



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: Université d'Abomey-Calavi

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

C. Organization address:

Street Address	Ecole Nationale d'economie Appliquee et de Managem
City:	Cotonou
State/Region:	Littoral
Zip/Postal Code:	03BP 1079
Country:	Republic of Benin

D. Contact information:

Primary point of contact

Name: Dr. Daniel N. Dalohoun
Title: Professor
Telephone: +229 99141516
E-mail: dndalohoun@hotmail.com

Secondary point of contact

Name: Dr. Takeshi Utsumi
Title: CEO of GLOSAS/USA
Telephone: 1-718-939-0928
E-mail: takutsumi0@gmail.com

III. Overview Information

A. Project title: Creating Global Knowledge Centers Network (GKCN) with Global University System (GUS) in Benin

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: Other: Governance and Democracy

- F. Secondary sector, if any (please select from dropdown menu): Other
If 'Other', please specify: Energy, Water, Environment, Agriculture
- G. Partner organizations: See Section IV-E for entire list
- H. Primary country where the project will take place: Benin
- I. Secondary country/countries (if any) where the project will take place: West African Countries
(ECOWAS)
- J. Expected duration of project activities (months): 24
- K. Expected source of financial support at scale (long-term widespread implementation):
Hybrid of commercial 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?

LACK OF A PROPER POLICY GUIDELINE TOOL AS THE "COMPASS" FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND ACTIONS TOWARDS A SOUND COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT VISION:

The multifaceted framework of education and training that would chiefly address energy, water, environment and agriculture in short, mid and long run does not exist. Actually, economic growth and social development depends on how thoroughly policies address the right multiple and intertwined factors. At this stage, there is no clear evidence that the right socioeconomic development issues are meticulously taken into account in the settings of the various policies and actions at national and local levels. There is no real and sound defined framework that includes multiple factors in short, mid and long run. The lack of such policy guideline tool as a

“compass” for development planning and actions explains the hazardous policy actions that are mostly not conducive for economic growth and development of Benin.

Innovation: What solution are you proposing?

The use of the GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE CENTERS NETWORK – BENEIN to create a country-suited multifaceted framework of education and training that addresses energy, water, environment and agriculture in short, mid and long run. The GKCEN-BENIN will be part of the GKCEN (which is now being organized in global scale by our US partners, e.g., GLOSAS/USA, Stevens Institute of Technology, Millennium Institute, etc.) and other partners as African Virtual University (AVU). This can then be an effective planning tool for different players at different levels of operation locally and abroad. It can also serve as a training tool for planners. This new concept of Distance teaching and learning needs to be introduced to key players in BENIN including our academic partners. Therefore, training and planning workshop will be the appropriate first step to develop GKCEN-BENIN that will involve countries in West Africa.

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?

Clearer and thorough development vision addressing education and training, water and energy, environment and agriculture is properly set; when and what capacities are needed to achieve short, mid and long run development objectives are known; policies required for these achievements are set, disseminated and known by the various stakeholders; the country is embedded in regional and more global framework of policies to better address the multiple issues arising from globalisation; policy actions are no more hazardous but well-articulated and integrated into the regional framework (West African) along the long run development vision; ICT is more developed, learned and used to inspire and hasten development actions. The country is better focused with less waste of very limited resources.

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) Organization of the planning workshop, (2) Seminar on system dynamics modeling, (3) Construction of Benin national socio-economic, energy, environmental simulation models, (4) Interlinkage of those models with corresponding ones in various countries with the use of GLOSAS/USA patent pending procedures. (5) Planning for global e-learning, (6) Planning for global and local healthcare and agriculture, etc.

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, 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 entrepreneurs. 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 Benin and ECOWAS countries will form multidisciplinary team for mutual co-assistance to ensure sustainability, 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:

	<u>Direct</u>	<u>Indirect</u>
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 Benin dimension should provide a better planning tool. Hence our participation in the global model will add Benin 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 experiment which will start small but aim at big results. Since this will be conducted without government intervention, it will enjoy flexibility of learning from its missteps 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 GKCEN-Benin being part of a global GKCEN 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 privileged 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 GKCEN-Benin model establishment.
- Assessment of GKCEN-Benin potential impact on young government leaders.
- Plans for being part of global e-learning
- Assessment 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 knowledge 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 dependents.

E. Project Team

Lead Organization Briefly describe the lead implementing organization, including relevant experience.

Called the National Institute of Economics at foundation in 1980, the Benin School of Applied Economics and Management (BSAEM) changed to its current name in 2002. It has intensively and extensively trained thousands of people mostly in microeconomics analysis, statistical analysis and macroeconomic modeling. Other areas training include the various fields of management sciences. As such it constitutes the “macroeconomists tank” for many national regional and international organizations concerned with macroeconomic issues.

The School of Applied Economics and Management has designed and implemented diverse research and training projects/programs. Its scholars have always been extensively involved in the design and the implementation of many research projects with various organizations.

Project Team Describe the composition of the project team including key personnel, discussing the skills and experience they contribute to the proposed objectives.

1. Dr. Daniel Nougbeignon Dalohoun: Statistician and Innovation Systems Expert, Agricultural Innovation & Development Specialist
2. Dr. Grégoire Balaro: Macroeconomist and Econometrician, Macroeconomic Modeling
3. Dr. Barthelemy Senou, Econometrician: Education Planning and Energy Specialist
4. Dr. Isaac Fanougbo Avoce-Viagannou: Industrial and Environmental Economist
5. Dr. Honorat Satoguina: Environmental Economist and Economic modeling

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/3hrlp3>>,
- 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 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.

Daniel Nougbeignon Dalohoun, Ph.D.

Apr. 9, 14

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/>.