

Australian Development Gateway partners

1. Why AusAID is seeking partners

The Australian Development Gateway provides a place for users to share and exchange high quality information on sustainable development and poverty reduction in a range of sectors¹. The ADG's main (but not exclusive) focus is on individuals and organisations working on development-related activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Our development objective is to help speed up decision-making and increase the probability that effective development solutions will be found.

The information and categorisation currently available through the Gateway was developed through initial user-needs workshops for each sector, with participation from groups of development professionals from the public sector, private sector, and non-government organisations. We are pleased with and proud of the quality and coverage of material currently available. However, AusAID is looking to the future, and feels that the best approach to meeting users' needs for quality and relevant material is to identify and work with partner organisations (and potentially, individuals) for each of the development sectors.

The partners we are seeking:

- (i) have an acknowledged expertise in the sector (or of a sub-sector);
- (ii) have a self-interest in becoming a partner – i.e, that their partnership role will support achievement of their own organisational (or personal) goals as well as those of the Gateway; and
- (iii) are able to commit themselves to providing the time and personnel required to meet the Gateway's expectations of a partner.

2. The types of partners AusAID is seeking

There are a number of partnership roles that organisations or individuals can play:

- (a) information sector partners;
- (b) moderators for sectoral discussion forums;
- (c) people or organisations to host 'Ask the expert' sessions; and
- (d) content contributors.

(a) Information sector partners

AusAID is seeking information sector (and, where relevant, sub-sector) partners to:

- (i) provide advice to the Gateway's managing contractor (Net Return Pty Ltd) whether content (either electronic documents or links to websites) submitted by users is of sufficient quality and relevance to the sector that it should be posted on the Gateway;
- (ii) advise Net Return of any new, quality, and relevant information that the partner becomes aware of and that should be posted on the Gateway;
- (iii) advise Net Return of information that should be removed from the Gateway because of its lack of continued relevance and/or quality;
- (iv) advise Net Return of emerging issues in the sector, and identifying suitable material for placement on the Gateway;

¹ currently agriculture, education, governance, health, information and communication technologies, and water

- (v) periodically review key issues, and recommend changes to Net Return;
- (vi) contribute any sector highlights and sectoral contributions to the Gateway e-newsletter, and submit to Net Return; and
- (vii) promote the Gateway through its networks.

A sector may have more than one information sector partner. In these cases, tasks will be assigned according to partners' particular strengths (including sub-sectoral orientation) and their capacity to respond (ie to take into account their available resources at that point in time).

(b) content contributors

The key function of the Australian Development Gateway is to provide quality, relevant information to people working in development in the sectors covered.

While pleased with the quality and coverage of material currently available, AusAID will be continually seeking more quality information of relevance to each sector covered in the Gateway. To this end, AusAID wishes to enlist the support of Gateway users to submit material they consider meets these criteria.

Benefits to the contributor

The benefits that accrue from contributing material to the Gateway include:

- (i) recognition as the contributor of the material – thereby demonstrating to peers and potential collaborators that the contributor has a good understanding of the subject area, and has well researched the topic; and, if the contributor is also the original source of the material;
- (ii) a link through to the home page of the contributor's web site – thereby increasing awareness of, their organisational or personal capabilities and objectives; and
- (iii) more effective promulgation of material thereby enhancing its development impact.

Benefits to the partner

The benefits that accrue from becoming an information sector partner include:

- (i) recognition of partner's editorial contribution to the Gateway, and by identifying the contributor of each content item supplied; and
- (ii) promotion, both in Australia and internationally, through billing on the site – an information sector partner will be recognised in the 'Our partners' page for that sector (an example of a current partner is given in Box 1)².

Both of these steps will increase the profile of the partner with the wider audience reached by the Gateway – geographically and sectorally – thereby assisting the partner in advancing its own goals; and increased referrals to the partners' website through the above content items and billing.

² Guidelines for the information included on our partners are attached.

Box 1**Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)**

CSIRO's work touches every aspect of Australian life from the molecules of life to installing farm drainage systems - finding ways to improve quality of life and economic performance.

It is the aim of CSIRO to apply what we have learned for the benefit of the global community.

CSIRO has delivered more than 250 Global Aid projects in over 60 countries around the world, with collaborations involving 40 research institutions, foundations and aid agencies. The projects range from water to land mine detection, forestry to systems implementation.

CSIRO's web site provides a searchable database for these projects and describes our work with agencies such as AusAID, ACIAR, Global Research Alliance and the Challenge Program on Water and Food.

Optional non-committal trial period

AusAID recognises that the functions of an information sector partner are likely to be new to many potential Australian partners. In addition, given that AusAID has yet to develop much experience with Gateway operations, AusAID itself is not in a position to state with confidence what the likely inputs from a partner may be (although from the Development Gateway experience, we would expect it to be at most 2-3 hours per week). We are therefore prepared to enter into a non-committal trial period of three months with new partners in order for both parties to see whether the proposed arrangements and expectations work out in practice.

Continuing / concluding the relationship

AusAID would intend to review the partnership arrangements annually to satisfy ourselves that the arrangement is continuing to benefit the Gateway's objectives – and in recognition that the sectoral focus and priorities may change over time. The partner's contributions are voluntary in nature and could be concluded at any time. AusAID would appreciate maximum advance notice if a partner wishes to withdraw from this arrangement.

(c) people or organisations to host 'Ask the expert' sessions

The Australian Development Gateway provides a feature known as 'Ask the expert'.

