



## *Highlights & New Initiatives*

GDN-Japan

Tokyo

# Overview

- Introduction
  - Mission, History, Structure
  
- Activities
  - Core activities
  - Emerging activities
  
- 2007 Independent Evaluation
  
- Issues for Discussion

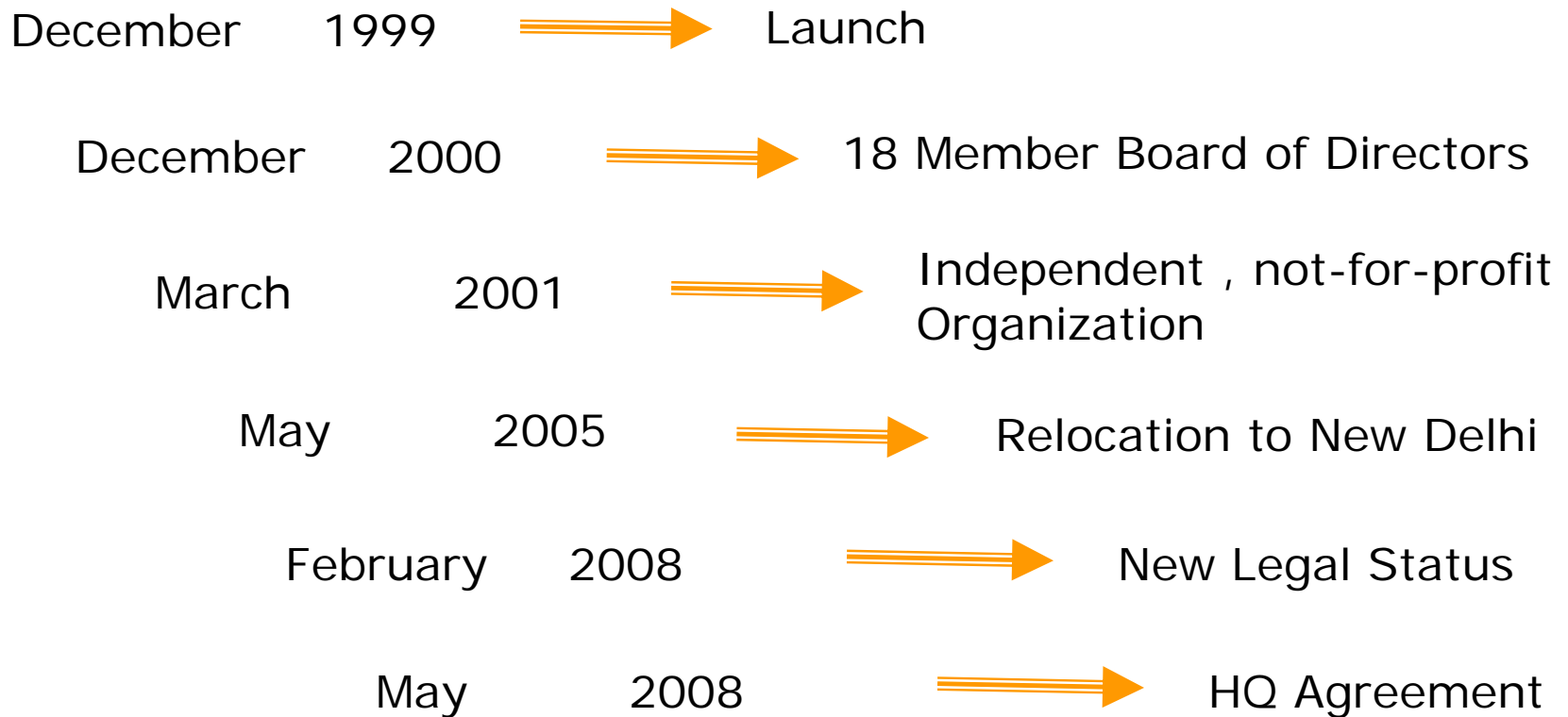
## Introduction - Mission

➤ Mission Statement:

**A worldwide association of research and policy institutes, promotes the generation, sharing and application to policy of multidisciplinary knowledge for the purpose of development**

