Letter of Interest Form
All applicants MUST use this form to apply

Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) identifies, tests, and supports innovative and cost-effective solutions to the world's most intractable development challenges. DIV holds a grant competition for innovative ideas, pilots and tests them using cutting-edge analytical methods, and scales solutions that demonstrate widespread impact and cost-effectiveness. If you have a great idea, please submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) to DIV using this form. **Citations should be provided whenever possible, and assumptions used to generate estimates should be clearly explained.** Please submit the final LOI to DIVApplications@usaid.gov. Once you submit a LOI, it will undergo a competitive review and if successful, we will ask you to submit a full application.

For additional information about DIV, examples of great projects that we support, and our application process and timeline, please visit DIV's website at http://www.usaid.gov/div/. **Please carefully review our Annual Program Statement available on our website before submitting your LOI.**

Please use 11 point Calibri font. **DIV may not review any material beyond nine pages; the nine page limit includes the instruction text as well as the information provided by the applicant.**

I.   **Eligibility Checklist**

DIV welcomes applications from many types of organizations including foundations, U.S. and non-U.S. non-governmental organizations (NGOs), faith-based organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. private businesses, business and trade associations, international organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. colleges and universities (public and private), civic groups, regional organizations, etc.

DIV will only review applications from organizations that meet the following minimum requirements. Check all that apply:

☒   Applicant is a legally recognized organizational entity under applicable law.

☒   Applicant's proposed activities take place in the countries for which USAID provides assistance. If the project covers activities in other countries, the DIV grant can only be used for activities in USAID presence countries.

☒   Applicant must be an organization from, or with an operational focus in, a country that is not ineligible for assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, or related appropriations acts.

II. **Organization Information**

A. Organization legal name: Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT

B. Organization type (please select from dropdown menu):
University, Technical Institute or College

If 'Other', please specify:

C. Organization address:

Street Address   2nd Avenue, Opp. Council of State
City: Accra
State/Region:
Zip/Postal Code:
Country: Ghana

D. Contact information:

Primary point of contact		Secondary point of contact	
Name:	Ms. Dorothy K. Gordon	Name:	Dr. Takeshi Utsumi
Title:	Director-General	Title:	CEO of GLOSAS/USA
Telephone:	233-21-683-579	Telephone:	1-718-939-0928
E-mail: kace.com.gh	director-general@aiti-	E-mail:	takutsumi0@gmail.com

III. **Overview Information**

A. Project title: Creating Global Knwledge Centers Network (GKCN) with Globaql University System (GUS) in Ghana

B. DIV stage (please select from dropdown menu). Please refer to the Annual Program Statement (APS) for definitions of each stage. The stage should be selected based on project activities, not funding needs: 1

C. Total funding requested (USD): 100000

D. Proposed cost share (USD) (see the Annual Program Statement for definition):

E. Which of the following best describes the sector your solution addresses? (please select from dropdown menu):   Education and Training

If 'Other', please specify:

F. Secondary sector, if any (please select from dropdown menu): Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

   If 'Other', please specify: Energy, Environment, Health, Agriculture

G. Partner organizations: See Section IV-E for entire list

H. Primary country where the project will take place: Ghana

I. Secondary country/countries (if any) where the project will take place: ECOWAS countries

J. Expected duration of project activities (months): 24

K. Expected source of financial support at scale (long-term widespread implementation):

   Hybrid of commerical and government/donor support

L. Has the applicant ever received USAID funding in the past? No

M. Has the applicant received USG funding for this or a similar project? No

N. Has the applicant received DIV funding for this or a similar project? No

   If 'Yes', please provide the grant number:

O. How did you initially hear about DIV? Other (please specify)

   If 'Other', please specify: Chairman of GLOSAS/USA

IV. **Project Information**

   DIV recommends that applicants provide about half a page of text for each section A – E (excluding the instructions). However, applicants may determine the length of each section as long as the full Letter of Interest (including instructions) does not exceed nine pages. **Please thoroughly review the Annual Program Statement before answering the following question.**

A. **Development Challenge, Your Innovation, and Anticipated Impacts**
   Challenge: What development challenge are you addressing?
   Climate change is a major threat to development in Africa, with huge on its economy and the people. Currently, Africa which has the lowest readiness index is the most vulnerable continent to climate change. The financial requirement for climate change adaptation programmes in Africa is estimated at over $30 billion per year. Ghana is no exception to the climate change challenges in Africa. In Ghana, due to the little understanding of the effects and impacts of Climate Change, effective mitigation and adaptation plans and policies have not yet been developed. The lack of relevant information makes it all the more difficult for our decision support systems to be able to develop adequate mitigation and adaptation programs to climate change

   Innovation: What solution are you proposing?

