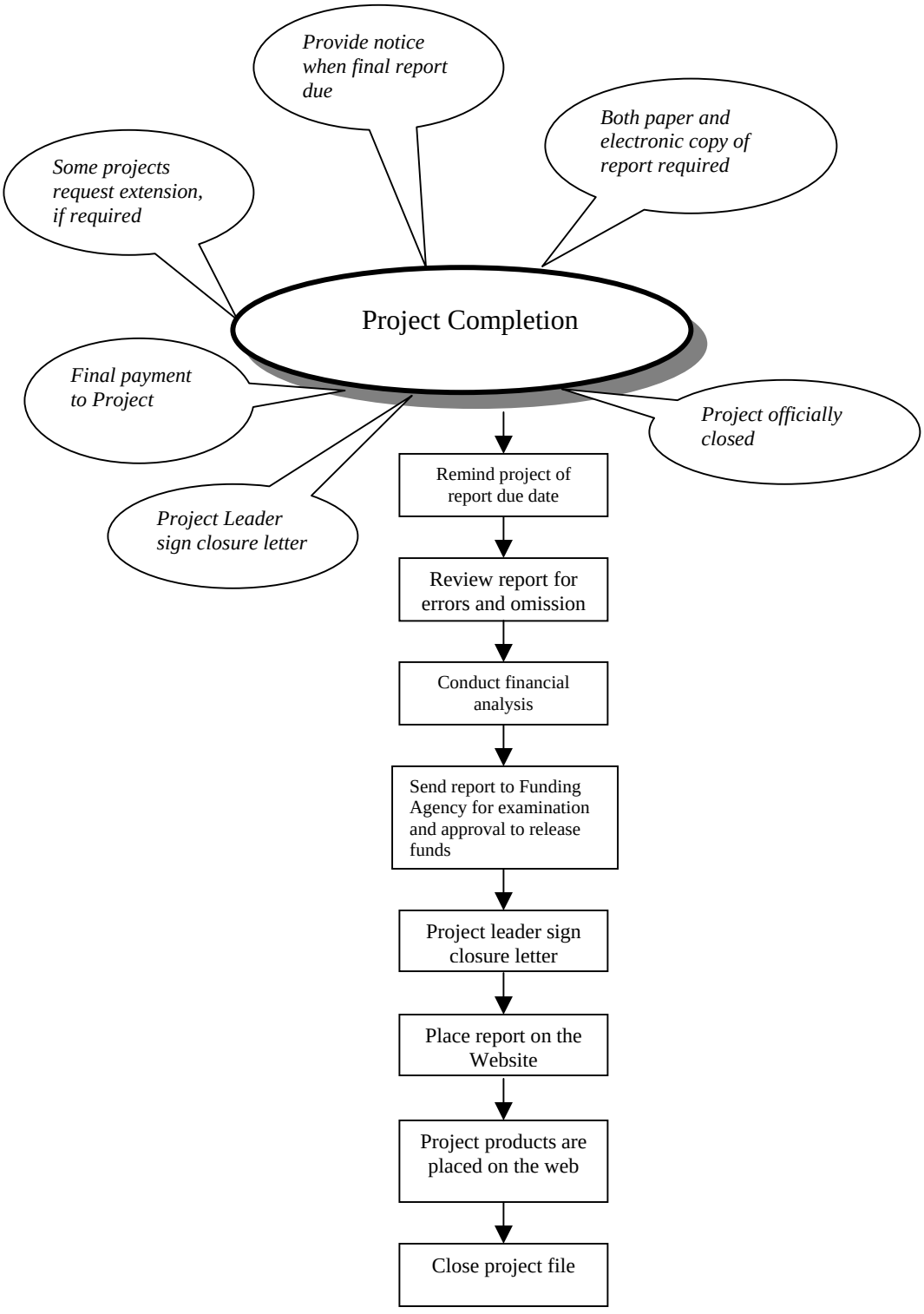
For two-year projects, the majority of respondents suggested that there should be four progress reports. Other respondents suggested that the number of reports should be three, two or one respectively.

Project Completion

Upon project completion, the project personnel has to submit all documentation to the funding agency. The following Rich Picture shows the Steps and challenges at project completion.

Timeline for submission of Final Report

Almost all of the respondents (12) who were funded said that the timeline for submission of project final report is appropriate. The one respondent who said No suggested that the deadline should be at least two months after the scheduled termination of the project.


Provide notice when final report due
Both paper and electronic copy of report required
Some projects request extension, if required
Project Completion
Final payment to Project
Project officially closed
Project Leader sign closure letter
Remind project of report due date
Review report for errors and omission
Conduct financial analysis
Send report to Funding Agency for examination and approval to release funds
Project leader sign closure letter
Place report on the Website
Project products are placed on the web
Close project file

The Grants Program

The following sections summarize the results on the Grants Program from the surveys and interviews.

How Applicants Found Out About The Grants Program

All applicants were asked how they heard about the Grants Program. The Grants Program website seems to be the main source of information on the Grants Program. Table 3 shows the source of the information about the program and the frequency of response from respondents.

Table 3: How Applicants Heard About the Grants Program

Source	Frequency
PanAsia Website	8
From a mailing list on Asia networking resources	3
IDRC Contact Person in Asia	2
From a colleague	2
International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)	1
Cornell University, USA	1
Someone at a conference	1
Through professional contacts who already applied	1

Reasons for Applying for Funding

There are a variety of reasons why applicants applied for funding from the Grants Program. Some claimed that there is no funding for ICT research that are available in the region and such research is needed to reach out to people in rural communities. Respondents also mentioned that they want to give their staff expertise in ICT and share their information with other regions and countries. Applicants see IDRC and PanAsia as reputable bodies to obtain funding and to work with on research projects.

The focus of our project was research and PanAsia R&D Grants Program was the only program that we knew which gave priority to research and its outcomes.

The following is a list of reasons for applying for funding from the Grants Program.

- Pan-Asia grant program was among very few programs bolstering ICT-related research
- Indonesia needs the digital library network solution, but none of the funding by government seriously touched this issue. We needed support for our bottom-up movement.

- ICT sphere in Kyrgyzstan had not been subject to comprehensive research before the project started, though many local stakeholders registered a high degree of interest in such data
- Great expenses for improving the facilities for communication and community education.
- The CBIRD center has the potential to assist the community, students and farmers with communication and education.
- Extend the possibility of IT to rural people in order to access useful information and data for improving their quality of life.
- Increase abilities of rural people through IT.
- We would like to make our project idea (ICSCs automatically translating and delivering on NET) become available in Vietnam, and IT is a very powerful and important tool to realize this idea. The Programme as far as I know support this kind of work, so we decided to apply for funding from the Programme.
- No such funding is possible in India, as the concept of the project is very much new and no University has tried projects in villages so far except for a few of the Non Governmental agencies in India.
- IDRC is a reputable organization, backing the PAN Research Grant, which is quite well known in the region.
- These IDRC Officials are well respected and can also be considered as Internet movers and shakers in this region. Because of this reputation, getting the Internationalization of DNS project funded through this organization adds to the credibility of the project and lends considerable influence, and we can attribute a large component of the success of this project worldwide, to the fact that IDRC and PAN funded this project.
- We knew that one of the priority areas for PanAsia was e-commerce. These two factors lead us to apply for funding from the Grants Program.
- We needed projects to continue our objective of promoting sustainable agriculture and building institutional capacities in the region. External funds are very much welcome because SEARCA believes in institutional partnering to maximize resources of institutions with common goals and in servicing the needs of the region.
- Mainly, a project like this was hard to get financial support without funding from the Grants Program, because Internet application in agriculture had not been regarded as priority R&D project in China at that time. Now the situations have been much better.
- The maximum research grants from Universitas Terbuka was small. It was about IDR 7500, or about CAD 2000. That was not enough for research.
- IDRC had funds to offer and they are supporting similar research.
- Development of bio-medical waste management website was high on TERI's research agenda. As waste management does not invite much commercial interest, funding for such activities were not forthcoming. However, the grants program's criteria harmonized with the project concept and hence funding was sought for this social cause.
- Upon reading the IDRC objectives from Internet, and later visiting IDRC in Singapore, I found that the IDRC Grant is particularly geared to R & D via Internet. So, I applied here.

Use of Themes for Proposals

All applicants were asked whether the Grants Program should target specific theme for each funding round. Sixteen (80%) said Yes while four (20%) said No. Some respondents mentioned that since ICT is a rapidly evolving field, use of specific themes may not capture the evolving ideas and challenges of ICTs. The themes that were mentioned most frequently are: distance learning, agriculture, health, small and medium scale enterprises, rural development, and environmental monitoring.

The following is a list of themes suggested by the applicants. The number in bracket is the frequency for each suggested theme.

- Distance learning (7)
- Agriculture (6)
- Health (6)
- Small and medium enterprises (5)
- Rural development (3)
- Environmental monitoring (3)
- E-government
- Veterinary
- Fisheries
- Water resource management
- Cleaner production
- Urban and regional planning
- ICT policy
- Natural disaster forecast
- Natural resource management.
- Youth leadership and development
- Optical communications
- Smart homes projects
- Renewal energy
- Solar passive architecture
- Sustainable development issues

Those who said No to using themes for the Grants Program suggested that the themes may not apply to some countries, which could prevent the country from applying for funds.

It will be better for the grant committee to evaluate what is exactly needed by each country so that the committee can judge whether the submitted proposal from a country is related to their actual problems/needs or not.

The following is a list of comments from those who said No to using themes for proposals.

- Not all of the countries have the same theme for their development need at a particular time. For example, Indonesia currently needs technology for SME (small medium scale enterprises). If this theme is not accommodated this year or next round, we will loose the chance to get the funding and when the theme is opened, we have lost the momentum. So, I suggest not using themes.
- I think you should maintain some themes, but allow some flexibility by not restricting a particular funding round to one theme. This is because many international projects happen because of the correct timing, and one cannot predict in advance when the right time will be. By forcing each round to have one theme, it might exclude other critical projects, which are the right time to fund.
- I am afraid that some good ideas or important projects would be delayed to realization, if the program may target a specific theme for each funding round. I suggest that the program may target a cluster of specific themes for each funding round.
- There should be a change. The Grants awarding body needs to understand better what success with ICT-induced development looks like and what is needed in order to achieve it. As ICTs are fundamental to all development efforts, it doesn't make sense to focus on specific topics. The emphasis should be on how to make ICTs useful for the people using it, and for the applications that **they** consider important. Focusing on specific activities like education, health, SMEs and so on amounts to ventriloquizing development. The real power of ICTs emerges when users are empowered to decide for themselves how to use it, not to have some outside agency decide for them. The focus should be on better development, and when that is achieved, ICTs will be used to the optimum.
- No, I don't agree. ICT is a growing, exuberant field and project needs occur at the same time in different thematic areas. Proponents should not be boxed in by specific themes for each funding round, lest they force their proposals to fit current themes, disregarding their bases in reality.

Applied Research vs. Developmental Projects

When asked whether the Grants Program should give high priority to proposals that are "applied research" rather than "development", twelve (60%) agreed, three (15%) disagreed, and five (25%) said both "applied research" and "development" should be funded.

Without applied research supporting the development we may be subjecting ourselves to a narrow window to grow and may lose out on new and novel technologies.

The following comments were obtained from respondents.

