



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

28 APR 2016

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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 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 195<sup>th</sup> 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  
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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

**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.

**FINANCIAL REGULATIONS OF THE SPECIAL ACCOUNT  
FOR THE UNESCO KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL-KHALIFA PRIZE  
FOR THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION**

**Article 1 – Creation of a Special Account**

1.1 In accordance with Article 6, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, there is hereby created a Special Account for the “UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education”, hereafter referred to as the Special Account.

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

**Article 2 – Financial period**

The financial period shall correspond to that of UNESCO.

**Article 3 – Purpose**

The amounts deposited in the Special Account shall be used to finance the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education, its operational and related costs.

**Article 4 – Income**

The income of the Special Account shall consist of:

- (a) voluntary contributions from States, international agencies and organizations, as well as other entities;
- (b) such amounts provided from the regular budget of the Organization as might be determined by the General Conference;
- (c) such subventions, endowments, gifts and bequests as are allocated to it for purposes consistent with the object of the Special Account;
- (d) 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 expenditure relating to its purpose as described in Article 3 above, including administrative expenses specifically relating to it.

**Article 6 – Accounts**

6.1 The Chief Financial Officer 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.

6.4 Contributions in kind shall be recorded outside the Special Account.

### **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 she deems that its operation is no longer necessary, and inform the Executive Board accordingly. The Director-General shall decide about the use of any unspent balance of funds.

### **Article 9 – General provision**

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