

Hundred and fifty-fourth Session

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MALCOLM ADISESHIAH INTERNATIONAL LITERACY PRIZE

SUMMARY

The Director-General submits this document to the Executive Board concerning the establishment of a UNESCO-India Malcolm Adiseshiah Literacy Prize as a contribution to the struggle against illiteracy.

Decision required: paragraph 7.

1. In a letter dated 13 February 1998, the Permanent Delegate of India to UNESCO advises the Director-General of his government's intention to finance an annual literacy prize, of a value of US \$20,000, which includes the award (US \$15,000) and the administrative costs involved (US \$5,000). This Prize is in commemoration of the late Dr Malcolm Adiseshiah, a distinguished and dedicated servant of the International Community, of his nation, India, and of his native State of Tamil Nadu, and in recognition of the outstanding contribution he made to education in general and to literacy in particular. The Government of India proposes that the Prize be called 'the Malcolm Adiseshiah International Literacy Prize'.
2. Article IX of UNESCO's Constitution provides that the Director-General, with the approval of the Executive Board, may receive gifts, bequests, and subventions directly from governments, public and private institutions, associations and private persons.
3. According to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the General Rules governing the award for prizes for meritorious work in literacy, each prize will be given an official name, to be settled by mutual agreement between the donor and the Director-General, and the amounts of such prizes are fixed by the donors (see annex to the present document).

4. The Government of India has not specified for what period it will finance the Prize which it wishes to endow. The Director-General considers, nevertheless, that its offer may be accepted.

5. In paragraph 5(n) of resolution 1/01 adopted at its 21st session, the General Conference authorized the Director-General 'to put into effect activities contributing to the achievement of ... (the) intensification of the struggle against illiteracy ... by mobilizing international public opinion and rousing the international community, especially with a view to obtaining additional funds for achieving this objective'. In paragraph 4 of resolution 2.3 adopted at its 24th session, the General Conference appealed to 'Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take immediate measures to prepare programmes and activities for International Literacy Year in the context of the plan of action for the eradication of illiteracy by the year 2000'.

6. The Director-General considers this offer to be in conformity with the current provisions of the Constitution and with the General Rules governing the award of prizes for meritorious work in literacy, and proposes that the Executive Board authorize him to accept it.

7. The Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 154 EX/44,
2. Authorizes the Director-General to accept this generous offer, it being understood that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of the General Rules governing the award of prizes for meritorious work in literacy, the official name of the prize will be settled by agreement between the donor and the Director-General, and it being further understood that in granting the award, as a literacy prize, special consideration will be given to Dr Adiseshiah's concern about educating low-income communities in rural and urban areas;
3. Expresses its warmest thanks to the Government of India for this contribution to the struggle against illiteracy.

ANNEX

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

General rules governing the award of prizes for meritorious work in literacy

1. Purpose

These prizes form part of a set of measures designed to intensify the fight for literacy in the context of lifelong education; their purpose is to reward the services of institutions, organizations or individuals displaying outstanding merit and achieving particularly effective results in contributing to the fight for literacy. The award of these prizes also has the object of securing and maintaining public sympathy and support for literacy programmes in progress.

2. Official name of each prize

Each prize will be given an official name, to be settled by mutual agreement between the donor and the Director-General.

3. Prizes and honourable mentions

The prizes, the amounts of which will be fixed by the donors, may be awarded each year. The amount of a prize not awarded in a particular year may be awarded in one of the three years immediately following the year in question, as an additional prize. A few candidates may also be awarded honourable mentions in accordance with the criteria set out in paragraph 6.

4. Selection of prizewinners

The selection of institutions, organizations and individuals to which or to whom prizes are to be awarded shall be made by a jury of at least five persons of different nationalities, appointed by the Director-General for a minimum period of two years. The jury may adopt its own rules of procedure. A staff member of UNESCO may be appointed by the Director-General to serve as secretary of the jury.

5. Eligibility

The prizes are open to institutions, organizations or individuals displaying outstanding merit and achieving particularly effective results in literacy and post-literacy activities and their integration into basic education programmes.

6. Criteria for award of prizes

The prizes, which will be indivisible, will be awarded in conformity with the following criteria:

- (a) institutions, organizations or individuals must have carried out literacy or post-literacy activities:
 - (i) by direct teaching; or
 - (ii) by organizing literacy programmes at the national or local level; or
 - (iii) by promoting support from the public; or
 - (iv) by producing teaching materials or special media for literacy programmes; or
 - (v) by carrying out research in fields related to literacy (methods, languages, evaluation, social sciences, etc.); or
 - (vi) by carrying out special surveys of primary importance for literacy planning; or
 - (vii) by offering young people the possibility of taking part in literacy activities; or
 - (viii) by carrying out non-formal education activities of a social, cultural, economic or political nature incorporating literacy and related activities (such as radio and television programmes, publications and press, etc.);
- (b) in addition, the following criteria will be considered:
 - (i) the duration of the activity, which must be sufficient to permit an assessment of results and proof of success obtained;
 - (ii) the contribution to the basic objectives of the education system of the country;
 - (iii) the contribution to local and national development;
 - (iv) the value of the activities as an example to stimulate further similar action;
 - (v) the impact of the action carried out with a view to mobilizing new resources for literacy programmes;
 - (vi) the contribution to the understanding and development of the national society and culture;
 - (vii) the contribution to the appreciation of other cultures and to international understanding.

7. Selection of candidates and submission of nominations

Nominations will be submitted to the Director-General of UNESCO by the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, and by international non-governmental organizations specially concerned with education and admitted to the

consultative and associate, information and consultative, or mutual information category of relationship with UNESCO, each being entitled to nominate one candidate.

Arrangements for selection, suited to national conditions, may include:

- (i) the announcement of prizes;
- (ii) the establishment of a committee or committees for the selection of candidates at the national level;
- (iii) the submission of nominations to the Director-General of UNESCO.

8. Submission of nominations

Governments and international non-governmental organizations shall supply, in support of each nomination, a recommendation covering not more than five standard pages and including:

- (i) a description of the activities carried out;
- (ii) an account of the results achieved;
- (iii) an evaluation on the basis of the criteria mentioned above; and
- (iv) the appraisal of the committee responsible for the final selection at the national level.

9. The latest date for submission of nominations to the Director-General shall be 31 May of each year.

10. The names of the winners of the prizes and honourable mentions will usually be announced every year on International Literacy Day (8 September).