- Many developing countries possess very weak research capacity, and are even unaware about well-known and tested techniques and methods, not to mention out-of-the-box approaches. This seriously constrains their chances to receive grants in case "applied research" is testified.
- I agree with this approach, because we need different methodologies or application for different time and place although we use the same technology. We need a REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY. It does not have to be a novel technology but it could be a common technology (we can find from the internet), which is modified in such a novel methodology so that it can be implemented locally very well. "Development" emphasis is more important as currently there is less funding available in this area.
- Both types of research are essential, especially if we want to see the impact of the ideas/concepts on a dependent variable. Applied research will certainly provide opportunity to experiment, but development research is also important if we want to see the impact of the experimented concept on a larger scale and/or scope. Applied research is usually focused on the development of concept design and on limited/small scale field-experimentation. Therefore, the selection should be based on the significance of the incremental impact of the research results to the grants recipient's institution rather than on the type of the research.
- The principle of applied research will help in developing more new concepts.
- Our project was funded on outcome that included both "Applied Research" and "Development". In this regard, we welcome the inclusion of Applied Research as part of the high priority. I would personally recommend that you do not exclude the development component from funded projects. Perhaps something like "priority will now be given to projects which demonstrate a strong component of applied research with an optional, but realistic development focus."
- This would be the way to move forward in this area.
- From our experience in the region, most researches follow the "development" approach. We only observe applied researches in the field of science and technology but not much in our project sites in the region, most probably due to the lack of capacity to conduct pilot site research and experiments. Although if we consider impact, "applied research" has a higher point than "development" because of the difference in the quality of response from the stakeholders of each approach.
- Considering impact and usefulness to the ASEAN stakeholders of SEARCA, we would most likely benefit from an applied research approach now that global trends require us to look for value-adding innovation more than just production.
- These are all indications that applied research will be more responsive to the needs of the ASEAN region as it will be more problem-focused and solution providing.
- Well, I think both applied research and development deserve the same priority since everything that is developed (even it is based on known methodologies) needs field test to see it's real implementation.

- Firstly, I find your terms confusing. There are basically two types of research. *Applied research* is designed to solve practical problems of the modern world. *Basic research* is driven by a scientist's curiosity or interest in a scientific question. *Development* usually relates to implementing the results of research. So applied research can and often does involve using methods and techniques that are already known, although the context and circumstances of the application may render it novel. And development can and often does involve novel applications of known methodologies.
- The distinction that I think you are trying to make is not relevant and it is potentially dangerous. The Grants Program administration should give high priority to understanding that which is required to achieve significant development with ICTs. If you label this "applied" or "development" it means the administration is pre-judging something that I do not believe it yet understands well. Please show me the theoretical background and empirical results that can validate this kind of partiality. Some form of review of the research outputs of programmes that have been supported so far should be made available before determining this judgment.
- Applied research is definitely more needed than the development but if there is no scope after applied research to implement result of the research in that environment I would suggest for action research. That will fulfill both purposes.
- Selecting proposals that utilize "applied research" methods can expand the number and nature of organizations undertaking development initiatives unfamiliar to mainstream development processes. This approach potentially can address the issue of ICT disparity in rural areas.
- Applied research is very effective in institutions such as Multimedia University that has a considerable number of researchers focusing on theoretical research. On the other hand "Development" can lead to effective results in less time.

Suggestions for Publicizing the Grants Program

Applicants suggested that the Grants Program home page is the most effective medium for publicizing the Grants Program. This is followed by mailing lists, pamphlets, letters to prospective research centers/universities, visit to local groups, newsletters, etc.

Below is a list of suggestions for publicizing the Grants Program.

• Grants Program Home pages	• Contact regional organizations
• An IDRC projects journal—print and online—featuring results of projects	• Results presentation forum where the mass media and other user groups will be invited
• E-mail mailing list	• Post information on bulletin boards
• Pamphlets	• Use banner ads on the internet
• Visit local groups	• Link with search engines
• Letters to prospective research centers/universities	• Send information to all people who are involved in ICTs
• Announcements in local newspapers	• Promote through the Government Clearance Agency
• Better media coverage	• Promote successful projects
• Regular newsletter	• Send information to R&D ministries in

	different countries
• Disseminate information via CIDA project managers	• Publicity should be concentrated in the "point of sale" manner rather than in mass publicity
• An ICT "showroom" where all results of IDRC development research in ICT—tools and methods—are showcased and made available to everyone who needs them	

Suggestions for Publicizing Results of Projects

Funded projects were asked for suggestions for publicizing the results of their projects. Some of the suggestions include distributing project final report widely, sponsor conferences of symposium to highlight projects, which could attract potential applicants.

Make available to others the documents, software, tools, and research results produced by the projects. This will prevent duplication and other regions and countries will not make the same mistakes.

The following suggestions were made to publicize the results of projects.

- Widely distribute the final reports of projects
- Host conferences, seminars, or symposium
- Publish in professional journals
- Link the project home page to other sites
- Part of the budget for the project should be to publicize the project results
- We shall organize further seminars and workshops in Bangladesh, the results of which may be publicized via Internet and links may be made through to other sites

Plan to Apply for Future Funding from the Grants Program

Respondents were asked whether they plan to apply for future research funding from the Grants Program. Almost all of the respondents (95%) said that they plan to apply for future research funding from the Grants Program. The areas of research in which they plan to apply for future funding include:

- E-Government relevant research
- E-health relevant research
- Distance learning
- Research on opportunities offered by ICT for SMEs' development
- Field of chemical information
- ICT-supported management of higher distance education
- ICT tools for fishermen who are out at sea
- ICT for rural farmers on how to grow, manage, and market their crops
- Relevance of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as an ICT tool
- Agriculture

- Telecentre success factors and policy advocacy
- Health education
- Addressing the Digital Divide: ICTs and Rural Information Resource Centres (RIRCs)
- Optical communications
- Smart homes projects
- Establishing Internet Forum for Chinese environment NGOs
- Establishing a database of the best practice in "desertification control and community development"
- Sex and reproductive health
- Environment
- Renewable energy
- Solar passive architecture

Comments on the Grants Program

The respondents were asked to provide additional comments on the Grants Program. Overall, the respondents found the Grants Program very helpful in terms of completing local projects. Some applicants mentioned that no such funding is available in their region and that the program gives them the opportunity to conduct research and development in their region. Respondents also suggested that the Grants Program should work with other funding agencies to provide more funding for research and development.

Establish cooperation with PanAsia R&D Grants member countries, receiving donations from them as well as from other donors.

The following comments on the Grants Program were provided.

- The program is really helpful for our digital library and community development.
- The processing time from the date of proposal submission to the announcement is very good (short).
- The procedure is straightforward and transparent.
- It is most helpful for small projects to prime organizations toward ICT, i.e., help them explore a novel idea that can later develop into a larger-scale activity.
- Greater flexibility in the implementation of planned activities, using stated objectives as basis rather than plan details. In ICT work, obsolescence is a major concern. Best-practice can change between the time activities are proposed and the time these are to be implemented, and methodologies and tools required in the project activities may need to change as well.
- Thank you for helping us make a big difference to the world.
- Yes, we plan to apply for future funding from the Grants Program. We are now in the process of exploring the segments where ICTs can fill a need and based on our findings we will propose a suitable project. One of the areas will be to utilize ICTs as a tool for fishermen who are out at sea, enabling them to communicate and network for marketing their catch.

- I feel, with information and communication technologies there is a need to bridge the gap in information that often lies with many different and diverse sources such as organizations and individuals. At ICRISAT we recognized this when we started to share information that if we were to provide complete information we need to recognize that we need to collaborate with those who are better placed than us in certain areas of information (e.g., ACIAR and CSIRO and USDA had information on nutritional disorders of crops) than to put our resources in that area. In ICT today, it is not difficult to create information on the Internet but to provide access to information seamlessly is a challenge.
- The agency could play the role of the bridge, broker and catalyst to bring together those who have information to those who need and promote this new emerging medium as an alternate to the print media. We have faced from our national partners who see this technology not as an alternate to print but only as an additional high-tech. This would change if the bottlenecks in access were overcome. On the other side, commitment from those who provide information should ensure information sharing is a continuous process and not a one-time event. Interest in information can only be sustained if the information is simple, meets the needs of users, accurate and current. Many information sources become outdated because the information is not current.
- The Grants Program should add some policy to encourage excellent teams who did project successfully. For example, a small project can be enhanced with renewed fund to be a larger project, and a good project can be awarded and informed to the Government Clearance agency of the project-involved country.
- The Grant Program has provided me with opportunities to implement what I read in literatures in a real life situation where I have to deal with students who come from many different background (educational, social, economical, technical literacy, etc)
- The exclusion of grant support to conferences is worrying. Knowledge is low-cost high-value commodity that leverages the value of all other resources. The administration is well placed to target specific knowledge areas that need further dissemination, and small, focused conferences are capable of doing this.
- This grant program I think is a good step of ICT Network. To build the Third World a lot can be done from here.
- To us the Grants program has given much impetus not only by way of finance, but also in words of encouragement for accomplishing what many in Bangladesh thought would be impossible to accomplish. In my view, the Grants program had been a well thought out, well planned, well implemented, and well staffed one. Because we are a voluntary body, there have been times when we lapsed in memory and activities, but the Grants programme people was there as a fatherly (motherly) figure to put them right. The partnership thus developed made us feel as if we are working together for a common goal.

Value of the Grants Program

When asked to provide comments on the value of the Grants Program, applicants mentioned that the program is helping them to move into the information and knowledge age and increasing the knowledge and skills of project personnel and rural communities.

The program has high value, especially knowledge sharing which leverages all other activities.

Comments on the value of the Grants Program are listed below.

- The program was very instrumental in spurring Kyrgyzstan ICT market research and building capacity of the applicant in research area.
- Fifty people are already trained in basic internet and email, some having completed more advanced training, including website creation and internet programming. Participants include CBIRD staff, local teachers and students, and members of the Junior Democracy Programme and Rice Project. More than 200 people are on the waiting list for free computer training.
- We would like the grants program to consider how international program can accelerate the process by leading some of the challenging projects. We would like you to consider us in the area of agriculture.
- The value is enough to setup system, purchase hardware, and initiate the community.
- The 21st century will be information and knowledge age. All nations, either the north or the south, will need ICTs much more intensively. So, this Program will be very valuable.
- The Grant Program stimulates me to think which part of ICT that can be utilized
- It would be ideal if the bar on the ceiling for grants was raised based on the merits of the project.

Applicants Suggestions for Changes to the Grants Program

Applicants suggested that the funding from the Grants Program should be increased and that some projects may require additional time to complete. Also, rejected applicants want more information on why their proposals were rejected so that they can improve on their proposals.

Instances of cross-project experience sharing show promise in accelerating learning and should be encouraged.

The following additional comments on changes to the Grants Program were received.

- Increase financial assistance and the project duration may be enhanced from two years to three or four years so as to develop and implement new models in the developing countries.
- More assistance and collaboration from the Grants Program.

