

# SCIENCE GRANTING COUNCILS

## *An Exploration of Policies and Practices for Building Research*

### CONTEXT

How governments organize and support public science has a direct bearing on the domestic capability of researchers to generate scientific knowledge and of organizations to adapt or apply such knowledge. The ability to address social challenges and promote economic development is increasingly dependent on a country's ability to generate and apply knowledge. Some low and middle income countries invest considerable resources in building scientific capacity while in others, funding and other forms of support are weak or just emerging. Typically, responsibility for supporting and promoting public science is the responsibility of science granting councils. This project identifies a learning opportunity to better understand the policies and practices of science granting councils. Towards this, Jamia and IDRC will facilitate regional and inter-regional workshops to exchange perspectives among peer organizations on topics of mutual interest that will be identified through scoping studies and interviews. Regional consultations will provide representatives from science granting councils the opportunity to exchange information on thematic programming, discuss operational and strategic challenges and, potentially, explore areas for collaboration. These activities will support our long standing mandate to encourage the coordination of research and foster cooperation. Background studies, meeting reports and identification of potential areas for collaboration may also inform emerging efforts by international development agencies to support science, technology and innovation.

### OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the Science Granting Council project is to raise awareness of the policies and practices of science granting councils in low and middle income (LMIC) countries and promote collaboration among them and potentially with IDRC, to enhance their contribution to development in their own or other countries. Specific project objectives include:

- 1) Understand the changing contexts for granting councils (and similar research funding mechanisms), their strategic objectives, and how they operate;
- 2) Foster joint learning and knowledge sharing among LMIC granting councils;
- 3) Identify opportunities for enhanced cooperation or collaboration among granting councils within and across regions;
- 4) Identify follow up opportunities for IDRC to further its mandate by engaging with or supporting these councils; and
- 5) Explore opportunities for partnerships with other agencies to support science granting councils in low and middle income countries.

### REGIONAL CONSULTATION (S)

The regional office for Asia at this Nov 25-26, 2013 consultation strives to generate discussion among decision-makers of granting councils in Asia and seeks to identify priorities, challenges and opportunities. The themes that will be discussed during the Consultation are as follow:

- Engagement of the Private Sector in Science and Social Sciences
- Open Data and Open Science

- Enhanced Sectoral and Bilateral Collaborations
- Autonomy in Science and Social Science Research

The National Research Council of the Philippines will hold of a conference of ASEAN research councils/agencies in January 2014 as an initiative for information sharing and research networking in the ASEAN Region.

#### **RESEARCH STUDIES**

The Asia regional office has commissioned 2 research studies to inform the regional consultations stated above and those are as follows:

- A. Private sector funding to science and social science research in South Asia
- B. Scoping of research councils in South and South-east Asia for collaborating spaces