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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

## LoGIn

**(Local Governance Initiative South Asia),  
A project of Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation, New Delhi, India**

### Announces

## **Research Grant for Mid career professionals**

**2010-2011**

**Theme: Local governance & social inclusion**

### Background

Post 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Acts in 1993 in India, the local governance institutions were mandated for ensuring economic development and social justice by engaging people in assessing local needs, planning, decision-making, and executing developmental work. A reservation for women and other communities was made to ensure that the marginalized also participate and benefit from the development process.

Three successive elections at five year intervals in majority of the states of India, has increased participation and leadership by the marginalized groups. However, there are still several problematiques when we examine the issues of substantive inclusion of the marginalized in the functioning of elected bodies and in what they are able to achieve for their constituents in terms of promoting good governance.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in India has been supporting programmes of the state and civil society aimed at strengthening local governance and decentralization. 'Local Governance Initiative (LoGIn) South Asia' is a project of SDC promoting south-south and north-south knowledge exchange on decentralization and local governance.

### About the LoGIn Research Fund

LoGIn has launched a programme to support research on local governance and social inclusion with the intent to generate systematic knowledge through field-based evidence backed by strong conceptualization, sound methodology and quality analysis.

The research fund provides a monthly support for mid-level professionals who are independent researchers or based in academic/ research institutions/ NGOs. The candidates must possess at least an M. Phil in any social science discipline / public administration and have minimum of eight years of research experience or PhD with four years of experience.

The researchers will be supported to conduct research on themes of local governance and decentralization around the following categories

- Fresh field based research, monthly grant of Rs.35,000 up to a maximum of twelve months plus Rs.30,000 for travel
- Complete and consolidate an on-going research, monthly grant of Rs.35,000 up to a maximum of eight months plus Rs.15,000 travel grant
- document (albeit within a research framework) field-based practices, monthly grant of Rs. 35,000 for a

maximum of 6 months plus Rs.15,000 travel grant

- Write journal papers based on already existing research conducted by the applicant, monthly grant of Rs. 30,000 for a maximum of three months

### Themes and sub themes

- The larger macro political and economic context in which local governments operate
  - Violent conflicts and political unrest
  - Neo-liberal economic growth, globalization and commoditization of commons such as land, water and forests.
- The local micro social contexts in which the local governments function
  - Manipulation of structures and process underlying the functioning of local governments.
  - Mobilization for inclusion
  - Violence against the marginalized to deter their inclusion.

### Expected Outputs

- Publication of all the research papers supported in a special volume on inclusive governance by LoGIn
- sharing and dissemination of the findings of the research studies facilitated by LoGIn

- Sharing the documentation with relevant networks in SDC Head Office as well as any other relevant Swiss institution

### Application and Selection process

- Advertisement and announcement released by 31st March 2010
- Interested candidates to submit I.) Application form, II.) Detailed research proposal III.) Curriculum Vitae, IV.) Sample of writing
- A senior reviewer with a strong academic background is engaged by LoGIn to screen the incoming proposals
- Out of the proposals received, the senior reviewer makes a pre-selection of 15 proposals in consultation with the LoGIn Team Leader.
- The selected proposals are commented and submitted to a Decision Making Committee
- The committee will meet to take the final decisions for the support of 5-8 proposals

### Time lines

- Last date for receiving proposals – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010
- Decision Committee decides on the proposal – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010
- Candidates are informed about the decision on their proposal – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010

- Face to Face with selected candidates to develop their proposal further – July 2010
- Revised proposals are submitted – end of July 2010
- Literature survey and field work – August to October 2010
- Intermediary report submitted to LoGIn with emerging findings – October to December 2010
- First draft of final report – January/February 2011
- Comments on draft report from LoGIn – March 2011
- Final Report submitted to SDC – May 2011
- SDC organizes a conference to share the research findings – July/August 2011
- SDC plans for publication of research findings – September/October 2011



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