- Everything was fine during our grant application.
- We would like to see the Grant programs support international organization such as to develop new ideas. At present we seem to suffer from the handicap that our programs do not match with your areas of interest.
- The Grants Program has been very helpful for many who, like us, are faced with limited resources. It would be highly appreciated if Pan Asia Networking will continue this Program for the benefit of developing countries, and if possible at a higher fund scale.
- I would require support for research that adds to knowledge about how ICTs can induce substantial development outcomes for the poorest people. For example, why do some applications of ICTs in rural communities lead to substantial benefits and why do some only lead to trivial benefits? What are the key issues that differentiate these instances? How can they be translated into common use?
- Time frames need to be flexible and based on the needs of the projects rather than the convenience of the administration.
- As mentioned above, more detailed explanations as to why a project is rejected can be useful in improving future proposals. Additionally, it is strongly felt that a hardcopy of a written proposal cannot truly convey the field reality and need of the project. Therefore, I encourage the Grants Program Committee to consider contacting field practitioners for a more accurate appraisal of the project's potential.
- We hope the Grants Program can give a chance for project development proposal.

Benefits of the Grants Program

My paper has won the first prize at ASIST international paper contest. This will bring broader opportunities for networking with other countries.

This section presents the benefits of the Grants Program and the funded projects to communities, organizations, and countries in Asia.

How Can ICTs Help Third World Countries

The overall response from applicants suggests that Third World countries have no option but to implement ICTs in order to advance and develop. They see information as a source for creating knowledge, which could help eliminate poverty and improve the quality of life in communities. ICTs can help different segments of society to access current information to make decisions and to become more competitive. Also, ICTs can provide citizens of Third World countries with the current and timely information to empower them to make decisions. However, ICTs must be implemented properly to help Third World countries.

- *Technology alone is insufficient to achieve development. Placing the emphasis on technology puts it in the wrong place. ICTs will not make a good development project out of a bad one, but they will make a good one better.*
- *ICTs will help Third World countries plug into the pulse of the new world order.*
- *Information is the way to empower people.*

Below is a list of the suggestions from respondents on how ICTs can help Third World Countries.

- ICT represent the powerful tool for accessing and disseminating knowledge.
- We think that ICT is the greatest contribution to a world ravaged by ethnic strives, small-scale wars, illiteracy, ignorance and opportunism. ICT should be able to make processes of governmental planning easier and better managed, and remove suspicions among the common people, stop high handedness of the petty officials, and remove a lot of bureaucratic mismanagement.
- Knowledge is the engine for poverty reduction and socio-economic development.
- I would like to take Indonesia as the example of the Third World country. Most of its citizens are farmers. Actually, they are facing problems of information access. They don't know how to get credit, what is the current market price, who are the buyers, etc. Such problems are also faced by many SMEs in Indonesia.

- Problems in health, education, human and women's rights, etc. can be solved by ICT. But to implement ICT, we have to find out the right regional technology that can be accessed by our people. They are facing the digital divide, among the rich and poor information access, computer illiterate, etc. The solution of ICT should consider these matters.
- Learning from the projects and practices of other organizations.
- Sharing research results and information via websites, e-mail, video conferencing and other methods.
- Promoting awareness and providing education by using websites, discussion groups, etc.
- ICTs can help Third World countries to access the latest information. With the openness of the virtual world, there is practically no secret about any innovation and development in any sector of life. This also means that the Third World countries can search and access any available resources to be pursued. This will help Third World countries to explore, compare, and learn from the more developed and advanced countries and then develop their own countries.
- ICTs will help in getting the needed information in time and increase their earning capacity
- ICTs are crucial to the development of Third World countries.
- One of the main areas where ICTs can help promote development in Third World countries is through establishment of community-based, community-operated, information centres.
- The new technologies will change the lives of people who often take decisions without access to information. In agriculture early access to market information will greatly enhance the growers to take the best options and adopt best practices.
- ICTs are tools relevant to information dissemination. Since most of the developing countries are not aware of the concept of sustainability, it is necessary to support them in terms of useful and timely information that can only be effectively provided through ICTs.
- The feedback mechanism of ICTs also helps development organizations, national governments and the academe to know where they can better focus their activities and resources with maximum results. The computerization of data and making it available in the Internet provides a useful resource for them to understand the conditions of developing countries, which in turn will boost the awareness of the stakeholders, the same way that it can help determine the level of appropriateness of a technology to a given setting.
- ICTs can help Third World countries to mitigate digital divide and information scarcity.
- By providing a means to provide universal access to information that could be "just" information or high quality and state of the art learning material on a continuous basis so they can keep up with development and advancements.

- By using it to build the social capital of their rural populations, and by using it to mobilize communities towards implementing their own development agendas. Introducing ICTs into development will help Third World countries promote development by revealing to them how badly they are doing it now. This will be a tough and expensive lesson and there is a risk that vast resources will be squandered on technology purchases by governments and institutions that do not understand the relationship between technology and development. There is an urgent need for Third World countries to understand the relationship between ICTs and development before they spend the vast sums of money that western corporations are urging them to do and the dissolution that will set in when they discover too late that technology of itself is insufficient for development to occur.
- ICTs are a vital component in the attempt to narrow the knowledge gap regarding development issues. ICTs assist in the timely delivery of urgent social, economic, and health messages.
- The development of ICT can help in promoting development by developing projects where higher learning institutions link with industries. The institution can provide the theoretical background work and the industry the experimental part and application.
- I have been working with rural farmers and small-medium sized industrialists in China. The information and information technology facilitating the communication is badly needed in both areas while the former makes up 70% of the country's population, and the latter has created 25% of the non-agricultural employment in the country. In addition, we also conduct the environment education for the public, enhancing their awareness and empowering them to participate in the policy making of environment protection. Information and knowledge play a very important role.
- We think ICTs have not yet able to help Third World countries promote development because most communities have no knowledge and skill in ICTs. Third World countries need development of human resources in ICTs.
- Projects will help in information dissemination and successful case studies, which can help in reducing cost and time in Third World countries.

Problem Project Is Helping To Solve/Mitigate

Respondents were asked to identify the problems the projects are helping to solve/mitigate. The Grants Program is helping projects to "bridge the digital divide" and to provide timely information to people in rural communities. The projects are increasing the awareness of local people on how they can use ICTs to improve their way of life and to promote their products more widely.

The project is helping to eliminate the distance from information sources.

Below is a list of how the projects are helping the people or regions.

- More marketing of ISPs.
- Corporate and individual Internet users.

- Lack of knowledge about working with a new, capital-intensive medium for distance training.
- Uncertainties about collaborative work among organizations with widely disparate levels of knowledge, skills, and experience in ICT.
- Need to identify the real strengths and weaknesses of ICT in training, and to separate fact from hype.
- Locally-relevant Internet resources.
- Level of demand for new e-applications.
- Bridging the digital divide in developing countries.
- Initiated the issue of digital library network in Indonesia.
- Increase the awareness of people to share knowledge and developing digital library as the supporting infrastructure.
- Many institutions and communities are now following our effort to establish the universal access to Indonesian knowledge.
- The lack of education and access to new technologies for the communities of Nang Rong.
- Poor communication and information flow to CBIRD Nang Rong Centre.
- Chemical information (ICSC) in mother language is available for chemical users.
- Help in providing the information needs support for increased revenue and adoption of latest technologies.
- Help Non-English Speakers trying to access websites or sending emails in their own languages.
- A tremendous impact to facilitate the adoption of e-Commerce in places where English is not in widespread use among the population.
- The project helped to research technologies that would enable rural women cooperatives.
- NGOs in rural areas and rural artisans to promote their products worldwide using Internet e-commerce.
- To facilitate online sales the research project utilized e-marketers to engage on site promotion and online customer support.
- Farmers are finding the information they need.
- Helping students who need learning support but cannot get the support from the resource people who live close to their residences.
- Ignorance of development opportunities.
- A web based knowledge site on Bio-medical waste management with special reference to Bangalore was considered to be an ideal way to increase awareness among the hospital staff and also help in research to derive best practices in Bio medical waste management. As the hospital staff are very busy and work without a fixed schedule, the web based system would help them access the net as required and within the hospital premises. Although the model is being developed for Bangalore, it will be easy to scale up and replicate for other potential wastes and for other cities.

How Projects Are Helping Organizations in Asia

Project personnel reported that because of the funded projects they are able to use innovative methods to conduct research and is stimulating research activities in their own organizations and other organizations. Respondents also suggested that the projects are providing the basic research skills to conduct further research in their field of expertise.

- *Innovative methods of conducting ICT research were tested.*
- *It provided a test bed for revealing the issues that need to be addressed in order to overcome the adverse effects of the digital divide.*

The following is a list of benefits to organizations reported by the funded projects respondents.

- Own team of interviewers was formed
- Methodologies for conducting ICT sphere research were studied and adopted to local environment
- All local experts experienced in ICT sphere research become affiliated with the applicant agency
- The project develop digital library servers that provide knowledge from the partners institutions in the form of theses, dissertations, research reports, proceeding, etc. These resources and facilities will help our community to conduct their research, to find out what have been invented by other people, publish research results, bridging knowledge from different communities, etc.
- More staff of CBIRD Centres are being trained to access and use national and international information networks. Thus, they are able to provide current and relevant information to local farmers.
- The project has provided resources to our staff.
- Experimenting on this new technology of providing the needed information after our focus group training at villages.
- Our applied research work has stimulated researchers in China's CNNIC to come up with their own version of the technology, the Japanese JET project, the Korean KRNIC for Korean language specialized technologies, etc. Other commercial parties are also coming up with their solutions including Netpia in Korea, NativeNames for Arabic, and Walid, including Verisign.
- The project helped our organization to further reinforce its research capacity and methodologies utilized to conduct research.
- The two-country project enabled us to extend our research activities in other areas having the same set-up as our host university, the University of the Philippines at Los Banos. This increased our exposure to regional researchers, and the usual problems/constraints confronting researchers in developing countries. These are critical inputs in planning for future projects.
- We enriched our experiences in fostering young agricultural scientists and extension staff in using ICT, as well as developing multimedia web-databases.

- The project has put our researchers in real life in promoting and persuading people who were not familiar with technology to use it for their study at UT. It was very interesting and challenging.
- It gave them experience with taking a leadership role on an externally funded project and gave nurses a legitimate voice in meeting with key Ministry personnel and Municipal authorities re distance education issues.
- The project has formed a reference for undertaking research of similar nature with minor variations.
- EDDA course online is currently being revised by SFU after its first implementation at IRRI. It will be available as an IRRI course online in 2002. The Scientific Writing and Presentation Skills course (on CD) was used in the Training of Trainers' Course for NARES Partners, a face-to-face course conducted at IRRI November-December 2001 and also will be available as an online IRRI course in 2002. Through linkages established with SFU, IRRI subsequently contracted the university to train 5 staff of the IRRI Training Center on online course development in 2001. Collaborative activities are being planned with some NARIs who had signified interest earlier.

Networking Opportunities Because Of Project

When asked about what networking opportunities are occurring with other researchers in the organization, community, or country as a result of the project, respondents provided a wide range of examples of networking that are being conducted. There are local, national, and international collaborations. Other research projects were launched with other partners and more organizations are interested in joining the projects. Some projects are looking into developing partnerships with industries, other institutions, and local communities. One project had a global impact by organizing international conferences with other partners.

- *We are discussing the development of an Indonesia-Malaysia digital library network.*
- *We are preparing a manuscript for publication*

The following is a list of networking activities reported by questionnaire respondents.