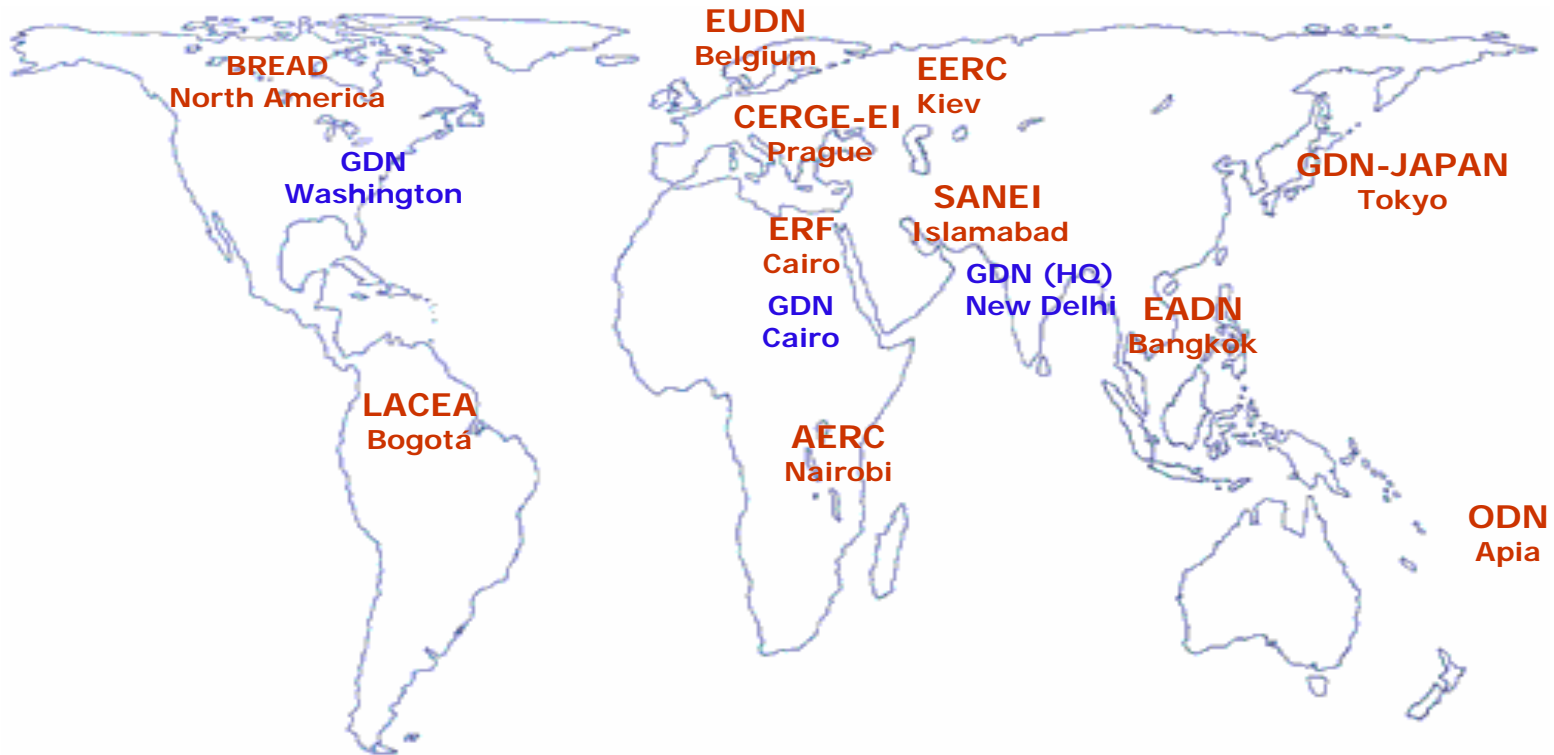
*Better research, better policy, better 'developing' world*

