



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

23/06/2017

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Subject: **Call for nominations – UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Education 2017**

Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure hereby to launch the call for nominations for the 2017 edition of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize, and the theme for this edition of the Prize is **the use of ICTs to increase access to quality education**.

ICTs have the potential to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4, which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities.” This comprehensive goal, taken forward through the Education 2030 Agenda, recognizes the necessity to focus on both access and learning. Quality education must ensure that all students acquire the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy as well as a range of cognitive, interpersonal and social skills, in order that they might be able to lead fulfilling lives, contribute fruitfully to their societies and cope with rapid change.

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 outcomes. Since then, the increasingly powerful capacities and lower costs of ICTs have led to the rapid diffusion of digital devices and applications, as well as to freely accessible digital content, with direct impact on education, including in low-income countries.

The 2017 edition of the Prize will reward the organizations and individuals that are carrying out innovative practices to leverage ICTs so that they can significantly increase access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities, including for out-of-school children and youth, internally displaced persons and refugees, persons with disabilities, illiterate populations, adults who cannot access relevant skills development or higher education opportunities, and other socio-economic disadvantaged groups. The winning project also should promote the values that underpin 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, and each will receive a monetary award (US \$25,000) and a diploma. They will be announced during a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in early 2018. 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 **20 October 2017**. 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
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Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Irina Bokova
Director-General

Enc: Statutes of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Education

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

ANNEX I

STATUTES OF THE UNESCO KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL-KHALIFA PRIZE FOR THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION

Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education is to reward projects and activities of individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations for excellent models, best practice, and creative use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to enhance learning, teaching and overall educational performance. The objective of the Prize is in conformity with UNESCO's policies and is in line with the Organization's Strategic Objectives 1, 2, and 9, as laid out in the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021, namely: "supporting Member States to develop education systems to foster high quality and inclusive lifelong opportunities for all"; "empowering learners to be creative and responsible global citizens"; and "promoting freedom of expression, media development and access to information and knowledge".

Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled "UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education".

2.2. The Prize shall be funded by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and shall consist of a one-time contribution sum of US \$758,600, which shall cover both the monetary value of the Prize and the costs of administering the Prize. Any interest that may accrue will be added to the overall contribution. As determined by the Director-General and in consultation with the Donor, the Prize shall consist of a sum of US\$ 50,000 to be equally divided between two prize-winners.

2.3 All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in a special interest-bearing account for the Prize (see Financial Regulations in Annex II).

2.4 The full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including all costs related to the award ceremony and public information activities, estimated at a maximum of US \$458,600, shall be fully covered by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain. To this end, the Director-General shall determine a mandatory overhead cost amount to be applied and charged against the funds in the Special Account, which is to be established under the Financial Regulations of the Prize.

2.5 The Prize shall be awarded every year for a six-year period, starting from the 2015 edition of the Prize, it being understood that this period may be adjusted to take into consideration fluctuations in administration costs.

Article 3 – Conditions/Qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall have made a significant contribution to the creative use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to enhance learning, teaching and overall educational performance. Prizes may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations.

Article 4 – Designation/Selection of the prize-winners

The two prize-winners shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made to her by a jury.

Article 5 – Jury

5.1 The Jury shall consist of five independent members, being personalities with a recognized reputation in the field covered while also taking into consideration the need for equitable geographical distribution, gender equality and the principle of non-payment of honoraria. They shall be appointed by the Director-General for a period of two-years, eligible for re-election for a maximum term of three consecutive two-year periods. Representatives and alternates of Members of the Executive Board cannot be appointed as jurors. Jurors involved in a real or potential conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from further deliberations or be asked by the Director-General to do so. The Director-General may replace members of the Jury for reason.

5.2 The Jury shall elect its own Chair and Deputy Chair. Members shall receive no remuneration for their work, but will receive allowances for travel and accommodation, where required. A quorum of three jurors present will be required for Jury deliberations to proceed. The working languages for deliberations by the Jury shall be English and French.

5.3 The Jury shall conduct its business and deliberations in conformity with these Statutes, and shall be assisted in the performance of its task by a member of the UNESCO Secretariat designated by the Director-General. Decisions shall be taken by consensus to the extent possible, and otherwise by secret ballot until a simple majority is obtained. A member shall not take part in a vote concerning a nomination from his or her country.

5.4 The Jury shall meet once every year.

5.5 The Jury shall send an assessment of nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than 20 November of the year of the Jury's meeting.

Article 6 – Nomination of candidates

6.1 When UNESCO has received the funding of the Prize, as indicated in Article 2 above, the Director-General of UNESCO shall officially invite the submission of nominations to the Secretariat of the Prize by 30 September every year from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as from the non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with the Organization and active in the field covered by the Prize.

6.2 Nominations shall be submitted to the Director-General by the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, and by non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO. A self-nomination cannot be considered.

6.3 Each nomination shall be accompanied by a written recommendation, which shall include, in English or French, *inter alia*:

- (a) a description of the candidate's background and achievements;
- (b) a summary of the work or the results of the work, publications and other supporting documents of major importance, submitted for consideration;
- (c) a definition of the candidate's contribution to the Prize's objectives.

Article 7 – Procedure for the awarding of the Prize

7.1 The Prize shall be awarded by the Director-General at an official ceremony held for that purpose at UNESCO Headquarters in January, the date to be mutually agreed upon. UNESCO shall present to the prize-winners a cheque for the amount of the Prize as well as a diploma. UNESCO shall officially announce the names of the prize-winners.

7.2 If a work being rewarded has been produced by two or more persons, the Prize shall be awarded to them jointly. In no case may a prize amount be divided between more than three persons.

7.3 The prize winners, if possible, shall give a lecture on a subject relevant to the work for which the Prize has been awarded. Such a lecture shall be organized during or in connection with the Prize ceremony.

7.4 The work produced by a person since deceased shall not be considered for the Prize. If, however, a prize winner dies before he or she has received the Prize, then the Prize may be presented posthumously.

7.5 Should a prize winner decline the Prize, the jury shall submit a new proposal to the Director-General.

Article 8 – Sunset clause – mandatory renewal of the Prize

8.1 Six months prior to the agreed end of the term of the Prize, the Director-General of UNESCO together with the donor will undertake a review of all aspects of the Prize and decide about its continuation or termination. The Director-General will inform the Executive Board of UNESCO about the results of this review.

8.2 In case of termination of the Prize, the use of any unspent balance of funds shall be determined by the Director-General, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Prize.

Article 9 – Appeals

No appeals shall be allowed against the decision of UNESCO with regard to the award of the Prize. Proposals received for the award of the Prize may not be divulged.

Article 10 – Amendments to the Statues of the Prize

Any amendment to the present Statutes shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.