- As a result of project implementation, several research projects were launched together with local partners.
- Many organizations are now interested to join us. Now, more than 25 institutions have share their knowledge in IndonesiaDLN, and more than 50 institutions are now registered as the partner of IndonesiaDLN. We are now developing networks for other purposes using our technology and network, such as Small Medium Enterprise (funded by YLTI), Human Rights networking (in corporation with YLBHI and Simon Fraser University, Canada), Heritage network, etc.
- Improved communication with important contacts with KMUTT consultants, IRRI, the University of North Carolina and Mahidol University.

- Many agencies specialized on IT in Hanoi now have very good relationship with the project staff in terms of knowledge and information exchange as well as cooperation to solve the same problems.
- We are trying to develop partners from the industries, institutions, village administrations, web page developers, and the community of three villages. The pilot project implementation is being watched for its success. Results will depend on our successful implementation.
- We have had a global impact with this research project. An average of one international meeting/conference per month has been organized during the period of the project either independently or in collaboration with other partners.
- We managed to call on several agricultural research institutions in the area and met some very relevant institutions to collaborate in future endeavors of the Agro-industrial Development Program. The Pan-Asia Network is a very good link-up.
- We had opportunities to participate in some international conferences such as APRICOT 2000, AFITA 2000 and APAN Penang meeting, so we got the opportunity to make more friends both in agriculture and ICT. Potentially, we will have opportunities in establishing cooperation with other organization in China and overseas.
- The PanAsia Telecentre Learning and Evaluation Group (PANTLEG) that was formed with similar projects in the region was instrumental in accelerating the learning that took place.
- We have established a steering committee comprising of the hospitals in Bangalore, doctors, policy makers, technologists, etc. for providing feedback to make the project more user friendly and enhancing its effectiveness and reach.

Skills and Expertise Gained From Project

- *Dealing with people who could be techno phobia.*
- *How to interact and negotiate with regional, national, and international organizations.*

Project personnel gained extensive knowledge and skills as a result of working on projects. They gained skills in finding information on the internet and how to conduct research. In some projects, personnel learned how to develop applications and specific skills on computer software. In the process of managing the projects, personnel learned project management skills and how to interact with other researchers locally, nationally, and internationally. They also developed business skills such as marketing, E-commerce, and promotion of products; and they learned how to communicate using technology.

Below is the list of skills gained from the projects.

- The complete range of research-relevant skills
- How to develop a networking-based application
- ICT skills, including determination of value of ICT material
- ICT-based task analysis and organization skills

- Team work
- Inter-organizational collaboration
- How to develop standard of metadata and protocol
- Implementing the output-oriented activity prompted the team to learn new skills in ICT as well as networking, teamwork, and organization to satisfy the skills complement that the medium required. Also, through the project, the team gained experience in collaborative work with other organizations that has made them more discerning and realistic in their expectations.
- How to establish a community from the bottom and approach the institutions.
- Internet research
- General computer and software skills (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Presentation technologies including digital photographs and scanning
- Website development
- Communication by email
- Training local teachers and community members
- Professional translation
- Database development
- Project management
- Research skills
- How to create a global movement
- How to be involved globally with international organizations such as MINC, ICANN, ITU, and WIPO etc.
- How to interact and negotiate with regional organizations such as the AP organizations APNG, APTLD, APRICOT etc. as well as the national organizations such as the national NICs.
- E-marketing (website promotion, e-mail communications, online customer service, etc.)
- E-commerce, with special emphasis on promotion of products made by women cooperatives and rural NGOs
- Allowed us to keep in touch with our regional partners
- Provided us a better understanding of research inadequacies and limitations in transitional economies.
- Provided us with a venue to promote our program objectives to other relevant institutions in the area.
- Multimedia technology
- Internet technology
- MS SQL Server programming
- Adding services through the internet that no Indonesians have ever tried before.
- The community processes that foster or inhibit community-based ICT initiatives. The discovery that these processes are fundamental to achieving positive development outcomes.
- The project has been an eye opener by providing an insight into the management of hospitals and the problems faced at the grass root level.

Grants Program Funding as Seed or Catalyst for Related Activities

It sensitized the government to the opportunities for rural ICTs.

Almost all (90%) of the respondents who were funded mentioned that the funding received from the Grants Program acted as seed funding or as a catalyst for related activities, which could not have happened without this preliminary support. Some of the activities that resulted from the funding include: attracting local research specialists to project implementation, establishment of partnership ties with local and regional research agencies, improvement of existing computer facilities, the creation of an international Internet names Consortium, extending e-commerce site, strengthen the linkage with academe, and the project was launched in other regions.

The funded projects respondents mentioned that following related activities because of the Grants Program project.

- The outcome of the project actually is more than what I expected at the first time. Initially, we only want to establish digital library network only for research reports, theses, and dissertations. When we launched the software, people from non-research and education institutions wanted to join the network. With a good design of the network, now we can plan to develop another sub-networks within IndonesiaDLN, for example sub-network of agriculture, heritage, distance learning, human rights, and bibliographic.
- The project funding is the key factor to take up such an innovative project where the actual need of the stakeholders at villages can be understood and provide the required information in appropriate methods.
- IRRI does not have core funds for collaborative or distance training; the latter has been funded by requesting countries or projects. The IDRC grant enabled IRRI to initiate activities for developing its distance training capability using ICT, in collaboration with a NARI. Consequently, interest in this venture built up, resulting in other organization initiatives such as the Think Tank Workshop on Distance Learning in mid-1999, the subsequent development of TropRice and other Web-based learning materials, further training of Training Center staff on ICT, and recently a project to develop a database of reusable learning objects called the Knowledge Bank.
- The funding has allowed us to create an unprecedented global interest in the issues surrounding the needs of people who do not speak English as a native language or even second language, but who want to get online, in particular, with regard to multilingual domain names.

- It has led to the formation of an international organization called the Multilingual Internet Names Consortium MINC, comprising members from industry, government, academia, investors, regulatory bodies, etc. It has already generated a lot of interest and activity in the Internet Engineering Task Force IETF, which has formed the IDN Working Group. It has also helped the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to set up an IDN Committee to look into this problem, and in its wake, help the Arabic Internet Names Consortium (AINC) and the International Forum for IT in Tamil (INFITT) get started on Arabic and Tamil Internet names respectively. In recognition of Pan Asia Networking and IDRC, MINC has conferred the special status of "Honorary Founding Organization" to the IDRC. Without this support, we would not have created out of a regional project, a global movement to transform and reform the way the Internet operates that provides a more level playing field for non-English speakers worldwide.
- The funding from the Grants Program enabled us to extend our e-commerce site and research into e-marketing. By incorporating the research from the e-marketing project, the e-commerce site was able to mobilize sales for the NGOs and artisans who had displayed their products on the site.
- The project strengthened the linkage of SEARCA with the academe in Lao PDR and Vietnam, which is highly relevant in our capability building thrust for the regional database development SEARCA is doing. However, because our knowledge management network took an unexpected change in their operations, developing the regional database was set aside for the meantime.
- I noted this project name as developing a "pilot network" of Internet content service to farmers in profitable and sustainable agriculture. Now in some regions other than Beijing similar projects have launched, for example, in Xinjiang Province, and I am still looking for funds to develop the "pilot network" to a more effective and extensive network.

Other Agency or Organization Contribute to Project

When asked whether other agency or organization contributed to the project, 70 percent of respondents who were funded said Yes while 30 percent said No. The contributions took the form of funding, supplying experts or providing resources to the project. Contributions were provided by the following organizations.

1. Local NGO E-Development Foundation
2. Yayasan Litbang Telekomunikasi dan Informatika (YLTI) or Indonesian foundation for telecommunication
3. AI3-ITB (Asian Internet Interconnection Initiatives)
4. McGill University (Canada)
5. Government of Tamil Nadu, India
6. Ministry of Religion Affair of Indonesia
7. Asia Pacific Networking Group (APNG)
8. National University of Singapore
9. Beijing Bureau of Agriculture

10. China Agricultural University
11. Malaysian Government
12. Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

Respondents reported the following additional contributions from other organizations.

- Two experts from the local NGO E-Development Foundation participated in project implementation as volunteers and rendered assistance in terms of fieldwork instruments development, data analysis and report preparation.
- Yayasan Litbang Telekomunikasi dan Informatika (YLTI) or Indonesian foundation for telecommunication and information provided financial funding.
- AI3-ITB (Asian Internet Interconnection Initiatives) provided internet connection. ITB Central Library provided room, electricity, and some computers for our workshop.
- McGill University (Canada) and Ministry of Religion Affair of Indonesia gave financial support to the 14 IAIN (Islamic institutions) to implement digital library using our tools.
- Grants from the Government of Tamil Nadu, India through Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai
- The Asia Pacific Networking Group (APNG) contributed in kind together with the National University of Singapore in providing major facilities and resources to sustain the project.
- We have our project collaborators whom we have worked with in previous projects from the University of Guelph.
- Also, we have the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry of the National University of Lao PDR and the National University of Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh who served as our counterparts in the region. Our very own office, SEARCA, provided for technical and administrative support (man-hours).
- We received matching funds (about RMB300,000) from Beijing Bureau of Agriculture and the China Agricultural University.
- The Bureau of Finance and General Administration that provided funding that was not covered in the grant.
- The Malaysian Government provided some additional support.
- We are contacting the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, a Statutory and Regulatory body of the Government of Karnataka for support for facilitation and maintenance of the website.
- Simon Fraser University—was contracted to develop the online course on Experimental Design and Data Analysis, based on an IRRI face-to-face course on the same subject. Commonwealth of Learning—acted as consultant on ICT and distance learning. Directorate of Rice Research, India—pledged to be IRRI's NARS partner in the conduct of online courses on rice science (Hybrid Rice, Experimental Design and Data Analysis, Scientific Writing and Presentation) using IRRI-developed materials; collaborated in the successful conduct of the course for facilitators of the Scientific Writing and Presentation Skills Course Online.

The Grants Program Administration

A Committee was established to oversee the Grants Program. The committee is responsible to set grant guidelines, establish standards and criteria, and to select successful proposals. The committee meets twice a year to assess proposals and award grants. The committee consists of experts from the ICT field, representatives from the funding agency, and key individuals from other sectors to provide valuable input to the Grants Program. Committee members have experience in applied research, regional problems, networking applications, policy and technology, and research and development methodologies. The Grants Program has been administered since 1997 by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS). The Vice-president and Director General of CCOHS is a member of the Committee.

The following sections summarize the committee feedback on the Grants Program.

Committee Members Contribution to the Grants Program

Committee members indicated that they play an important role on the committee and they contribute to the committee in a variety of ways. Below is a list of the contributions made by committee members.

- Programme administration at CCOHS
- Organization of meetings
- Made arrangements for publicizing the programme and its website through CCOHS' web services worldwide
- Facilitated discussions on project review, evaluation, and selection for funding
- Provided guidelines for accepting proposals
- Suggested that criteria for evaluation be refined in terms of the objectives of the Grants Program
- Chaired meetings
- Project proposal evaluation
- Initiated the Grants Program concept
- Assisted in formulating the original PAN programme documentation which incorporated R&D grants as a key component

Reaction to How Well the Grants Program is Working

Committee members indicated that overall, the Grants Program is working well despite the stretched manpower resources to oversee the program. The Grants Program is a successful program in that it has been able to attract a new donor partner, and another donor partner has expressed serious interest in joining the Program. Also, the program has helped support some innovations in ICTs for development. In terms of impact of the Grants Program, one member mentioned that the funding level of the program is not adequate to

make a significant impact in Asia. Also, the current IDRC corporate process is tracking the Grants Program as one project rather than many individuals projects. As a result, the individual projects get lost in IDRC's corporate analysis and central computing records, and are not reflecting the amount of transactional effort of IDRC Program Officers. However, IDRC's Pan Asia Networking team members are tracking every project closely.