The expert – who is able to answer user questions on a specific sector or a topic within that sector:

- (i) sets the topic area to be discussed; and
- (ii) answers the questions posed by users – typically over a two week period.

AusAID intends that, to the extent possible, an 'Ask the expert' session will be planned several months in advance – to let as many users know of the opportunity, and to allow users to pose questions in advance of the expert being available. User questions will not be sent directly to the expert. Rather, Net Return will collect them and – as far as is possible – sort them into related themes, in order to minimise the workload for the expert. Net Return will send questions to the expert weekly, and post the expert's responses on the Gateway.

Benefits to the expert

The benefits that accrue from hosting an ‘Ask the expert’ session include:

- (i) the opportunity to demonstrate to a large audience in a multitude of countries the knowledge and experience the expert can bring to bear on a particular topic – ie enhance his/her professional profile; and
- (ii) opportunities to network with fellow professionals in the sector.

(d) Moderators for discussion forums

The Australian Development Gateway hosts discussion forums for each of the information sectors, where registered users can post information likely to be of interest to other users, or pose questions for others to answer.

AusAID is seeking people or organisations to moderate these sectoral discussion forums.

A moderator would:

- (i) ensure that comments posted to the discussion forum for their sector conform to the rules for the discussion forums (see Box 2);
- (ii) encourage the discussion forum’s use through the moderator’s own networks;
- (iii) provide answers or referrals to questions that remain unanswered for five working days; and
- (iv) place material on the discussion forum on any emerging issues for that particular sector.

Benefits to the moderator

The benefits that accrue from becoming a moderator include:

- (i) recognition on the discussion forum that reaches an international audience, with particular focus on the moderator’s sectoral area of expertise;
- (ii) increased opportunities to engage with other professionals in the sector – thereby increasing the number of potential collaborative partners; and
- (iii) assisting the moderator to keep up with current development in their sector of expertise.

Optional non-committal trial period

AusAID recognises that a moderator role is likely to be new to many potential Australian partners. In addition, given that AusAID has yet to develop much experience with Gateway operations, AusAID itself is not in a position to state with confidence what the likely inputs from a partner may be (we would expect it to be at most one day per week). We are therefore prepared to enter into a non-committal trial period of three months with new partners in order for both parties to see whether the proposed arrangements and expectations work out in practice.

Continuing / concluding the relationship

AusAID would intend to review the partnership arrangements annually to satisfy ourselves that the arrangement is continuing to benefit the Gateway’s objectives – and in recognition that the sectoral focus and priorities may change over time. The partner’s contributions are voluntary in nature and could be concluded at any time. AusAID would appreciate maximum advance notice if a partner wishes to withdraw from this arrangement.

Box 2**Participating in the online discussion forums (excerpt from editorial policy on the ADG website)**

The User agrees to use the Forums only to send and receive messages and material that are proper and related to the particular Forum. By way of example, and not as a limitation, the User agrees that when using a Forum, the User shall not do any of the following:

- defame, abuse, harass, stalk, threaten or otherwise violate the legal rights (such as rights of privacy and publicity) of others;
- publish, post, distribute or disseminate any defamatory, infringing, obscene, indecent or unlawful material or information;
- upload or attach files that contain software or other material protected by intellectual property laws (or by rights of privacy or publicity) unless you own or control the rights thereto or have received all necessary consents;
- upload or attach files that contain viruses, corrupted files, or any other similar software or programs that may damage the operation of another's computer;
- delete any author attributions, legal notices or proprietary designations or labels in any file that is uploaded;
- falsify the origin or source of software or other material contained in a file that is uploaded;
- advertise or offer to sell any goods or services, or conduct or forward surveys, contests, or chain letters; or
- download any file posted by another user of a Forum that you know, or reasonably should know, cannot be legally distributed in such manner.

The User acknowledges that all Forums or Discussion Groups are public and not private communications. Information submitted to the ADG by users is subject to prior review by editors who determine its suitability. Any content offered to the site may be rejected by editors if, in the editor's opinion, it advocates violence, contains profanity, is inflammatory in nature, is not relevant to the subject of that section of the site, or is otherwise inappropriate.

Further, the User acknowledges that direct chats, e-mails and other communications by other users are not endorsed by the Australian Development Gateway, and such communications shall not be considered reviewed, screened, or approved by the Australian Development Gateway.

The Australian Development Gateway reserves the right to remove without notice any contents received from users, including postings to mailing lists and discussion forums.

Attachment – Style guide for Partner logo / introduction text

Style guidelines for partners organisational information included on the Australian Development Gateway sector partners page

Billing for information sector partners include:

- (b) one logo for each partner organisation.
- (c) one page for each partner organisation.
- (d) one intermediate page with a short profile and link to another page.

In addition to featuring as a partner for the relevant information sector, each partner will be profiled on the Gateway's home page for two weeks.

Partner profiles provide information on:

- (a) the focus of work and activities in which the organisation or individual is engaged;
- (b) areas of international development expertise; and
- (c) information about geographical reach.

The information submitted by partner organisations should be:

- (a) between 150 and 200 words;
- (b) in Microsoft Word format; and
- (c) can include, as a separate attachment, a logo of the organisation. The logo should be high resolution (150 dots per inch minimum), and in one of the following formats:
 - (i) JPG or GIF file
 - (ii) EPS – Adobe Illustrator file;
 - (iii) PSD – Photoshop file; or
 - (iv) bitmap file.

The above materials should be forwarded via email to:

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