



7th Global Summit of GADRI Networking Institutes Slide

Enhancing Existing International Fellowship Program (IFP) towards its Sustainability

Prof. Dr. Tabassam Raza, Planning and Development Research Foundation, Inc.



Background

The International Fellowship Program (IFP) is pioneered by the Planning and Development Research Foundation, Inc. (PLANADES). It is designed to promote research, capacity-building, and sustainable development in environmental and urban planning through close collaboration with local and international public and private academic and research institutions. It aligns with international frameworks like the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the SDGs, and focuses on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and related fields in urban and regional planning.

Objects

The lack of integrated, multi-disciplinary collaborations in national and local land use in environmental planning has led to fragmented decision making, limited practical exposure for emerging professionals, and weak linkages between academia, industry, and governments. There is a gap in hands-on capacity building initiatives that equips engineers, planners, architects, and behavioral science workers, with real work experience. Strengthening partnership between local and international institutions is substantial to foster the knowledge exchange and strategic planning solutions in addressing complex urban and rural development challenges.

Expectation from a future partner

The output of this program will be showcased during the Seeds and Needs Networking with Institutions Session to recognize the availability of institutions and their abundant resources in terms of new and on-going researches, generous funding in kinds or grants and donations that can be extended to enhance funds for the sustainability of the IFP program through GADRI members.

Seeds and Needs

The drastic change in the environment especially due to the climate change impact have unprecedentedly changed the fabrics and the intensity of the hazards especially related to climate change. Researchers, practitioners, and policy makers often operates in silos, resulting in inefficiencies and missed opportunities for sustainable and inclusive urban and regional development. The PLANADES showcases the seeds in terms of the stakeholder mapping and identified potential partner institutions and connect researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers. It entered in collaborative agreements with Disaster Preparedness Mitigation and Management, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand; School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines; and Department of City and Regional Planning, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan. The mechanism for the fellowship program was designed to provide a common platform with the real-world exposure of planning, policy, and development initiatives where the accepted applicants from partner institutions were provided a chance to participate in international conferences and present their research work and collaboration with each other. The continuous improvement process need to be followed by monitoring, evaluation, and feedback mechanism to ensure effectivity and sustainability of the program. In this regard, needs from the session will recognize the availability of institutions and their abundant resources in terms of their partnership to enhance funds for the sustainability of the IFP program through GADRI members.