There is mutual respect and honest exchange of views and ideas between committee members at the meetings. The program has evolved and improved; however, there are some minor problems that were mentioned. There was a suggestion that the program will have a greater impact if it is administered in Asia. There were opposing views on the make up of the Grants Program committee. One respondent mentioned that the current Grants Program committee is currently made up of people from diverse fields or areas of interest and they have not always understood or appreciated what Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is all about. The opposing view is that the multidisciplinary perspective arising from the diverse expertise/experience of the Committee members enrich the discussions and contribute to a broad appreciation of the various dimensions of the proposals. Also, members with strong technical background share their expertise with the policy-oriented members and visa versa, which makes the evaluation balanced and objective. Committee members indicated that being on the committee is a good learning experience. There are some frustrations in getting potential applicants to understand that the grants program involves action-oriented research and not support for designing and implementing information and other services. Also, some proposals do not include all information to allow for proper evaluation of the proposal.

Most Satisfying Elements of the Program According to the Committee

Committee members indicated many satisfying elements of the Grants Program. These include:

- A number of projects that have accomplished their objectives, or are in the process of satisfactory completion.
- There is the impression that even in a small way the programme is contributing to the progress of useful research findings in the Asian region.
- Locally based and practically oriented nature of the successful proposals, which (when completed) will help to build up local networking capabilities and expertise, and indirectly lead to advances in knowledge and improvements to the standard of living.
- A few projects have developed effective and novel efforts that have transformed ICT work in Asian developing settings.
- The support for a number of high-quality and important projects, and its encouragement and support of small independent research initiatives based in the Asia-Pacific region.

Least Satisfying Elements of the Program According to the Committee

Committee members mentioned that the least satisfying elements of the Grants Program are: (1) The inability to attract quality proposals and proposals that meet the objectives of the Grants Program. This inability could be due to lack of expertise in Asia to conduct research or inaccurate communication on the intent of the Grants Program. The intent of the Grants Program should be made clear and the information should be targeted to organizations or communities that are capable of conducting quality ICT research. Some proposals were submitted for the acquisition of equipment and data gathering rather than applied research and innovative ICT developments. (2) The impact from the high cost and the large amount of time and effort contributed by the members of the Committee is not large enough. However, the reality is that the Program's current level of funding is unable to support any substantially increased amount of quality proposals.

Compensation for Committee Members

There were mixed responses regarding the payment of honorarium to committee members. Some committee members suggested that honorarium should be paid to attract qualified members who are busy and for recognition of their contributions. Others mentioned that honorarium should be optional and that sitting on the Grants Program committee is an honor. Also, there should be a term retainer, rather than a honorarium for attending meetings. The term retainer will indicate to Committee members that the work, responsibility and accountability do not end at the proposal review meetings. Involvement on the Grants Program committee is an ongoing process.

Committee Members Contribution to the Grants Program

The majority of committee members felt that they have provided substantial input into the design of the Grants Program. One member joined the committee late and as a result, did not provide substantial input. Also, members indicated that they had equal input into the selection of proposals and they were careful not to impose their personal views on the selection of proposals.

Role of ICTs to Help Third World Countries Promote Development

Committee members suggested that ICTs can help Third World countries in many ways. There is the feeling that it is no longer a choice for developing countries to make; they either go the ICT way or not survive.

We are concerned about equal access, rights, and opportunities to ICT within each country, and we don't think that ICT is only for economy. ICTs should serve for the holistic human development, for arts and culture, for intellectual development, and for community well being.

According to committee members, some ways ICTs can help Third World countries include:

- The global knowledge base in any field is now on the WWW and information communication is central to achieving goals in every area of human endeavour. Information communication systems and networking are an integral component of today's development work. ICTs represent the best opportunity for developing countries to reach a level of parity with the rest of the world.
- ICTs allow instant access to world knowledge and sharing of one's own information for application in whatever area one happens to be working in.
- By facilitating the ease and quality of communication and the dissemination and sharing of information, which is crucial to progress and development in many fields.
- Developing countries need markets and the markets have already gone into the ICT way either as information economies or using ICTs to transact. If developing countries do not transact the ICT way, they no longer have the markets. ICTs offer new opportunities to create new forms of employment for jobless people in developing countries, even in rural economies. You could be a very closed economy but you will always be a developing country.
- ICTs in general, and the Internet in particular, are now a fundamental infrastructure of developed countries, precisely because they are decentralized, open and accessible, and highly efficient in providing a general purpose information and communications medium to all who use them. Developing countries have both an imperative and an opportunity to participate in the "ICT revolution:" not only to participate in new and emerging technologies, but to implement standard infrastructures, which may be lacking in such countries, much more efficiently than otherwise.

- The success of the Internet has been due to its basis in open and non-proprietary technologies and standards: anyone who wishes to do so can use the Internet at a reasonable cost, without the payment of royalty or license fees. Even more importantly, anyone who wishes to do so can also develop a new technology, protocol or application for the Internet, and make it available to a global market, again without the restrictions of licensing or other anti-competitive factors. There is now a level playing field where all countries can become owners and producers of technologies and research results with world-wide application. It is however critical to encourage developing countries to participate as producers and not merely consumers of this technology.

Use of Themes for Proposals

There were mixed reactions to the suggestion for the use of specific themes for proposals. Some committee members mentioned that each country's need is different and if specific themes are used then some countries needs may not be met. Other committee members suggested that themes will be better for selection of quality proposals and efficient administration of the program. Some members suggested that the Grants Program alternate between a "themes" round and a "general" round.

The real needs in any country in the Asian region are germane to that country and are also time-dependent. If the programme is to serve the real needs it has to be responsive to the proposals coming from the countries.

Below is a list of the actual responses from committee members, which gives the essence of the responses.

- To determine a theme or themes centrally by the committee, or any other body for that matter, would be influencing people to submit proposals to meet the specifications of the committee rather than to come forward with those that are addressing their own needs.
- This is not a very large grant scheme so, therefore, I do indeed feel it would be nice to focus on one or two themes each year or each round; this way one can have a number of teams in different parts of Asia working on projects in a particular area or theme, thereby permitting a problem area or issue to be looked at from a number of different perspectives
- The 'theme' idea has two potential advantages: (i) stimulates interest in a specific field (which may be neglected, or has great potential for further development); (ii) makes it easier for the committee to compare proposals and select the best ones (comparing like with like).

- The all-ICT approach serves IDRC's programming needs very well. IDRC has chosen to work on the basis of a free flow of ICT ideas from the region, for the purpose of being wholly responsive to problems from the field, and having an alternative approach to the regular route project grants that IDRC also makes with a much larger budget, which must conform more rigidly with IDRC's Prospectus agenda. The all-ICTs approach enables us from demand emanating from the field, to discern patterns and trends in the quickly evolving ICT needs of the region, for our planning purposes.
- A more restrictive policy may be imposed in future if the number of proposals received becomes too large, however I would be reluctant to ever create a situation where good proposals on a theme of interest to the programme were rejected in favour of poorer proposals on the specific theme of the current funding round.

"Applied Research" vs. "Development" Proposals

There were opposing views whether proposals should be "applied research" vs. "developmental" in nature. Some committee members suggested that proposals, which will have the greatest impact, should be accepted regardless of whether it is "applied research" or "developmental". There was a suggestion that both "applied research" and "developmental" projects should be funded; however, preference should be given to applied research. Others suggested that the emphasis should be on applied research.

Development work always requires innovation with respect to specifics of location, institutional setting, policies, and other socio-economic and cultural factors. Distinctions between applied research and development may be more apparent than real.

Below are the actual responses from committee members on "applied research" vs. "developmental".

- If the objective of the programme is to help countries in their development, then we need to be able to accommodate proposals that are development-based. On the other hand, if the thrust of the programme is to help people come up with new ideas and methodologies for research then the applied research approach may be more appropriate. However, these two can overlap and most proposals may have a combination of both. Depending on the countries or regions the interpretation of these terms also may be particular.
- Higher priority from the above point of view, yes, but that should not be the sole criterion for preferring one proposal over another. Another important criterion is the benefit the project will bring to the lives of the people. Thus, a 'development' type project that will significantly help combat disease, or poverty, or raise the standard of education etc., should be weighed in that respect against an 'applied research' project which benefits only a small number of people in a less crucial way. Other things being more or less equal, preference should of course be given to an applied research project.
- What is "applied research" or "innovative applications" in a developed country is very different from a developing country. For example in Bangladesh, our project was thrilled to have developed and successfully launched two weeks ago, an Internet online union library catalogue, the first in the country. But this technology is about several years old in the developed world.
- I think the Committee must be prepared to accept that a high applied research expectation may result in an imbalance in the project grants going to the more developed countries rather than the least developing countries of Asia.
- I am not sure that I understand the difference, which is presented above, however I do support the emphasis on "applied research" for this programme, which to me implies experimentation, empirical research outcomes, action-oriented research etc.

Projects to be Highlighted

Selected projects will be highlighted and the information included in brochures and documents to promote and showcase the Grants Program. Committee members suggested the following criteria should be used to identify projects to be highlighted.

- The outcome of the project and whether it is having a significant impact.
- Projects that were given recognitions or awards.
- Projects that have achieved their objectives and were completed on time.
- The nature of the innovation and the new ideas generated by the project.
- Project is sustained and on-going after the funding ends.
- A large community of users is participating in the project activity.
- Project goes on to do new and creative things.
- Project is adopted and integrated into a larger system.

Committee members suggested that the following projects be highlighted in documentations to promote the Grants Program. The number in bracket indicates the frequency of response from the committee members.

- Internationalised Domain Names System (iDNS) for Asian Countries (Singapore) (98-0006/982.3.3) (4)
- Internet Access by Remote Communities in Sarawak: The Smart School as a Demonstrator Application (Malaysia) (98-0006/982.3.2) (3)
- Establishing Remote Area Networking through Wireless Radio Modems (India) (97-8004-03) (3)
- National Networked Digital Library (Indonesia) (001.1.2) (2)
- Standardization of the Nepali Font and Implementation of the Standard in Computers (Nepal) (97-8004-07) (1)
- Utilization of Fax Internet Integration Technology for Distance Teaching Support, (Indonesia) (1)
- Formulation of Information & Telecommunication Policy and Strategy (Nepal) (1)
- Beijing FarmKnow (China) (1)
- Application for Distance Learning Technologies for Human Capital Development in NARs (Philippines) (1)

Suggestions for Changes to the Grants Program Process

Use more other e-discussion and mailing lists to announce the program and disseminate research results.

Committee members provided many suggestions for changes to the Grants Program. The projects should be monitored more effectively and committee members should be kept up-to-date on the status of projects between meetings. The Grants Program should be publicize more and the program should be administered in Asia to obtain more funding from other sources in Asia. The proposals should be screened thoroughly before they are sent to the committee. This procedure will make the selection process for funded projects more efficient. The project evaluation system should be more consistent to make sure the right projects are funded.

Committee members suggested the following changes to the Grants Program.

