

DotAsia Board / Governance / Policy Document:		Doc ID:	BGC-003		
Guidelines on the Application & Acceptance of Grants & External Funding					
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This document provides a framework for DotAsia’s considerations in applying for and accepting external grants and funding from government(s), foundations and sponsors (hereinafter summarized as “Grants”).

1. Preamble

DotAsia is a not-for-profit organization. In general, DotAsia aspires to operate independently (independent from undue influence of any government, corporation or organization) operationally, in its governance and financially. The surplus from DotAsia’s operation of the “.Asia” Sponsored generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD), supports DotAsia’s community mandate of contributing to a collaborative Asia Pacific community. As a not-for-profit organization, DotAsia intends to seek additional grants and funding that would support the expansion, scaling up and improvement of its projects and community initiatives. These Guidelines set forth a framework for DotAsia’s considerations in applying for and accepting such Grants so as to stay within the Vision and Mission of the organization, within the means of the operations, and remain independent as an organization.

2. Adherence to Vision and Mission

- 2.1. Any project seeking Grants should be aligned with the Vision and Mission of DotAsia. In particular, in support of “socio-technological advancement initiatives” and/or in exemplifying a “technically advanced, world-class TLD registry”, that “embodies the successful, cooperative atmosphere” of the Asia Pacific Internet community.
- 2.2. Any project seeking Grants should also be considered a priority project based on the DotAsia Core Values and Core Competence Framework (BCC-001).
- 2.3. The objectives of funders of Grants must not override DotAsia’s overarching commitment towards its Vision and Mission.
- 2.4. The asserted alignment of a proposed project towards a funder’s or funding scheme’s goals and objectives does not negate nor override the fundamental principle of DotAsia’s adherence towards its Vision and Mission.

3. Operating within the Means of DotAsia’s Budget

- 3.1. DotAsia should operate within the means of its budget, and not overextend its resources. Projects seeking Grants should not overburden DotAsia’s core

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operations, including the .Asia registry as well as long term community projects and commitments.

- 3.2. Projects seeking Grants should not be used towards the core operations of the .Asia registry, nor cause DotAsia to become reliant on the Grants for its operation.
- 3.3. The sustainability of projects seeking Grants should be considered. In particular, how the project will be integrated back into the DotAsia operations and budget, or how the project itself may become self-sustaining should be planned.

4. Principle of Extending, Scaling-up and Improving Projects

- 4.1. Grants should be applied towards the extension, scaling-up and/or improvement of existing projects or sub-projects, and not a completely new and unrelated project.
- 4.2. It is understood that many funding schemes require the applicant to propose “new” and/or “one-off” projects, such requirements should not deter from the principle above, nor become a prohibitive requirement for DotAsia’s utilization of the funds. Under such requirements, DotAsia should consider if a sub-project could be appropriately implemented while satisfying all the considerations within these Guidelines as well as the conditions of the funding scheme.
- 4.3. Without contradicting section 3.2 above regarding core operations, and in-keeping with section 2.1 regarding adherence to the DotAsia Mission and Vision, projects seeking to extend, scale-up and/or improve core operations of the .Asia registry, such as special development of policies (e.g. IDN language), abuse prevention (e.g. DNS abuse), security (e.g. DNSSEC), etc., especially projects that seek to exemplify DotAsia’s operational knowledge are acceptable projects to be considered.
- 4.4. Projects seeking Grants should not be purely for the marketing of the .Asia registrations. Projects seeking Grants on extending the DotAsia brand should be considered with caution, and with an aim to promote the not-for-profit nature of DotAsia.
- 4.5. Relief oriented Grants, such as funding offered in response to natural or human disasters, epidemics, economic depression, or otherwise in response to relief efforts are exempted. That is, DotAsia may apply for and accept such Grants to support its core operations, personnel and marketing where appropriate.

5. Administrative Considerations

- 5.1. All projects seeking Grants should be updated and reported to the relevant Board Committees and the Board before, during and upon the completion of the project.

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- 5.2. In the case that new bank accounts need to be created for a project given the requirements of the funder or funding scheme, such bank account should be established consistent with the SOP on Finance and Procurement (BFC-001).

6. Updates of the DotAsia Board Governance Framework

This document may be updated from time to time to improve the processes and address issues as they arise. Updates to the document should be considered and reviewed by the Board Governance Committee (BGC) and recommendations made to the whole DotAsia Board for consideration and adoption.