We intend to develop the local simulation models for Ghana to help Decision Support Systems and the development and implementation of national policies for the mitigation and adaption to climate change impact. This would be done by incorporating local domain specific parameters to enhance the perspective of the model. The implementation will be carried through the establishment and integration of AITI-KACE as a Knowledge Center within the Global Knowledge Center Networks. By integrating with the GKCN, we will be able to incorporate the effects due to globalization and parameters from other domains or countries and understand more effectively how we affect each other. This will enable us improve the quality of the models considerably, thereby improving the decision making information.

Impact: What impact do you expect your innovation to have on this development challenge? How will it significantly impact the development challenge in a way that has not been feasible before?
It is our expectation that through this program, we will be able to devise for the first time, a comprehensive mechanism for developing the requisite information in the strategic development of mitigation and adaptation policies to climate change. The trascendental nature of the simulation models means that not only will we experience improvements in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies but also in many other related sectors such as health, agriculture education and the overall economic health of the country. Eventually, through the GKCN, lessons learned and success stories can be exhanged with other countries and domains with similar characteristics as Ghana

Context and Previous Experiences: Describe how your solution is relevant to the country or countries' context. Describe previous experiences implementing or testing the solution and any evidence of successful development impact. Answer required for Stage 2 and Stage 3 applicants.

Use of Funds: How will you use DIV funding?
(1) Preparation of Stakeholder workshop, (2) Sensitization on system dynamics modeling and Decision Support systems (3) Development of simulation models for Ghana, (4) Integration of Ghana models with GLOSAS (5) Planning for global e-learning.

Anticipated results: What do you anticipate achieving with DIV funds?
Capacity building of governmental officials and young aspiring leaders with simulator/trainer with real-time data, Development of climate change response strategies and policies, improvements in food security, environmental protection, promotion of e-learning and telemedicine and global health.

B. **Target Beneficiaries and Potential to Scale**

Provide the most appropriate estimate of who the solution will directly and indirectly affect.

Definition of direct beneficiary: Political leaders, senior and junior level government officials, planners and decision makers, private corporation, local as well as urban communities.

Definition of indirect beneficiary: Aspiring future leaders, university students and startup entrepreneuers. Developed countries for reducing the breeding ground on economic emigrants.

Scaling: What are possible avenues for scale up (e.g. public sector, international donors, private sector commercialization, or a combination) over the next 3 – 10 years, and what are your plans to get there?

We envisage Ghana and ECOWAS countries will form multidisciplinary team for mutual co-assistance to ensure sustatainability, food security, energy, water, health care and environment. The governments and the international community who have been our development partners shall support this novel approach since they always support efforts to improve human life. The private community may pick it up as a business opportunity.

How many people do you expect to reach, both in the country described above and globally? Please explain how you calculated these estimates, including statistics and assumptions if relevant.

Since there have never been similar projects before anywhere, except for seminars on system dynamics conducted by the Millennium Institute in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Abuja, Nigeria and elsewhere, find below a preliminary estimate of the size of the target audience:

	Direct	Indirect
Before DIV support		
In 1 year?	50	100
In 3 years?	200	400
In 5 years?	400	750
In 10 years?	800	3000

What are the characteristics of your target beneficiaries or customers (e.g. income groups or other demographics)?

Mid level decision makers and future decision makers.

C. **Cost-Effectiveness and Competitive Landscape**

Competitive Landscape: What are existing common practices or competing solutions that seek to address the same development challenge as your solution in the area you intend to operate and scale?

