



united nations educational, scientific and cultural organization
organisation des nations unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP
1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris CEDEX 15

adresse postale : B.P.3.07 Paris
téléphone : national 01.45.68.10.00
international + (33.1) 45.68.10.00
télégrammes : UNESCO Paris
téléc : 204461 Paris
270602 Paris
téléfax : 01.45.67.16.90

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**Subject: Nominations for the UNESCO Great Man-Made River
International Water Prize for Water Resources in Arid and
Semi-Arid Areas (2005)**

Sir/Madam,

By 157 EX/Decision 3.3.2 adopted at its 157th session (October-November 1999), the Executive Board of UNESCO approved the establishment of the "Great Man-Made River International Prize for Water Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas".

The Prize, generously financed by the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, is intended to reward the achievements of an individual, a group of individuals or a research institute having made fundamental and substantial contributions to the assessment, development, management and/or use of water resources in arid and semi-arid areas.

The Prize is awarded biennially at a public ceremony, to be held next in autumn 2005, and comprises a certificate, a medal and a sum equivalent to US \$20,000.

Your attention is kindly drawn to the fact that the international jury decided not to award the prize for the year 2003 because, in its view, the applications received did not live up to the standards set by the Prize's founders and the criteria established in its Statutes.

Coordination between National Commissions for UNESCO, Permanent Delegations and National Committees of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) is indeed most desirable when submitting the requisite single application per country to the UNESCO Secretariat for onward transmission to the international jury. The international jury will evaluate the scientific work of the candidates, who may be either individuals or research institutes, and will select the winner on the basis of one or more of the following criteria: practical applicability to arid and semi-arid areas, scientific, technological and/or educational innovation, contributions to environmental improvements, beneficial socio-economic impact and consistency with the goals of the IHP.

I have the honour to invite your Government to submit nominations for the 2005 award of the prize.

Non-governmental organizations maintaining official relations with UNESCO are also welcome to submit nominations, in accordance with the statutes of the prize.

To Ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO

Please find in Annex I the text of 157 EX/Decision 3.3.2 and its annexes, and in Annex II a nomination explanation form for the prize.

In order to enable the jury to consider the greatest possible number of candidates, the deadline for the submission of nominations has been set at **15 May 2005**. The nominations in English or in French should be received before that date by the Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France (fax: +33 1 45685811; tel.: +33 1 45684001; email: e.felici@unesco.org), which is at your disposal for any other information you may require. A web page has been created on the Prize (http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp/prizes/great_man/).

I trust that you will value this opportunity to support and give wide recognition to outstanding work in the field of water resources in arid and semi-arid areas.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

ANNEX I

157 EX/DECISION 3.3.2

3.3.2 The Great Man-Made River International Water Prize (157 EX/44 and 157 EX/50)

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 157 EX/44 concerning the establishment of the Great Man-Made River International Water Prize,
2. Considering that the objectives of the Prize are in conformity with those of UNESCO, as stated in the second and sixth preambular paragraphs and in Article I, paragraph 2(c), of the Constitution of UNESCO,
3. Expresses to the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya the Organization's deepest gratitude for this initiative and for its generous offer of a fund amounting to US \$350,000;
4. Approves the Statutes of the Great Man-Made River International Water Prize as set out in Annex I to this decision;
5. Takes note of the Financial Regulations governing the Special Account opened for this Prize, as set out in Annex II to this decision.

Annex I

Statutes of the Great Man-Made River International Water Prize

1. Purpose

The Great Man-Made River International Water Prize is intended to reward remarkable scientific research work on water usage in arid areas as well as areas subject to droughts and also for the development of food agriculture for the benefit of humanity and the environment. Such work may take the form of a scientific breakthrough or technical applications.

2. Name and value of the Prize

The Prize, which shall consist of a certificate and a sum of money, shall be called the "Great Man-Made River International Water Prize". The value of the Prize awarded each biennium shall be set, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, by the Director-General on the basis of the interest accruing from the donation made by the Great Man-Made River Authority, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

3. Periodicity

The Prize shall be awarded biennially by the Director-General at a public ceremony to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris during the General Conference.

4. Selection of the prizewinners

A committee, called the "Committee of the Great Man-Made River International Water Prize", shall be constituted to review the candidatures and select the prizewinners. The Committee shall include representatives of the Great Man-Made River Authority and UNESCO as follows:

- (a) the Secretary of the People’s Committee of the Great Man-Made River Authority or his delegate;
- (b) a representative of the Director-General;
- (c) five specialists appointed by the Director-General, including one member of UNESCO’s Scientific Advisory Board for the Great Man-Made River project.

The decisions of the Committee shall be taken unanimously.

