



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

28/04/2016

Ref.: CL/4154

Subject: **Call for nominations – UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Education 2016**

Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure hereby to launch the call for nominations for the 2016 edition of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Education.

The theme for the 2016 Prize edition is **the use of ICTs in education for disadvantaged groups.**

The Education 2030 agenda attaches high importance to equity in education. It calls on the international community to develop interventions and innovations to assist groups that face educational hardships, whether due to limited access to schools and learning resources, low-quality education or other disadvantages that constrain education. The remarkable expansion of ICT and the concurrent rise of digital educational content, much of it freely accessible, has made technology a powerful tool to bridge learning divides and improve education for historically underserved groups, including: refugees; internally displaced persons; socioeconomically disadvantaged learners; people with disabilities; cultural, ethnic and religious minorities; and vulnerable women and girls. Recognizing how ICT can be harnessed to assist these groups represents an essential step in the international effort to assure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030, the guiding principle of Sustainable Development Goal 4.

Funded by the Kingdom of Bahrain, the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize was established in 2005 to recognize innovations in teaching and learning that leverage technology to improve educational outcomes. The 2016 edition of the Prize will reward the organizations and individuals that are carrying out innovative practices to leverage ICTs to expand access to education for disadvantaged learners and improve its quality and relevance. The winning project should also promote the values and attitudes that underlie Education 2030 and the broader Sustainable Development Agenda.

Two prizewinners shall be designated by UNESCO's Director-General on the basis of the recommendations of an international jury. Each winner will receive a monetary award (USD 25,000) and a diploma. Winners of the 2016 Prize will be announced during a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in early 2017. The Statutes and financial regulations of the Prize, approved by the 195th session of UNESCO's Executive Board, are attached herewith for your ease of reference.

I am pleased to invite your Government, through your Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, to submit up to three nominations for this year's edition of the Prize. To prepare a nominated proposal, your Government may wish to consult with your country's National Commission for UNESCO. The deadline for submission of all nomination files is **30 September 2016**.

The online submission form, which must be used for the presentation of candidates, should be completed in English or French and will be available via a link that will be sent to you by e-mail.

The application will automatically be submitted to the Secretariat for the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICTs in Education, located in the Unit for ICT in Education of the Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems within the Education Sector. The contact details for the Secretariat can be found hereunder. Publications, videos or other supporting materials of major importance may be submitted as attached documents to the online application.

Secretariat for the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize
for the Use of ICTs in Education
Unit for ICT in Education
Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems
Education Sector
UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France
Tel: +33 1 45 68 21 06
Fax: +33 1 45 68 56 27
E-mail: ictprize@unesco.org

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

Irina Bokova
Director-General

Enc: 2016 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICTs in Education Statutes and financial regulations

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
Field offices of UNESCO
UNESCO Institutes for Education