Global simulation models of socio-economic-energy-environmental systems with Ghana dimension should provide a better planning tool, as adding Ghana characteristics to it using local expertise.

Advantages of the Innovation: What makes your innovation more appealing than alternatives to beneficiaries and public and/or private sector stakeholders who could invest in scale-up?

This will be an experiement which will start small but aim at big results. Since this will be conducted without government intervention, it will enjoy felxibility of learning from its mis-steps for some quick fixes wherever possible.

Cost Effectiveness: Please explain why your solution has the potential to yield greater impact per dollar than alternate ways of achieving the same development impacts. Provide estimates of impact per dollar for your solution and alternatives if possible.

The GKCN-Ghana being part of a global GKCN dynamic simulation and training tool will promote long-term national development planning. It will allow users to identify the set of policies that lead towards a desired goal. This insight deepens understanding of critical development challenges. The solution will be extended as an academic experiment to test implementation of appropriate solutions for the less privelaged groups of the society.

D. **Measuring Success**

Approaches to evaluation will vary by solution. Specific evaluation standards apply to each funding stage.

Social Impact: How will you measure progress towards social impacts? What is your comparison group, if any?
- Workshop conducted, number of participants and profile of attendants.
- Seminars conducted and knowledge transfer effected and profile and numbers accessed
- Assessment of % of GKCN-Ghana model establishment.
- Assessment of GKCN-Ghana potential impact on young government leaders.
- Plans for being part of global e-learning
- Assessmnet of potential for e-health/telemedicine

Cost Effectiveness: How will you measure whether your solution has the potential to yield greater impact per dollar than alternative ways of achieving the same development impacts? Comparison between the experimental and control group.

Lessons Learned: How will you generate relevant lessons throughout implementation? How will your evaluation inform your scaling strategy?
There will be periodic data collection pertaining knolwledge gained, its application and change of attitude on the experimental group. Participants will be requested to provide their views of the project on periodic basis. The information collected will be used to establish the way forward.

Please describe any plans to track your beneficiaries or customers' characteristics (as described in Section B, e.g. income group).
The main characteristic of our target group will be peasantry with their families and dependants.

E. **Project Team**

Lead Organization Briefly describe the lead implementing organization, including relevant experience.
The Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT (AITI-KACE) was established in December 2003 through a partnership between the Government of Ghana and the Government of India. The AITI-KACE places strong emphases on building networks and developing mutually beneficial market-oriented partnerships.
On the African continent, AITI-KACE is a recognised leader in its field and works with

partners and key stakeholders from private sector, government and civil society across the globe with emphasis on Africa and ECOWAS. AITI-KACE hosts The Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA) secretariat, IPv6 Regional Test bed, CISCO Regional Academy, Ghana Internet Exchange (GIX) and a Super Computing Centre.
AITI-KACE is part of the global consortium that in 2008 conducted the FLOSSInclude project which aimed at exploring the use and adoption of FOSS as development tool.
AITI-KACE also hosts the Agbari - the ECOWAS Commission-led regional reference centre for open source activities in West Africa providing technical support in adoption of open source technologies by public and private organisations.
AITI-KACE is part of the UNESCO expert group on OER to support glocal access to knowledge.
AITI_KACE is also part of the GLOWA-Volta Prooject, providing HPC technology to support research in the Global Change and the Hydrological Cycle in the Volta Basin
As a public sector institution with strong emphasis on social development, AITI-KACE service delivery models represent one of the best worldwide. Specifically, AITI-KACE has delivered globally-benchmarked training and technology transfer; conducted technical research, and designed and implemented ICT4D solutions in Africa. AITI-KACE has provided consulting services and managed key advocacy networks and events around the world.
AITI-KACE's enormous expertise, exposure and experience in the areas of FOSS development, information technology deployment and upgrading for private sector through research and innovation, Consultancy/Advisory services, training, Open GIS applications, web development, database management and research. This advantage has enabled the Centre to undertake both local and international projects including ict@innovation, FLOSSInclude, Special program with Commonwealth of Learning, Community Information Centres in Ghana and Ghana Open Data Initiative.

