

Seeking: Senior Program Officer – Innovation

The Global Knowledge Initiative

Description:

GKI is a new type of non-profit organization focused on maximizing what's available to solve pressing global development problems like food insecurity, environmental degradation, and energy insufficiency. As a global community, we are poised to take on these complex issues. But to do so we need to confront what's prevented so many previous well-intentioned efforts from succeeding at scale.

GKI believes it is not a failure of intellect, nor a lack of resources, that keeps us from solving complex, global development challenges. Rather, the failure lies in how we connect committed individuals and their resources—technologies, expertise, financing—to fill these gaps. GKI believes we need better methods for connecting the resources we have – experts, technology, knowledge – to the people and places that need them most. Collaborative Innovation approaches bridge those gaps and help people connect so that they can do more with less: more problem solving, more knowledge sharing, more life changing.

We are looking for a Senior Program Officer to provide innovation leadership within various initiatives and projects at GKI. We expect this individual to lead design and development of innovation processes and products, providing strong direction on activities (analysis, ideation, concept refinement, project creation, deployment, evaluation) that will lead to high impact outputs and outcomes across GKI's portfolio.

We want to hear from you, if you:

- **Live and breathe Innovation.** You have 5-10 years experience, of which at least 5 years of experience relates directly to innovation and demonstrates a mastery of the techniques, processes, and mindset that drive innovation. Ideally, some of this experience will be in the agriculture sector and/or

DETAILS

Application deadline: March 29, 2017

Education requirements: Master's degree, fields related to international relations, innovation / innovation systems, design, engineering, or another innovation-related discipline

Employment type: Full-time

Professional level: Senior-level (7-10 years of work experience)

Salary range: \$60k min - \$72k max commensurate with experience

Job functions: Those related to the design, analysis, management, and optimization of GKI's innovation programming

GKI's area of focus: International development; Collaborative Innovation; science, technology, and innovation; systems thinking, network design; capacity building; facilitation

Location: Washington, DC, USA

Requested documents: Resume, cover letter, 3 professional references

focusing on innovation within a developing country context.

- **Know how to operationalize innovation thinking.** You have experience designing, building, and deploying innovative solutions that address social issues within and on behalf of an organization. You are experienced in leading human-centered design processes and applying systems thinking in your work. You don't just ideate, you execute.
- **Are adept at crafting and executing a vision.** You have successfully developed a point of view on innovation for social good, and have experience driving the implementation of innovation agendas.
- **Embrace ambiguity.** You thrive in a dynamic work environment and soar even amidst ambiguity. You have demonstrable experience working with a diverse team to create and grow programs.
- **Make things happen.** You are experienced in developing and deploying prototypes and pilots for services, experiences, or in-market experiments. You can translate concept into action, learning throughout the process.
- **Are a master of collaboration.** You have led and managed multi-stakeholder projects and multi-disciplinary teams, have a strong work-ethic, and exceptional communication abilities that encourage people to partner with each other and with you.
- **Are excited to join, lead, and enrich a creative team.** You are passionate about advancing organizational learning and deepening your team's technical skills in innovation.
- **Have a global-local mindset and perspective.** You are able to consider the local implications of global programs and have demonstrated cultural agility through previous experiences working internationally on innovation for social good.

Additional required qualifications:

- You are used to working across industries and disciplines and comfortable supporting and leading multidisciplinary teams.
- You hold a Master's degree or PhD in; innovation studies; international development studies/relations; sustainability studies; design; public policy; or a specific scientific or technical field such as humanitarian engineering, agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, systems engineering; or other related areas.
- You are able and eager to travel internationally on average 6 – 8 weeks per year.

At GKI, you would have the opportunity to:

- **Design and manage projects with a fearless team of innovators:** You will manage major projects with donors, governments, and non-governmental organizations that bring innovation to bear on international development challenges, leading a team at GKI in doing so.
- **Work at the cutting edge of innovation in international development:** You will be responsible for leading innovation analysis and synthesis, including

designing frameworks and articulating innovation insights. You will also develop new innovation products and services to advance GKI's mission such as toolkits, assessments, novel methodologies, and frameworks.

- **Be an innovation guru at GKI:** You will serve as a cultural steward, providing clarity and direction in a demanding yet supportive culture. Externally, you will bring GKI's vision, capability, and novel approaches/tools into a variety of settings for capacity building, partnership cultivation, and for business development.

Additional responsibilities include

I. Program Administration and Management

- Lead and manage a large and varied portfolio of projects.
- Identify potential partners and sponsors, and support relationship cultivation efforts globally, particularly with research institutions, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies, and foundations.

II. Research and analysis

- Perform rigorous analysis of the innovation assets and capacities of countries, institutions, and individuals.
- Perform rigorous research and analysis pertinent to innovation needs / opportunities as identified within projects that emerge within any of GKI's 5 Programmatic Areas.
- Demonstrate above-average ability to identify and follow through on new ideas using various research and design methods.

III. Presentation and facilitation

- Design and deliver creative, aesthetically and linguistically compelling presentations, workshop sessions, and/or training modules for high-level decision-makers from policymakers to university researchers.
- Lead the facilitation of intensive working sessions to enable groups to articulate Collaborative Innovation goals, make decisions, and/or achieve measurable progress toward their goals.

To submit your resume, cover letter and references for consideration, please contact Manmeet Mehta, Senior Program Officer, GKI at jobs@gkinitiative.org, **no later than March 29, 2016. Please include the title of the position in the subject line.**