- The programme needs to find more effective ways of gathering information regarding the outcomes of projects carried out under the programme.
- The programme needs to find more effective ways of promoting itself and its impact, as well as generating more proposals that are within its defined scope and criteria.
- Should find ways to increase the funding base to be able to expand its support and influence
- The administration of the program should be located in Asia.
- No agency, including the donor, should have more then one formal appointed committee member
- Bring on board more donors; focus on themes; ensure that the party administering the program is a genuine, substantial partner who has a stake in the entire exercise
- Bring out a yearly pamphlet (4-8 pages, glossy) highlighting the most successful projects and the difference that they have made for end-users
- The proposals should be screened before passing on to the committee. I am not referring to screening for quality, but simply for eligibility – some proposals are so obviously unsuitable because they fail to meet the program's essential criteria or requirements, that they should be eliminated outright. Proper screening of proposals would save the committee time, and allow them to focus their attention better on the ones which merit consideration.
- Change the composition of the committee to reflect greater participation by individuals with in-depth knowledge of the field of applied research and development applications of ICT4D.
- Develop a marketing strategy focused on: i) the development of good proposals by weaker capacity digital pioneers already known to PAN and APDIP, ii) new partners and iii) applications specific to that year's theme.

- Develop a networking strategy (alumnus activities, participation by award winners in other digital pioneer meetings in the region, repeat grants, and so on) that complements and extends new Committee member's own networks and that reflects the new marketing and thematic directions.
- A large marketing component should be attached to the Project for funding on an ongoing basis. This could include promotion of the program, documentation and publication of the program and project research results, and sharing experiences through a regularly scheduled annual conferences.
- I would like to see regular reports by programme administrators to committee members of the status of all grants, which are in progress. This would serve to remind committee members of the activities of the programme, which are easy to forget between meetings.
- I would like to see a more detailed evaluation system implemented and documented, so that the committee may have a more consistent and satisfying selection process. I feel that some inconsistent decisions have been made in the past, due to the lack of a systematic evaluation system, and particularly due to differing interpretations of selections criteria.

Committee Members Comments on the Grants Program

Committee members suggested that the Grants Program will have a greater impact if proposals that conduct applied research are funded. Development projects should be funded through other grants. Also, the Grants Program should work with other grant sources to coordinated the funding of ICT research in Asia.

The program has achieve a lot with very little money; if at all possible, it should be expanded to bring on board other sponsors

There following additional comments were provided by committee members.

- The programme provides an opportunity to developing country researchers and others who do not have very many opportunities to access the small amounts of funds that are available from a scheme such as this; it brings selected institutions and researchers to network with a much larger community of players that become accessible to them because of the partnership with IDRC and others involved in the scheme.
- IDRC should concentrate on supporting project ideas with the more innovative and experimental elements – more applied research – leaving the building and development work to be supported via our regular route projects
- IDRC should open many new institutional partners for us, extending our network beyond our capabilities to identify contacts by our normal means of Program Officer contacts;

- IDRC should allow regional and Canadian expert voices into decision-making on project grant awards; and enable us from demand emanating from the field, to discern patterns and trends in the quickly evolving ICT needs of the region.
- These new ideas have led to the decision to install the grants competition as an alternative mechanism to our conventional method of supporting grants through regular project development. As far as we know this is the only Asia-wide project grants competition program in operation. The other program is the World Bank's INFODEV which operates an ICT project grants competition at the global level

Conclusion

The Grants Program has been in operation just over four years. During this time it has funded 25 ICT projects, which are having an impact in Asia. Project personnel have acquired research and project related skills and the projects have impacted local communities and regions. In order to have a greater impact in Asia, the Grants Program needs to attract high quality proposals that test innovative ideas to reach a broader audience; however, additional funding must be acquired to attract high quality projects. The Grants Program needs to partner with other regional funding agencies to provide the additional funds for projects and to help promote the program.

The application and project selection processes must be re-designed to make sure that high impact proposals are selected in a timely manner. Incomplete proposals and proposals that are not submitted on time should be rejected before the review process is started. This requires that enough lead time be given to potential applicants to prepare proposals and the guidelines for submitting proposals must be specific and clear to follow. The proposal guidelines should include ethical guidelines that projects must follow when working with human subjects.

An Expert Review Committee (ERC) should be set up to review the proposals and then forwarded to the Grants Program committee for approval of the top proposals. Using the ERC is highly recommended since the experts in ICT will be able to judge the impact of the project, the feasibility of the project, and if ethical guidelines are followed when using human subjects. The ERC will also be able to provide specific feedback to rejected proposals so that they can improve for future proposals.

The projects that are funded by the Grants Program are producing ideas, techniques, results, and courses that must be shared with other projects and researchers in Asia. This will prevent duplication and will prevent people from making the same mistakes. The Grants Program website should be revised to facilitate the sharing of the information between projects and countries. The Grants Program portal should include features (online chat, computer conferencing, etc.) that allow for interaction between grant recipients, the public, and other researchers.

Are IDRC Objectives being Met by the Grants Program

This section examines the objectives of IDRC to determine whether the objectives are being met based on the feedback from funded projects and the Grants Program committee members.

IDRC Objective 1

- To assist scientists in developing countries to identify sustainable long-term, practical solutions to pressing development problems.

This objective is partially being met since some projects are conducting applied research to make sure that there are sustainable long-term, practical solutions to provide the timely and current information to rural communities and regions.

IDRC Objective 2

- To mobilize and strengthen the research capacity of developing countries, particularly capacity for policies and technologies that promote healthier and more prosperous societies, food security, biodiversity, and access to information.

This objective is being met since some projects are conducting research to improve access to information so that citizens of developing countries can improve processes, become more competitive, and sell their products. Projects are also facilitating healthier societies by providing health and personal development information.

IDRC Objective 3

- To develop links among developing-country researchers, and provide them access to the results of research around the globe, in particular through developing and strengthening the electronic networking capacity of institutions in developing countries that receive IDRC funding.

This objective is being met since there are indications that links among researchers are being formed. Again, because some projects have just been completed and some are ongoing, it is too early to make a genuine judgment on this objective.

IDRC Objective 4

- To ensure that the products from the activities it supports are used by communities in the developing world, and that existing research capacity is used effectively to solve development problems.

It appears that this objective is partially being met. The Grants Program must develop a strategy to share the tools, ideas, techniques, products, and results with other communities.

Are the PANAsia RnD Grants Program Objectives Being Met?

This section examines the objectives of the PANAsia RnD Grants Program to determine whether the objectives are being met based on the feedback from funded projects and the Grants Program committee members.

Objective 1

- Supports applied research in Information and Communication Technology conducted by Asian developing nations.

This objective is being partially met since some of the funded projects are "developmental" in nature.

Objective 2

- Provides opportunities to develop country personnel to learn to use emergent Internet-based technologies through hands-on experimentation, networking and training.

It appears that this objective is being met since most of the funded projects are using ICTs and project personnel are obtaining experience and being trained while working on the projects.

Objective 3

- Develops a critical mass of change agents to help integrate technology into the processes, systems, and structures of R&D agencies in the region.

There is no evidence that this objective is being met. Since some projects have just been completed and some are in the process of being completed, it may be too early to make a judgment on this objective.

Objective 4

- To encourage developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region to innovate solutions for defined and specific developmental problems in Asia through applied research in the field of ICTs.

This objective is partially being met. Not all countries in the Asia-Pacific region are submitting proposals and there is a disproportionate number of proposals and funded projects between countries.

Objective 5

- To promote an active research and development environment for information and communication technology applications, systems, and policy research in the Asia Pacific region.

This objective appears to have been met since the funded projects have gained considerable research skills and some of the funded projects have continued with other projects or have applied for additional funding to continue research in the ICT area.

Based on feedback from funded projects and from committee members, the Grants Program has had a considerable impact on the Asia-Pacific region. However, the Grants Program can be improved to meet the objectives of the program. The following recommendations are provided to help improve the Grants Program to meet the program objectives and the needs of the Asia-Pacific region.

Recommendations

The Grants Program

1. The name of the Grants Program (PANAsia Research and Development) is encouraging potential applicants to submit proposals that are not innovative research. The name of the Grants Program should be changed to PANAsia Innovative Research in ICT (PANAsia IRICT) or something similar to send the correct message to potential applicants.
2. The text of the Grants Program should be reviewed to ensure that it is sending the message that although this is a program that encourages innovation and research, it is a program that is oriented towards research that serves the needs and benefits of disadvantaged communities.
3. The Grants Program should re-examine its objectives to determine if they are still valid in light of the feedback from grant applicants and committee members.
4. There should be a "themes" round and a "general" round each year. The themes should be based on the most frequent themes suggested by applicants and committee members. These include distance learning, health, agriculture, small and medium scale enterprises, rural development, environmental monitoring, and ICT policy.
5. The Grants Program should give priority to "applied research" proposals. Developmental proposals should be funded only if they will have a major impact on the community for example, pilot projects that have the potential for up scaling. The term "applied research" should be clearly defined in the proposal guidelines.
6. Projects that support research on the use of wireless communication should be encouraged. This will prevent rural areas from having to build expensive communication infrastructure and pathways.
7. The Grants Program should partner with funding agencies that have ICT programs in the Asia Pacific region to increase the pool of funds for ICT research in Asia. This will allow more projects to be funded and to increase the funding ceiling for some projects.
8. To receive more high quality innovative ICT research proposals, concurrently with the grants competition, the program should consider training and educational programs to strengthen the research ability and research methodology of developing country ICT practitioners.
9. Five percent of the project budget should be allocated for sharing ideas, tools, techniques, and results of the project.
10. The Copyright and Intellectual Rights policies of materials generated from project funds should be re-examined and communicated to potential applicants.

Committee

1. A voluntary Expert Review Committee (ERC) should be established to review and pre-screen the proposals. The ERC should consist of expert researchers in the ICT field. The general committee should oversee the ERC committee and should make the final decision on which proposals are funded.
2. The Grants Program committee should be made up of people with diverse experience to help meet the overall goals of the Grants Program. There should be a representative from the different stakeholders.
3. As mentioned in a previous recommendation, an Expert Review Committee should be formed to evaluate proposals. The accepted proposals are then submitted to the committee for approval based on the amount of funding available. This will give the committee enough time to approve the selected proposals and discuss other items in the two-day session.
4. A virtual meeting should be scheduled once per year to minimize travel and to allow members to experience the communication technology. This will allow the committee to "walk the talk" and to become proficient at virtual meetings. One committee member should be a trained virtual meeting moderator and committee members must commit to participate in the virtual meeting. This will be feasible if an ERC is set up to evaluate and rank proposals.
5. The meeting honorarium should be replaced with a term retainer, which should be optional. It is up to the committee member to decide whether he or she wants the term retainer. The term retainer will indicate to committee members that the contribution does not end after the meeting, but it is ongoing.

The Application Process

1. Approximately 50 percent of proposals do not meet the proposal guidelines. The guidelines should be very specific to make sure that potential applicants submit proposals within the guidelines. If the required information is not included in a proposal, it should be rejected based on lack of information.
2. Late proposals for a round should not be accepted. Submission of proposals on time is a good indicator of the time management skills of the applicants.
3. The reasons for rejection should be sent to unsuccessful applicants since this could be a learning experience for future proposals. This would be possible if the selection process involves a voluntary Expert Review Committee as recommended in this report.
4. To minimize project delay during implementation, the proposal guidelines should ask the applicants to list problems they foresee during project implementation and how they plan to deal with the problems. In this way, potential problems can be identified in advance and planned for before implementation of the project.