# Introduction – History

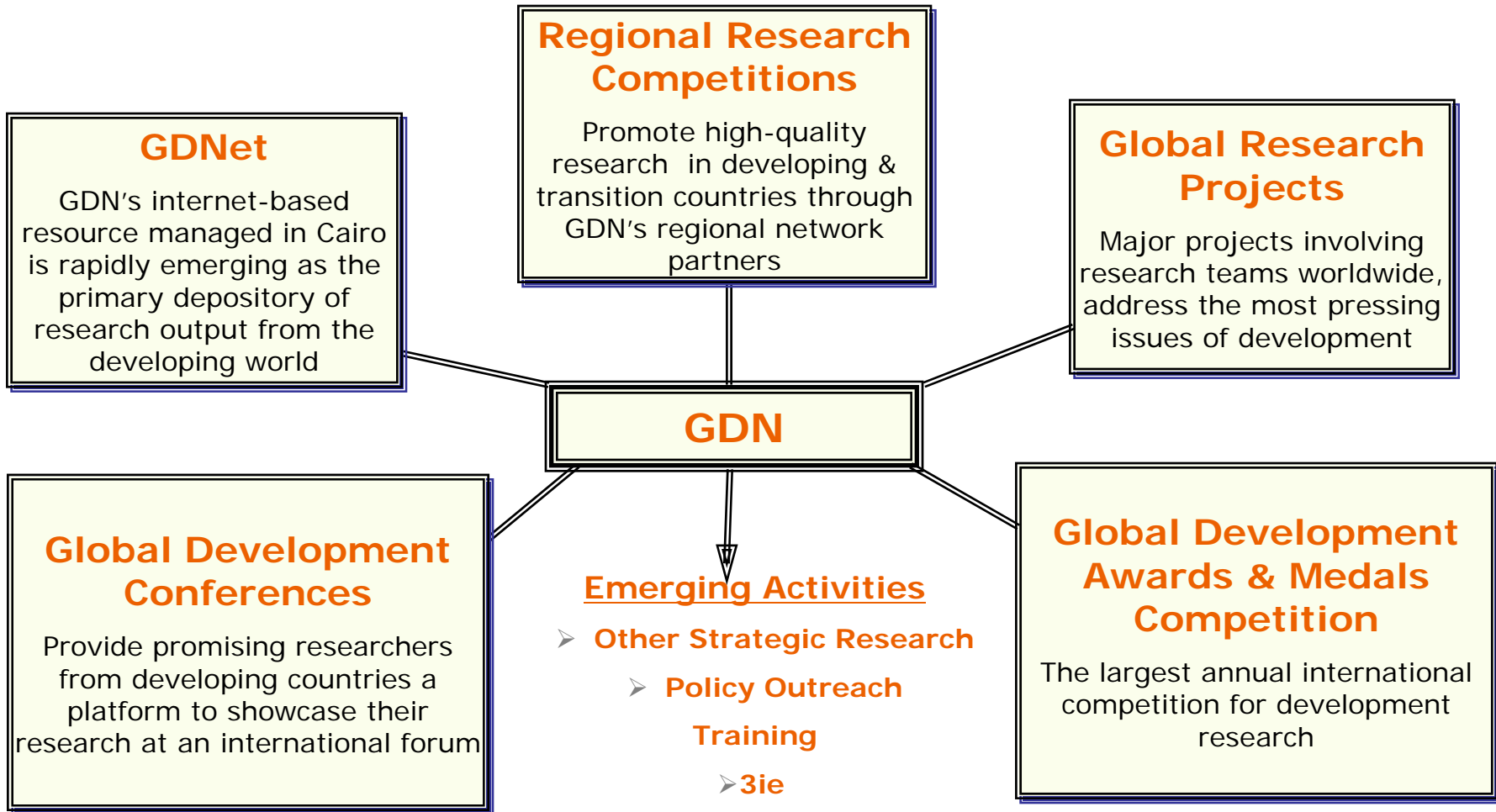


# Introduction - Structure

- 8 'Southern' & 3 'Northern' Partners
- 3 offices



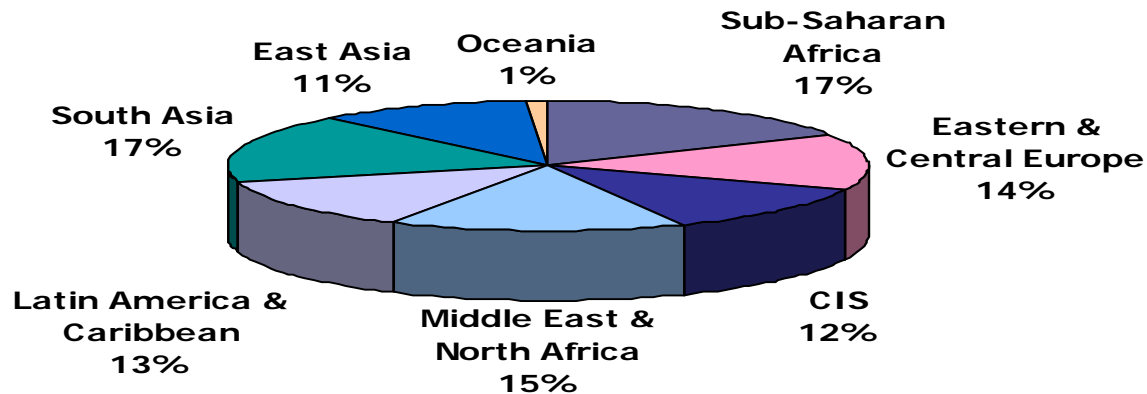
# Core Activities



# Core Activity 1: Regional Research Competitions (RRCs)

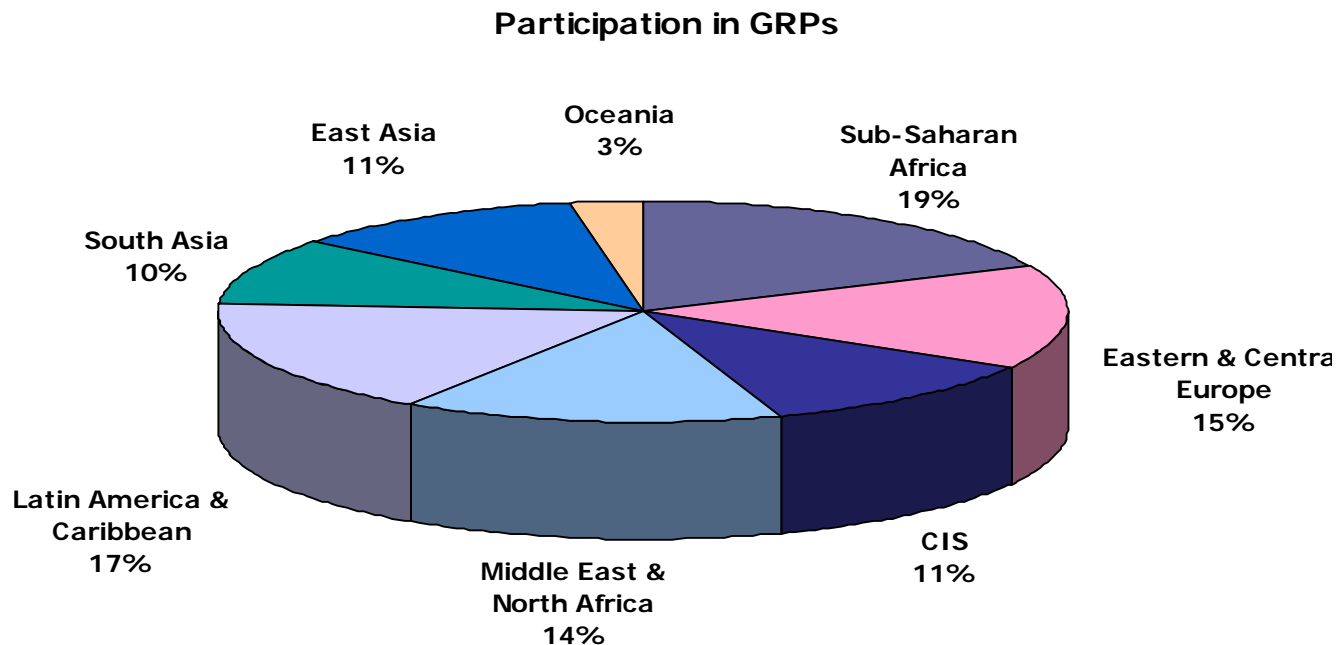
- Total Funding since 1999: US\$ 22.3 M
- Total grants: 900 approx.
- Conducted through Regional Network Partners

RRC Funding Across the Regions



## Core Activity 2: Global Research Projects (GRPs)

- Total Funding since 2001: US\$ 14.4 M
- Total researchers funded since 1999: 265
- Output: 9 volumes published; >200 country studies; 40 thematic papers; 25 other studies
- Major topics : Growth; Reform; BR&P; Poverty; Migration; Health





