



Call for Proposals for Research Grants

The Ateneo School of Government (ASoG) and the International Development Research Center (IDRC) invite junior/individual researchers to submit proposals for “Advancing Tobacco Taxation in Southeast Asia” (ATT-SEA).

ATT-SEA aims to strengthen the local evidence base on tobacco tax issues in order to advance evidence-based policy discussions on how to improve tobacco tax implementation in the region. **The project will support research proposals that will add to the knowledge base on illicit tobacco in the region. Proposals should examine any of the following topic areas: (1) determinants; (2) extent; (3) impact/costs; and (4) policy measures to combat illicit tobacco. Furthermore, the proposals are also encouraged to look at the role and impact on women of illicit tobacco as a cross-cutting theme.**

DETERMINANTS: What are the key determinants of tobacco tax avoidance and evasion within specific ASEAN countries? How significant have price, non-price, and institutional factors been in influencing the illicit tobacco trade?

EXTENT: What is the extent/scope of tobacco tax evasion, and how has this extent/scope been affected by recent increases in tobacco taxes?

IMPACT: What are the fiscal, health, and economic costs resulting from present levels of tobacco tax evasion? Should current trends be maintained, what will be the long-term costs of such activities?

ACTIONS: What policy measures and institution-building efforts have been and can be undertaken by governments to address evasion of their tobacco tax systems?

GENDER: How are women affected by the illicit tobacco trade, specifically among women living in low income communities? What are the specific impacts/costs imposed by tobacco tax evasion on women?

Eligibility to Apply

Junior/individual researchers who are currently residing in the ASEAN region are eligible to apply:

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam

Applicants who work in organizations relating to tobacco control, policy control, and or reform organizations are highly encouraged to apply. Applicants must not have any relationship with, nor received previous funding from the tobacco industry.



Applications can be submitted by junior/individual researchers or by research teams. The researcher or the research team may seek guidance of a senior researcher or a mentor during the proposal development stage and actual research work. However, the senior researcher/mentor should not be part of the actual research team.

Size of the Grant

Approved proposals will receive Php 250,000.00 to be given in two installments. ASoG will also cover the travel expenses of the grantees to the annual workshops in the Philippines. Aside from the financial support, recipients can have the opportunity to contribute to policies on tobacco controls in Southeast Asia. They could also have an opportunity to work and learn from other researchers in the region.

Selection Criteria

Preference will be given to proposals that address new and as yet under-researched topics related to tobacco taxation, specifically in tobacco tax evasion and tax avoidance. The proposals should have the potential to generate findings which will create strong policy recommendations for public finance, health, and governance. The criteria for selection are as follow: relevance of research, quality of written work, feasibility of proposed research, and evidence of capacity of researcher(s).

Approval Process

Submitted proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee composed of ASoG, IDRC, and members of the project's expert advisory committee. The proponents of the 3-5 top proposals will be invited to attend the first workshop to be held on the last week of July 2019 in Manila, Philippines. All travel expenses will be financed by the ASoG.

Completed research studies will be submitted for publication in peer-reviewed economic and development journals

What should be included in the proposal?

The proposal should be 3-5 pages long (single-spaced) and should have the following sections:

1. An introduction that includes the research questions to be addressed, and the significance/policy relevance of the research in their country. Example research questions are:

DETERMINANTS: What are the key determinants of tobacco tax avoidance and evasion within specific ASEAN countries? How significant have price, non-price, and institutional factors been in influencing the illicit tobacco trade?

EXTENT: What is the extent/scope of tobacco tax evasion, and how has this extent/scope been affected by recent increases in tobacco taxes?

IMPACT: What are the fiscal, health, and economic costs resulting from present levels of tobacco tax evasion? Should current trends be maintained, what will be the long-term costs of such activities



ACTIONS: What policy measures and institution-building efforts have been and can be undertaken by governments to address evasion of their tobacco tax systems?

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- 2. The methodology: analytical framework, data sources, and methods of analyses

Kindly also attach the following:

- a) Curriculum vitae of researcher(s)
- b) Cover letter expressing your intent to join the research fellowship and highlighting your most relevant qualifications
- c) One (1) reference/endorsement letter

How to apply?

Proposals must use the research proposal template and be submitted via email to Ms. Ariza T. Francisco, ATT-SEA Project Manager, at att-sea@ateneo.edu on or before **May 24 2019, Friday, 11:59PM GMT+8**. Shortlisted applicants will be notified on the last week of June 2019.

Important Dates:

Date	Event
May 24, 2019	Deadline of research proposals
Last week of June 2019	Announcement of 3-5 shortlisted proposals
Last week of July 2019	1 st workshop Start of research work
April 2020	Submission of draft research work
Mid 2020	2 nd workshop
Mid 2021	International Conference

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