5. The application guidelines should include ethical guidelines for the treatment of subjects during research. The Grants Program could followed existing and well established ethical policy, such as the Tri-Council Policies for the treatment of Human Subjects that are being used in Canada. The proposals must include strategies on how they will make sure human subjects are treated ethically. Proposals that do not follow proper ethical policies should be rejected. As mentioned in another recommendation, the establishment of an Expert Review Committee will have the expertise to evaluate proper ethical procedures in proposals.
6. The "other criteria" in the proposal guidelines should be made more specific.

Project Monitoring

1. Progress reports should still be used to monitor projects. Also, on-site visits and presentations by project personnel at committee meetings should be continued.
2. Keep committee members informed about projects by providing regular reports on the status of projects between meetings. At the same time, committee members should show interest in the project reports by providing comments and suggestions, advising, and sharing insights with the Secretariat. This information should be relayed to the project leaders.
3. Based on the comments by committee members and significant benefits to the projects, it is recommended that committee members volunteer to monitor one or more projects that are approved in each round. On-site visit of projects is a good way for committee members to understand the projects that they select for funding, to be accountable for their selection, and to learn from their mistakes or to affirm their selections. The projects can be assigned based on proximity, interest, and convenience. Committee members visiting projects is a good public relations strategy and could act as a motivator for project completion. Also, if a committee member is on business in a country that has projects, a short time should be spent visiting one or more projects. The appropriate fee should be provided to cover the expenses to visit the project.
4. One-year projects should have two reports. A progress report after six-month and a final report at the end of the projects. Two-year projects should have four reports. Three progress reports after every six month and a final report.
5. To improve the quality of reports there should be details on how to prepare the reports on the Grants Program website. Also, high quality sample reports should be provided as examples.
6. The deadline for submission of project final report should be one month after the scheduled completion date of the project.

Promotion of the Grants Program

1. Sponsor or co-sponsor a conference or symposium for funded projects to present their results and to attract potential applicants. The conference or symposium should be planned on a cost-recovery basis.
2. The RnD Grants website should be redesigned into a multimedia site with images, audio, and video. The website should be an exemplar website to model the design of a good website. The present website is text-based only and "cold".

Funding Agency

1. The funding agency should track each project individually to make sure the importance and impact of each project is not lost.

Sharing of Project Ideas, Techniques, and Results

1. The ideas and products generated from projects, the techniques used in projects, and the results should be shared throughout Asia to prevent duplication and other researchers from making the same mistakes. For example, the Scientific Writing and Presentation Skills course and other courses developed by IRRI should be made available to other communities and countries once they have gone through formative evaluation and a first implementation. The PanAsia website should provide details on the projects and should host a computer conference or online chat for each project. The project leader should be the moderator for the online session.

Appendix 1: Questionnaires

Grants Program Evaluation

Committee Questionnaire

Please complete the following questionnaire to provide information on the process and value of the Grants Program. Please fax, e-mail, or mail the completed questionnaire to the following fax number, e-mail, or address below. Please complete and return within 7 days.

Phyllis Lim
International Development Research Centre
Regional Office for South East and East Asia
Tanglin, P.O. Box 101
Singapore, 912404
Tel: 65-235 1344
Fax: 65-235 1849
E-mail: plim@idrc.org.sg

Name:

E-mail:

1. How long have you served on the Grants Program committee?

2. How have you personally contributed to the Grants Program?

3. How well do you think the Grants Program is working? What are the most satisfying elements of the program? What are the least satisfying elements of the program?

4. Do you feel that committee members should be involved in project monitoring?

5. Are progress reports a good way for committee members to monitor projects? Yes ___ No ___. If no, how should committee members monitor projects?

6. What should be the number of project progress reports for a one-year project? ___

   What should be the number of project progress reports for a two-year project? ___

7. How would you rate the quality of the progress and final reports received by the program?

8. Is the two-day session to evaluate proposals effective? Yes ___ No ___. If no, provide suggestions.

9. What are your views on virtual meetings to review proposals?

10. Presently committee members are paid honoraria for committee meetings. What are your views if the program decided to stop paying honoraria for attendance at committee meetings?

11. Do you feel that you have made real and substantial input into the design of the Grants Program (scope, eligibility, and criteria for selection)? Provide comments if necessary.

12. Do you feel that you have had substantial say in the selection of projects for funding? Provide comments if necessary.

13. How do you think ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) can help Third World countries promote development?

14. The Grants Program is currently open to all ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) related proposals and ideas. It is proposed that in future the program may target a specific theme for each funding round (such as, ICT policy, ICTs for distance education, health, small and medium scale enterprises, etc). Do you agree with this change? If yes, what specific themes would you suggest for proposals?

15. The Grants Program administration is planning to give high priority to proposals that are "applied research" rather than "development". "Applied research" will stimulate original ideas and concepts (unknown methodologies or novel applications of known methodologies) that could be tested and implemented. "Development" implies doing projects using methods and techniques that are already known. Focusing on "applied research" will stimulate original ideas and concepts that could be tested and implemented. What are your views on the program placing higher weighting on proposals that have an "applied research" emphasis rather than a "development" emphasis?

16. What changes would you recommend to the Grants Program process?

17. The granting agency is planning to develop a document to highlight successful Grants Projects. What criteria should be used to identify successful Grants Projects?

18. Which projects would you suggest for documenting as "success stories" of the Grants Program?

19. Please provide additional comments on the Grants Program.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.

Grants Program Evaluation
Completed Projects Questionnaire

Please complete the following questionnaire to provide information on the process and value of the Grants Program. Please fax, e-mail, or mail the completed questionnaire to the following fax number, e-mail, or address below. Please complete and return within 7 days.

Phyllis Lim
International Development Research Centre
Regional Office for South East and East Asia
Tanglin, P.O. Box 101
Singapore, 912404
Tel: 65-235 1344
Fax: 65-235 1849
E-mail: plim@idrc.org.sg

Name:

Organization/Institution:

Address:

Phone #:
Fax #:
E-mail:

1. About You and Your Project

Project Title:

Date Project Completed:

1.1 How did you hear about the Grants Program?

1.2 What was your role in the project?

1.3 How did you conceptualize the project idea that you submitted in your grant application?

1.4 What was the ceiling ($15,000 or $75,000) for the grant you received?

1.5 Did the ceiling affect the outcome of the research project you conducted? Yes ____ No ____. If yes, explain why?

1.6 What was the duration of the project (grant period)?

1.7 Did the duration affect the outcome of the research project you conducted? Yes ____ No _____. If yes, explain why?

1.8 Did the funding received from the Grants Program act as seed funding or as a catalyst for related activities which could not have happened without preliminary support? Yes ____ No _____. If yes, explain.

1.9 Did any other agency or organization contribute to your project? Yes ___ No ___. If yes, please specify.

1.10 What are the major reasons why you applied for funding from the Grants Program for the project you are involved with?

2. Application Process

For questions 2.1 to 2.7, please consider the statement and indicate whether you agree or disagree with the statement. Refer to the "Guidelines for Grants" section in the attached document for information on the grant process.

Statement	*Strongly Agree*	*Agree*	*Neutral*	*Disagree*	*Strongly Disagree*	*Not Applicable*
2.1. The guidelines and steps for submitting proposals to the Grants Program for project funding are easy to follow.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.2. The objectives and scope of the Grants Program are appropriate for your region.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.3. The eligibility for funding by the Grants Program is appropriate for your region	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.4. The funding limits and grant duration are appropriate for your region	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.5. The mandatory criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the Grants Program.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.6. The other criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the Grants Program.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.7. The quality of the support from the granting/administering agency during project implementation and reporting is high.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**

2.8 Are the timelines for submission of project final report appropriate? Yes ____ No _____. If no, what should be the deadline for submission of final report?

2.9 Did you need much guidance/support from the granting/administering agency during the project implementation and reporting? Yes _____ No _____. If yes, did you get the support you required?

2.10 Was your initial application in accordance with the Grants Program guidelines? Yes ____ No ____. If not, what were the reasons?

2.11 Were you subsequently advised on modifying your application to fit in with the Grants Program guidelines? Yes ____ No ____. If yes, did you find the advice helpful to conform with the guidelines?

2.12 The Grants Program is currently open to all ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) related proposals and ideas. It is proposed that in future the program may target a specific theme for each funding round (such as, ICT policy, ICTs for distance education, health, small and medium scale enterprises, etc). Do you agree with this change? If yes, what specific themes would you suggest for proposals?

2.13 The Grants Program administration is planning to give high priority to proposals that are "applied research" rather than "development". "Applied research" will stimulate original ideas and concepts (unknown methodologies or novel applications of known methodologies) that could be tested and implemented. "Development" implies doing projects using methods and techniques that are already known. Focusing on "applied research" will stimulate original ideas and concepts that could be tested and implemented. What are your views on the program placing higher weighting on proposals that have an "applied research" emphasis rather than a "development" emphasis?

2.14 What <u>changes</u> would you recommend to the Grants Program process?

3. Results/Benefits

3.1 Did the project result in sustainable or re-usable outcomes? Yes ____ No ____. If yes, please specify.

3.2 What problem(s) did the project help to solve/mitigate?

3.3 How did the project help your organization/institution or community develop its capacity to conduct research?

3.4 What networking opportunities did you have with other researchers in your organization, community, or country as a result of the project?

3.5 How are the products, ideas, or results from the project used in your organization, community, or country?

3.6 Was the project successful? Yes ____ No ____. If yes, what were the major factors contributing to its success?

3.7 If the project was not successful, what were the major factors contributing to its failure?

3.8 What skills and expertise did you and your project team gain by working on the project?

4. General

4.1 How do you think ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) can help Third World countries promote development?

4.2 What suggestions do you have for publicizing the Grants Program?

4.3 What suggestions do you have for publicizing the results of your project?

4.4 Do you plan to apply for future research funding from the Grants Program? If yes, specify when and the topic or area of interest.

4.5 Please provide additional comments on the Grants Program.

4.6 Please provide additional comments on the value of the Grants Program.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.

Grants Program Evaluation
On-going Projects Questionnaire

Please complete the following questionnaire to provide information on the process and value of the Grants Program. Please fax, e-mail, or mail the completed questionnaire to the following fax number, e-mail, or address below. Please complete and return within 7 days.

Phyllis Lim
International Development Research Centre
Regional Office for South East and East Asia
Tanglin, P.O. Box 101
Singapore, 912404
Tel: 65-235 1344
Fax: 65-235 1849
E-mail: plim@idrc.org.sg

Name:

Organization/Institution:

Address:

Phone #:
Fax #:
E-mail:

1. About You and Your Project

1.1 Project Title:

1.2 Date Project Due for Completion:

1.3 How did you hear about the Grants Program?

1.4 What is your role in the project?

1.5 How did you conceptualize the project idea that you submitted in your grant application?

1.6 What is the ceiling ($15,000 or $75,000) for the grant you received?

1.7 Is the ceiling affecting the outcome of the research project? Yes ____ No ____. If yes, explain why?

1.8 What is the duration of the project (grant period)?

1.9 Is the duration affecting the outcome of the research project? Yes ____ No _____. If yes, explain why?

1.10 Did the funding received from the Grants Program act as seed funding or as a catalyst for related activities which could not have happened without preliminary support? Yes ____ No _____. If yes, explain.