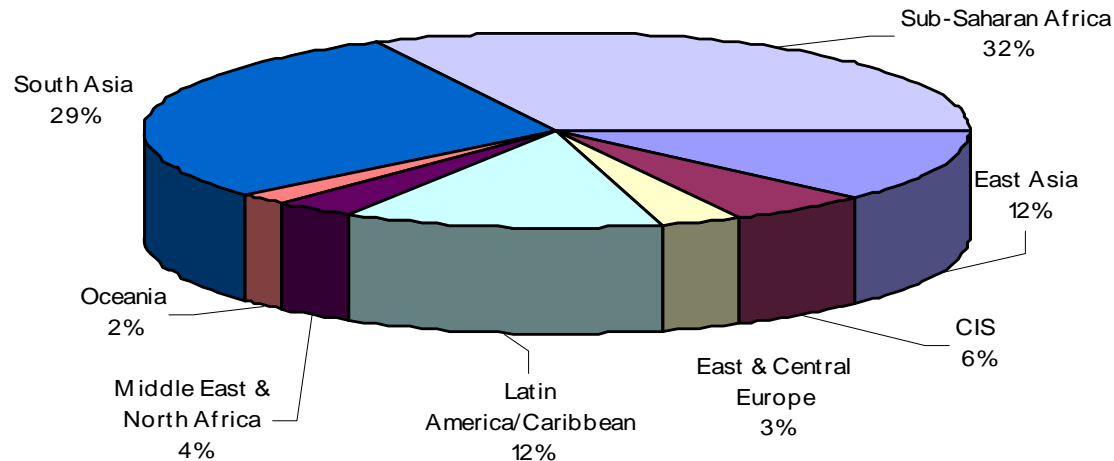
## Core Activity 3a: Global Development Awards & Medals Competition

- **The Global Development Awards and Medals competition** was inspired by **Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa**, then Japan's Minister of Finance
- The competition recognizes both outstanding research and innovative development projects
- Initial grant - \$500,000
- Ministry of Finance continues to support this activity

# Core Activity 3b: Global Development Awards & Medals Competition

- Applicants: 4,600; >95 countries
- \$250,000 in prizes every year
- 626 submissions in 2007
- Significant increase in participation from developing country NGOs

Regional Distribution of 2007 Awards & Medals Competition



# Core Activity 4: GDNNet – Sharing Knowledge Globally

## ➤ **Access to Online Services**

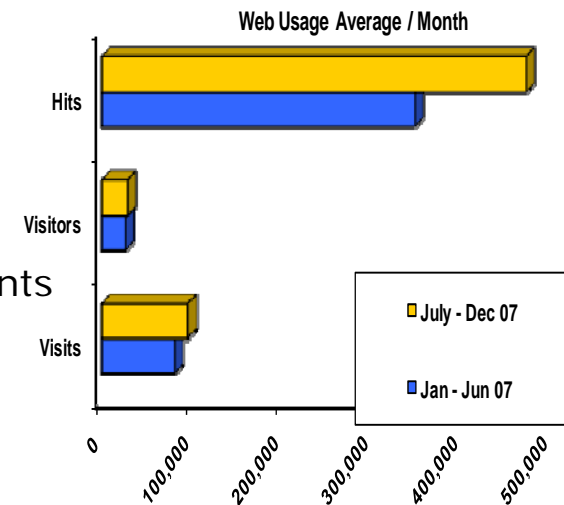
- Online Portfolio: *MUSE, BLDS, WDI & Funding Opportunities*
- 7,000 researchers; 100 new registrations/ month
- *Jstor* - Arts & Science and Business Collections

## ➤ **Communicating Southern Research**

- 3,700 organization profiles; 14,000 full-text documents
- 500,000 hits from 30,000 unique visitors/month
- Electronic and print newsletters

## ➤ **Website Revamp**

- Multilingual, Southern Knowledge Sharing Portal & Social Networking Services



## Core Activity 5: Global Development Conferences

- Purpose: Exchanging ideas, presenting research, face-to-face networking
- 9 organized between 1999 – 2008
- Over 4,450 total participants from 100 countries
- On average 524 participants attend the conference each year

### Previous Conference Themes

'Security and Development: Confronting threats to Survival and Safety'

'Shaping a New Global Reality: The Rise of Asia and its Implications'

'Institutions and Development: At the Nexus of Global Change'

'Developing and Developed Worlds: Mutual Impact'

'Understanding Reform'

# Upcoming: Tenth Annual Global Development Conference

## Natural Resources and Development

Kuwait City, Kuwait  
February 2009

Partner

- Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development



## Strategic Review – Board Recommendations & New Directions

The **2008 Board Meeting** endorsed GDN's efforts to building world class excellence in policy relevant research in developing countries and suggested new strategies should focus on:

