



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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Subject: **Nominations for the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education, 2010**

Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to invite your Government to submit nominations for the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Education. This Prize, funded by the Kingdom of Bahrain, was established by Decision 56, adopted by UNESCO's Executive Board at its 172nd session. The Prize will be awarded, for the fifth time, at a ceremony that will take place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 12 January 2011.

As stipulated in the Statutes of the Prize, also adopted by the Executive Board and attached hereto along with the Financial Regulations, the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICTs in Education is intended to reward individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations for projects and activities that are excellent models, demonstrating best practice in and creative use of, information and communication technologies (ICTs) for enhancing learning, teaching and overall educational performance.

The Prize, which is awarded every year, consists of a diploma and US \$50,000, to be divided equally between two prizewinners. The prizewinners are selected by UNESCO's Director-General on the basis of recommendations made to her by an international jury that consists of five independent members of different nationalities.

The award theme for 2010 is Digital Literacy: Preparing Adult Learners for Lifelong Learning and Flexible Employment. In proposing this theme, UNESCO wishes to draw attention to the critical role of adult education in the development of an inclusive, participatory and sustainable society, as well as to the staggering 774 million adults who lack basic literacy and numeracy skills – 67 per cent of whom are women.

Moreover, UNESCO wishes to show its commitment to a comprehensive vision of learning at all ages, and to the need for countries to develop inclusive and sustainable lifelong learning policies. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have the potential to add significant value to adult learning of all types. They can enhance, complement, support and deliver the learning that takes place in a variety of locations, from home to community to the workplace.

The first Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (UNESCO, 2009) highlights that the “levels of digital literacy among adults are still generally low throughout the world, especially among older populations and those with minimal experience with formal education”, and that “adult education programmes need to address age-related digital divides”.

In this era of the knowledge society, countries are more and more challenged with developing and implementing comprehensive policies that support a holistic vision of education (which makes the connection between formal, non-formal and informal learning) and that successfully address the pressing challenges of digital inclusion, participation and literacy.

I would kindly request that your choice of candidates for the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICTs in Education not exceed a maximum of two persons, and that it be made in consultation with your country’s National Commission for UNESCO, taking into account the relevance of this year’s theme.

The nominations should be accompanied by a written recommendation of no more than five pages in English or French, which should include *inter alia*: (a) a description of the candidate’s background and achievements (no more than 200 words); (b) a description of the candidate’s contribution to this year’s theme (no more than 150 words); (c) a summary of the work or the results of the work, publications and other supporting documents of major importance submitted for consideration (no more than 1,000 words); (d) a sample/demonstration in any possible format: print, digital, interactive, delivered through CDs or through a website (demonstration material can also be audio/video, broadcast-based materials or a combination of these). It is essential that the independent International Prize Jury be in possession of as much relevant information on the candidatures as possible.

The following eligibility criteria must be met: (i) duration of the project, which must be of at least a year in order to permit an assessment of results and proof of success; (ii) evidence of successful policies/plans promoting the use of digital technologies in support of adult learners; (iii) innovative models/approaches illustrating digital technology use as a learning medium and delivery mechanism for adult educators at the national or regional level; (iv) efforts to mainstream digital literacy into adult education programmes in formal, non-formal and informal contexts; (v) evidence/benchmarks of quality, relevance and effectiveness of ICT use in digital literacy programmes; (vi) online resources and services supporting quality adult learning programmes; (vii) sustainability and scalability of the given project/initiative in terms of good practice.

Your nomination file(s) should be forwarded in hard copy and, if possible, electronically, directly to the Division of Higher Education, Education Sector (attn.: Mariana Patru, Project Officer, tel: +33 1 45 68 08 07; fax: +33 1 45 68 56 26; email: m.patru@unesco.org). The deadline for the receipt of nomination files is 30 September 2010, and the Division stands ready to provide you with any further information that you may require.

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

Irina Bokova
Director-General

Enclosures: 2

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

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 related to the Organization's Strategic Objectives 2 and 3 in the field of education for 2002-2007 (Improving the quality of education through the diversification of contents and methods and the promotion of universally shared values; Promoting experimentation, innovation and the diffusion and sharing of information and best practices as well as policy dialogue in education), as well as with the Organization's strategy for the cross-cutting theme for 2002-2007, "The contribution of information and communication technologies to the development of education, science and culture and the construction of a knowledge society".

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 fund of US \$435,000, 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. The prize shall consist of a sum of US \$50,000 and will be equally divided between two prizewinners.

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, including the production and dissemination of publicity materials, estimated at US \$132,000, 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 of US \$50,000 shall be awarded every year, on an initial basis for three biennia.

Article 3 – 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 – Selection of the prizewinners

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

Article 5 – Jury

5.1 The Jury shall consist of five independent members, of different nationalities and gender, appointed by the Director-General for a period of six years, eligible for re-election (to be decided in each case). 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 seven days after the completion of deliberations.

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 formal consultative relations with the Organization and active in relevant fields 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 formal relations with UNESCO. Each government or non-governmental organization is entitled to nominate only two candidates per year. 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 either at UNESCO Headquarters or in the Kingdom of Bahrain in December, the date to be mutually agreed upon. UNESCO shall present to the prizewinners a cheque for the amount of the Prize as well as a diploma. UNESCO shall officially announce the names of the prizewinners.

7.2 If a work being rewarded has been produced by two or more persons, the Prize shall be awarded to them jointly.

7.3 The prizewinners, 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 prizewinner dies before he or she has received the Prize, then the Prize may be presented posthumously.

7.5 Should a prizewinner 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 After a period of six years, 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 Statutes of the Prize

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

ANNEX II

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, paragraph 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 subventions, endowments, gifts and bequests as are allocated to it for purposes consistent with the object of the Special Account;
- (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 expenditure relating to its purpose as described in Article 3 above, including administrative expenses specifically relating to it.

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.

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 he 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.