Project Team Describe the composition of the project team including key personnel, discussing the skills and experience they contribute to the proposed objectives.
Dorothy Gordon, Lead. Director-General. AITI-kACE
Yaw Okraku-Yirenkyi, Director of Studies, AITI-KACE
Ernest Ofori, Head - Scientific and Technical Computing, AITI-KACE
Frederick Yeboah, Head - Open Source Technologies, AITI-KACE
Francis Dogbey, Head - Artificial Intelligence Group, AITI-KACE
Eleanor Afful, Head - Networking Technologies, AITI-KACE
Edward Yeboah, Cognitive Computing, AITI-KACE
Haruna Balle-Baz, Emerging Technologies, AITI-KACE
Michael Wilson, Mobile Computing, AITI-KACE

Partners Describe partner organizations (if any) and what skills and experience they contribute to implementing or scaling the project. Please distinguish between partners that have already agreed to participate and organizations (or types of organizations) that you will target.
• Baharicom Development Company <http://tinyurl.com/3hlrlp3>,
• Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR) of Columbia University <http://tinyurl.com/67q444>,
• Global Ring Network for Advanced Applications Development (GLORIAD) <http://www.gloriad.org/>,
• GLObal Systems Analysis and Simulation Association in the U.S.A. (GLOSAS/USA) <http://www.friends-partners.org/GLOSAS/>,

- Millennium Institute <http://www.millennium-institute.org/>,
- Stevens Institute of Technology <http://www.stevens.edu/sit/>
- Mayo Clinic <www.mayoclinic.org>

In addition to the above, current institutions with faculty members who are participating in Global Early Warning System (GEWS)/GUS development projects are numerous; as including the University of Tampere in Finland, UK Open University, University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Montana State University, Houston Community College, University of Hawaii, University of Michigan, Maui Community College, and many others. GUS (UNESCO program) will serve as an educational broker for universities, thus helping them gain international influence and access to students that they would otherwise not reach.

F. **Citations** Please list citations for above five sections below (only content written in the LOI will be reviewed as part of the application; these citations will be used to verify factual accuracy if necessary).

1. Utsumi, T., P. Tapio Varis, and W. R. Klemm (2003), "Creating Global University System (GUS)," <http://tinyurl.com/sfgm7>

2. Utsumi, T. (2012), "The Global Early Warning System (GEWS) with The Global University System (GUS): Their Use Within ECOWAS countries," <http://preview.tinyurl.com/bmo9ljj>

3. Utsumi, T. (2013), "The Global Knowledge Center Network (GKCN) with The Global University System (GUS)," <http://tinyurl.com/o5l22ll>

4. MDG (2010), "Japan Education Cooperation Policy 2011 -2015, Education for Human Security -- Building Human Capacity, Nations and World Peace through Educational Development," Executive Summary <http://tinyurl.com/28zukro>

5. MDG (2010), "Japan Global Health Policy 2011 -2015. EMBRACE - Ensure Mothers and Babies Regular Access to Care," Executive Summary <http://tinyurl.com/26mfuf7>

6. Dr. Utsumi, Initiator of globalization of Internet – see two comments in <http://tinyurl.com/3mucrf2> and <http://tinyurl.com/lyysx>

7. Dr. Utsumi's effort of deregulating the Japanese telecom policies for the use of email with the help from the Late US Commerce Secretary, Mr. Malcolm Baldrige <http://tinyurl.com/m74zr2k> and <http://tinyurl.com/ml9m2m2>

V. Submission

Please email your completed LOI in MS Word or compatible format to DIVApplications@usaid.gov. Please do not send more than one LOI per project or any additional attachments or information. Once you've submitted your LOI, you will receive a confirmation that we have received it. Your LOI will undergo a competitive review and if successful, we will ask you to submit a full application. Please carefully review our Annual Program Statement available at http://www.usaid.gov/div/ before submitting your LOI.

By submitting this LOI, your organization is certifying that the answers to the questions are accurate to the full extent of your organization's knowledge.

Ms. Dorothy K. Gordon

Name of authorized representative   Date

For additional information about DIV, examples of great projects that we support, and our application process and timelines, please visit our website at http://www.usaid.gov/div/.