### ➤ **Shaping Policy Debates**

- 3 collaborative workshops on BR&P in Buenos Aires, Dar and Dubai focused on mainstreaming policy links in GDN's activities. Three main activities were identified
  - Support **Global / Regional Policy Forums** that bring policy makers and research leaders together on agreed priority policy issues
  - **Annual GDN Prize** for the most effective communications and dissemination by a think tank with policy makers in the GDN network
  - **Policy Advisors** to advise GDN board on strategic activities

# Strategic Review – Board Recommendations & New Directions

## ➤ **Regional Partnerships**

- Strengthen GDN as a 'Network of Networks'
  - Inter-Regional Research Projects (IRRPs)
  - Jointly shape global debates on selected themes
  - Joint fundraising between GDN and RNPs

## ➤ **Global Issues**

- Undertaking GRPs selectively on Global Public Goods / Global Policy issues

## ➤ **Outreach & Communications**

- Dissemination in other major languages
- Staying away from 'advocacy'

## Other Strategic Research

- **Moving Out of Poverty**

Developing and disseminating a standardized module on local power and institutional relations in understanding economic and social mobility

- **Governance & Transparency Fund**

Address the “**demand side**” of good governance by supporting 20 Think Tanks in Low and Middle Income countries to analyze public expenditures

- **International Growth Center**

A **central networking hub** of partner organisations, researchers and practitioners, to be managed by an international consortium of globally-reputed research and policy organisations. GDN identified as a partner

- **Institutional Capacity Building**

New UNDP-funded project, jointly with AERC, on strengthening institutional capacity building of public policy institutes in Africa



# Policy Outreach & Training

## Policy Outreach

### ➤ Knowledge Management Activities

- Africa, South Asia & Latin America Programs
- Knowledge Management, Research Communications and Policy Impact Latin America Workshop, February 2008, Argentina
- Developing Technology & Innovation in Africa: Focus on Agriculture & Food Industry, May 2008, Tanzania

### ➤ BRP

- Key activities identified by the BRP project to mainstream policy links to GDN's core activities and to promote informed policy debates will be initiated as part of GDN's new core activity – "Policy Outreach"

## Training

### ➤ Regional Training Program

- 3 regional training pilots on quantitative research techniques; designed to equip researchers with new and updated research methodologies.
- Full launch in early 2009

## 3ie

- An independent non-profit institution which aims to improve the measurement of the net effects of social and economic development programs in low- and middle-income countries through rigorous **impact evaluations**
- GDN will **host** 3ie and **provide** the intellectual, administrative, financial and management **support functions**

## New Activities

### ➤ New Global Research Projects (GRPs)

- Governance: Alternative Institutional Approaches to Ensuring Effective Governance for Growth, Poverty Reduction and the Delivery of Public Services
- Climate Change Adaptation: to promote inclusive development strategies

### ➤ Proposals for future GRPs

- Private Sector Development (PSD) in fast-growing economies
- Urban Challenges in Developing Countries (large cities)

## 2007 Independent Evaluation

### ➤ Overall Findings

- Generally positive
- Evidence of capacity building and knowledge creation from GDN-funded activities

### ➤ Perception of GDN

- Provides mostly unique, relevant and valuable services
- Grantee average satisfaction level rated 'high'
- 55% respondents gave 2 highest points on 5-point Likert scale
- 64% respondents gave same rating in case of funding / mentoring received from GDN
- GDN building base of policy-relevant literature
- GDN building capacity of future research leaders informing better policy at both national and sub-national levels

### ➤ Awards & Medals

- Respondents value the awards and medals higher than GRP or RRC grantees in terms of increased career advancement and networking opportunities
- AMC more successful in bringing GDN's appeal to a broader clientele than just economists

# 2007 Independent Evaluation

- **4 Key Action Items post-Evaluation**
  - Continue to build research capacity in the developing world
  - Widen multi-disciplinary base with Economics as the “default discipline”
  - Strengthen RNP Relationships
  - Enhance Policy Outreach
  
- **Other Priority Areas**
  - Resource Mobilization
  - Outreach and Communication

# Issues for Discussion

- Comments on GDN's
  - Strategy
  - Research Agenda
  - Policy Outreach
  - Awards and Medals Competition
  
- Other Suggestions?