1.11 Did any other agency or organization contribute to your project? Yes ___ No ___. If yes, please specify.

1.12 What are the major reasons why you applied for funding from the Grants Program for the project you are involved with?

1.13 Do you have any training needs that are as yet unfilled to implement your project? Yes ___ No ___. If yes, what are the training needs?

2. Application Process

For questions 2.1 to 2.7, please consider the statement and indicate whether you agree or disagree with the statement. Refer to the "Guidelines for Grants" section in the attached document for information on the grant process.

Statement	***Strongly Agree***	***Agree***	***Neutral***	***Disagree***	***Strongly Disagree***	***Not Applicable***
2.1 The guidelines and steps for submitting proposals to the Grants Program for project funding are easy to follow.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.2 The objectives and scope of the Grants Program are appropriate for your region.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.3 The eligibility for funding by the Grants Program is appropriate for your region.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.4. The funding limits and grant duration are appropriate for your region.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.5 The mandatory criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the grants program.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.6 The other criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the grants program.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.7 The quality of the support from the granting/administering agency during project implementation and reporting is high.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**

2.8 Are the timelines for submission of project final report appropriate? Yes ____ No _____. If no, what should be the deadline for submission of final report?

2.9 Do you need much guidance/support from the granting/administering agency during the project implementation and reporting? Yes _____ No _____. If yes, are you getting the support you required.

2.10 Was your initial application in accordance with the Grants Program guidelines? Yes ____ No ____. If not, what were the reasons?

2.11 Were you subsequently advised on modifying your application to fit in with the Grants Program guidelines? Yes ____ No ____. If yes, did you find the advice helpful to conform with the guidelines?

2.12 The Grants Program is currently open to all ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) related proposals and ideas. It is proposed that in future the program may target a specific theme for each funding round (such as, ICT policy, ICTs for distance education, health, small and medium scale enterprises, etc). Do you agree with this change? Yes ___ No ___. If yes, what specific themes would you suggest for proposals?

2.13 The program administration is planning to give high priority to proposals that are "applied research" rather than "development". "Applied research" will stimulate original ideas and concepts (unknown methodologies or novel applications of known methodologies) that could be tested and implemented. "Development" implies doing projects using methods and techniques that are already known. Focusing on "applied research" will stimulate original ideas and concepts that could be tested and implemented. What are your views on the program placing higher weighting on proposals that have an "applied research" emphasis rather than a "development" emphasis?

2.14 What changes would you recommend to the Grants Program process?

3. Results/Benefits

3.1 What problem(s) is the project helping to solve/mitigate?

3.2 How is the project helping your organization/institution or community develop its capacity to conduct research?

3.3 What networking opportunities are you having with other researchers in your organization, community, or country as a result of the project?

3.4 What skills and expertise are you and your project team gaining by working on the project?

4. General

4.1 How do you think ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) can help Third World countries promote development?

4.2 What suggestions do you have for publicizing the Grants Program?

4.4 What suggestions do you have for publicizing the results of your project?

4.5 Do you plan to apply for future research funding from the Grants Program? If yes, specify when and the topic or area of interest.

4.6 Please provide additional comments on the Grants Program.

4.7 Please provide additional comments on the value of the Grants Program.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.

Grants Program Evaluation
Past Applicants Questionnaire

Please complete the following questionnaire to provide information on the process and value of the Grants Program. Please fax, e-mail, or mail the completed questionnaire to the following fax number, e-mail, or address below. Please complete and return within 7 days.

Phyllis Lim
International Development Research Centre
Regional Office for South East and East Asia
Tanglin, P.O. Box 101
Singapore, 912404
Tel: 65-235 1344
Fax: 65-235 1849
E-mail: plim@idrc.org.sg

Name:

Organization/Institution:

Address:

Phone #:
Fax #:
E-mail:

1. About You and Your Application

1.1 How did you hear about the Grants Program?

1.2 How did you conceptualize the project idea that you submitted in your grant application?

1.3 Did you understand the reason for rejection of your application? If not, what information would you like to get with the correspondence from the granting agency?

1.4 Did you subsequently apply for funding for your project elsewhere? If yes, did you subsequently manage to get funding for your project elsewhere? If yes, from where?

2. Application Process

For questions 2.1 to 2.7, please consider the statement and indicate whether you agree or disagree with the statement. Refer to the "Guidelines for Grants" section in the attached document for information on the grant process.

Statement	*Strongly Agree*	*Agree*	*Neutral*	*Disagree*	*Strongly Disagree*	*Not Applicable*
2.1 The guidelines and steps for submitting proposals to the Grants Program for project funding are easy to follow.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.2 The objectives and scope of the Grants Program are appropriate for your region.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.3 The eligibility for funding by the Grants Program is appropriate for your region.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.4. The funding limits and grant duration are appropriate for your region.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.5 The mandatory criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the Grants Program.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**
2.6 The other criteria to determine which projects are funded are clear and appropriate for the Grants Program.	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**

2.7 Was your initial application in accordance with the Grants Program guidelines? Yes ____ No ____. If not, what were the reasons?

2.8 Were you subsequently advised on modifying your application to fit in with the Grants Program guidelines? Yes ____ No ____. If yes, did you find the advice helpful to conform with the guidelines?

2.9 The Grants Program is currently open to all ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) related proposals and ideas. It is proposed that in future the program may target a specific theme for each funding round (such as, ICT policy, ICTs for distance education, health, small and medium scale enterprises, etc). Do you agree with this change? Yes ___ No ___. If yes, what specific themes would you suggest for proposals?

2.10 The program administration is planning to give high priority to proposals that are "applied research" rather than "development". "Applied research" will stimulate original ideas and concepts (unknown methodologies or novel applications of known methodologies) that could be tested and implemented. "Development" implies doing projects using methods and techniques that are already known. Focusing on "applied research" will stimulate original ideas and concepts that could be tested and implemented. What are your views on the program placing higher weighting on proposals that have an "applied research" emphasis rather than a "development" emphasis?

2.11 What <u>changes</u> would you recommend to the Grants Program process?

3. General

3.1 How do you think ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) can help Third World countries promote development?

3.2 What suggestions do you have for publicizing the Grants Program?

3.3 Do you plan to apply for future research funding from the Grants Program? If yes, specify when and the topic or area of interest.

3.4 Please provide additional comments on the Grants Program.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.

Appendix 2: Guidelines for Grant Applications

Grants Program Application Guidelines

Scope

- Research and development into specific applications, with a clear focus on practical and replicable solutions and techniques.
- 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 impacts of specific Internet technologies, policies and approaches.
- Research on policy matters affecting Internet networking in the Asia Pacific region, especially where linked to areas such as policy impacts, gender equity, social equity, sustainable communities, and technology diffusion/transfer, and benefits to rural areas.

Eligibility

- Applications for PanAsia R&D Grants funding will be accepted from organisations located in developing countries of the Asian region. However, applications from a consortia of organizations from any part of the world will also be accepted where there are one or more "lead" members from the region. Team projects and co-funding with other agencies or organizations are considered desirable.
- 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.

Funding & Duration

The PanAsia 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:

- For Project Grants, a maximum budget of CA$75,000 will be available over a term not exceeding 24 months.
- For Small Grants, a maximum budget of CA$15,000 will be available over a term not exceeding 12 months.

Approval Process

The PanAsia R&D 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.

Government Clearance

Grants are subject to the applying organisation receiving government clearance for the project, where applicable, in the country in which the research will take place. The clearance process required will be indicated when approval in principle of any grant application is conveyed.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Specific monitoring and evaluation processes to 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. IDRC will, from time to time, conduct evaluation that involves clusters of individual projects.

Copyright & Dissemination

It is the intention of IDRC that the results of PanAsia R&D Grants projects will be transparent and made available publicly via the Internet and other means, 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. IDRC will assume that recipients under the R & D Grants Programme agree to its condition of free dissemination of their project research results. IDRC 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 conditions being that IDRC and the project researchers should be appropriately acknowledged, and that copies of such reproductions should be provided to IDRC and the project researchers. Copyright for project results will reside with the research team, IDRC (and additionally with other funding agencies in the case of co-funded projects).

How to Apply for Grants

All grant applications must include:

- A completed PanAsia R&D Grants Programme application form. Application forms and budget.
- guidelines can be downloaded from http://www.panasia.org.sg/grants.
- A full project proposal and budget. Both the application form, proposal and budget must be submitted in soft format (computer readable). When possible, please submit a second copy in HTML format.
- A document or certificate of incorporation of the organisation, if the applicant is not a government body.

- If you do not receive an acknowledgement of your electronic application within three days of submission, you should immediately e-mail Helenad@ccohs.ca to enquire.

Writing Your Project Proposal

A proposal to the R&D Grants Programme should provide full details of the proposed project so that it can be properly assessed by the PanAsia R&D Committee. Normally, proposals should be between five and 10 pages in length, excluding annexes. Annexes 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 annexes.

Essential Information

Project background and justification: state concisely, what development networking problem is being 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 CA$75,000 for a Project Grant and CA$ 15,000 for a Small Grant.
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 PanAsia 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, 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 existing PanAsia partners and to PanAsia content, communications and policy activities
- 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.

What will not be funded

- Proposals that do not address Internet related problems and solutions.
- Non-research activities like conferences, seminars, workshops and educational 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.
- Web page development.

Appendix 3: Acronyms

Acronyms

AFL – Allocation of Fund Letter
ERC – Expert Review Committee
ICT – Information and Communication Technology
ICT4D – Information and Communication Technology for Development
IDRC – International Development Research Centre
MGC – Memorandum of Grant Conditions
PAN – PanAsia Networking
RnD – Research and Development

Appendix 4: Grants Awarded

Grants Awarded

1. Information Technology and Rural Extension in India
2. Developing Web-based Knowledge Site for Bio Medical Waste Management in Bangalore City
3. Marketing of Internet Market in Kyrgyzstan
4. Internet Connectivity for West Papua (Irian Jaya)
5. Assessment of Internet Technology for Integration into the Higher Education Teachers' Instructional Support System in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam
6. Development of a Web-based Learning Resource on Environment for Schools in India
7. E-Marketers: An Innovative Approach to E-Commerce
8. National Networked Digital Library
9. Automatic Translation and Management of ICSCs and Local Chemical Information on the Internet
10. Asian Women's Exchange: A Strategy for Electronic Resource Sharing
11. The Lighthouse Project
12. Formulation of Information and Telecommunication Policy and Strategy, Nepal
13. Development of Sustainable Indicators for Lao PDR and Vietnam for Regional Database Building
14. Internationalised Domain Names System (iDNS) for Asian Countries
15. Internet Access by Remote Communities in Sarawak: The Smart School as a Demonstrator Application
16. Development and Integration of Web-based Technology in Distance Education for Nurses in China: A Pilot Study
17. Base-Line Surveys for the Utilization of Fax-Internet Integration Technology for Distance Learning Support
18. R&D Capacity Building in Major Universities and Libraries in Bangladesh
19. Computer Supported Collaborative Environment for Secondary Schools in Indonesia
20. Application of Distance Learning Technologies to Human Capital Development in National Agricultural Research Systems
21. Standardization of the Nepali Font and Implementation of the Standard in Computers
22. Beijing-FarmKnow
23. Network Learning in Bangladesh
24. Establishing Remote Area Networking through Wireless Radio Modems
25. Pioneering Blood Bank Network System in Sri Lanka