5. Eligibility

- (a) The Prize shall be awarded to an individual, a group of individuals or a research institution undertaking research and scientific studies and discoveries in the field of exploration of groundwater and surface water usage in arid zones of drought and desertification and contributing to environmental and human development.
- (b) The Prize shall be awarded irrespective of any consideration of the nationality, race, sex, language, profession, ideology or religion of the individual or individuals concerned. It shall be awarded only once to any individual, group of individuals, institute or organization.
- (c) Serving members of the Great Man-Made River Authority as well as of UNESCO’s Scientific Advisory Board for the Great Man-Made River project or members of their immediate family shall not be considered for the Prize.

6. Nomination of candidates

- (a) Candidates for the Prize shall be proposed to the Director-General of UNESCO by governments of Member States in consultation with their National Commissions or by non-governmental organizations which have formal relations with UNESCO. Each nominator may make only one nomination in any biennium.
- (b) Nominations for the Prize shall be accompanied by a biographical statement for each candidate or group of candidates, together with a detailed description of the work for which the candidature is proposed and an assessment of the results achieved.

Annex II

Financial Regulations of the Great Man-Made River International Water Prize

Article 1 – Creation of a Special Account

1.1 In accordance with Article 6, paragraph 6, of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, a Special Account is hereby created to be known as the “Special Account for the Great Man-Made River International Water Prize”, hereafter referred to as “The Special Account”.

1.2 The following regulations shall govern the operation of this Special Account.

Article 2 – Financial period

The financial period shall correspond to that of UNESCO.

Article 3 – Purpose

The purpose of the Special Account is to mobilize funds to finance the Great Man-Made River International Water Prize.

Article 4 – Income

The income of the Special Account shall consist of:

- (a) an initial donation of US \$350,000 from the Great Man-Made River Authority, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
- (b) voluntary contributions from States, international agencies and organizations, as well as other entities, after approval by the Committee of the “Great Man-Made River International Water Prize”, hereafter referred to as the “Committee”;
- (c) miscellaneous income, including any interest earned on the investments referred to in Article 7 below.

Article 5 – Expenditure

The Special Account shall be debited with the expenses of administration, including those of the Committee and of the Prize and with the amount of the payment or payments made to the winner or winners of the Prize. Expenditure in any biennium shall be limited to 80% of the interest earned during the biennium from funds available, plus any unspent balance of the 80% interest earned in previous biennia.

(The remaining 20% of interest earned from funds available in any biennium shall be added to the original donation to offset inflation and currency fluctuations.)

Article 6 – Accounts

- 6.1 The UNESCO Comptroller shall maintain such accounting records as are necessary.
- 6.2 Any unused balance at the end of a financial period shall be carried forward to the following financial period.
- 6.3 The accounts of the Special Account shall be presented for audit to the External Auditor of UNESCO, together with the other accounts of the Organization.

Article 7 – Investments

- 7.1 The Director-General may make short-term investments of sums standing to the credit of the Special Account.
- 7.2 Interest earned on these investments shall be credited to the Special Account.

Article 8 – Closure of the Special Account

The Director-General shall decide upon the closure of the Special Account at such time as he deems that its operation is no longer necessary.

Article 9 – General provision

Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, this Special Account shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO.

ANNEX II



The UNESCO GMMR International Prize for “Water Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas”



Preparation of the nomination to the Prize

- Nominations can only be submitted to UNESCO by governments of Member States in consultation with their National Commissions, Permanent Delegations to UNESCO and IHP National Committees. Non-governmental organizations maintaining official relations with UNESCO can also submit nominations, in accordance with the Statutes of the Prize.
- Only one nomination per country will be accepted.
- Nominations have to be in English or in French only.
- The nomination has to be in typewritten and contain the following items:
 - Name of candidate;
 - Nationality;
 - Professional address (tel.; fax; email);
 - Current occupation/Focus of activities;
 - Reason for Nomination and/or Statement of Contribution (no more than one page);
 - Description of outstanding contribution (not more two pages);
 - Short curriculum vitae (not more than five pages).
- It would be appreciated to receive three signed letters by three referees, not related to the candidates, who are familiar with his/her/their work.

CRITERIA

Main criteria for evaluating candidatures

The Prize Committee will evaluate candidatures based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Practical applicability to arid and semi-arid areas
- Scientific, technological and/or educational innovation
- Contributions to environmental improvements
- Beneficial socio-economic impact
- Consistency with goals of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO

Possible themes:

1. Preservation of water yield and quality of renewable aquifers in relation to groundwater development;
2. Management of coastal aquifers;
3. Artificial recharge of aquifers;
4. Impact of water resources management on urban, rural, industrial and agricultural economic development and social welfare;
5. Management and use of non-renewable groundwater resources;
6. Integrated management of surface and groundwater resources;
7. Reduction of evaporation and losses in water systems;
8. Water harvesting and Wadi management;
9. Improvement of water use efficiency;
10. Water demand management;
11. Water re-use;
12. Remote sensing for assessment and monitoring.