

Australian Development Gateway partners

Why AusAID seeks 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 sectors. 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 categorization currently available through the gateway was developed through initial user-needs works 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 user's 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:

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

The types of partners AusAID is seeking:

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

- information sector partners;
- moderators for sectoral discussion forums;
- people or organisations to host 'Ask the Expert' sessions; and
- content contributors.

a) Information Sector Partners

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

- provide advice to the Gateway's Contractor 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;
- advise the Contractor of any new, quality, and relevant information that the partner becomes aware of and that should be posted on the gateway;
- advise the Contractor of information that should be removed from the Gateway because of its lack of continued relevance and/or quality;
- advise the Contractor of emerging issues in the sector, and identifying suitable material for placement on the Gateway;
- periodically review key issues, and recommend changes to the Contractor;
- contribute any sector highlights and sectoral contributions to the Gateway e-newsletter, and submit to the Contractor; and

- 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 partner's particular strengths (including sub-sectoral orientation) and their capacity to respond (ie to take into account their available resources at that point in time).

Benefits to the partner

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

- recognition of partner's editorial contribution to the Gateway, and by identifying the contributor of each content item supplied; and
- promotion, both in Australia and internationally, through billing on the site – an information sector partner will be recognized in the 'Our Partners' page for that sector.

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 partner's website through the above content and billing.

Optional non-committal trial period

AusAID recognizes that the functions of an information sector partner are likely to be new to many potential Australian partners. AusAID expects the likely inputs from a partner to be at most 2-3 hours per week. We are 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.

b) 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 discussion forums.

A moderator would:

- ensure that comments posted to the discussion forum for their sector conform to the rules for the discussion forums;
- encourage the discussion forum's use through the moderator's own networks;
- provide answers or referrals to questions that remain unanswered for five working days; and
- 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:

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

Optional non-committal trial period

AusAID recognizes that a moderator role is likely to be new to many potential Australian partners. AusAID expects the likely inputs from a partner to be at most one day per week. We are 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) Information Sector Partners

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:

- Sets the topic area to be discussed; and
- Answers the questions posed by users.

Benefits to the expert

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

- 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
- opportunities to network with fellow professionals in the sector.

d) 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:

- 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;
- a link through to the home page of the contributor's website – thereby increasing awareness of their organisational or personal capabilities and objectives; and
- more effective promulgation of material to enhance its impact.