



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Copy for information

29 JAN 2018

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Subject: **Call for nominations for the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development 2018**

Dear Minister,

I am pleased to invite your Government to submit nominations for the fourth edition of the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

The Prize was established by the UNESCO Executive Board at its 195th session in October 2014 to reward and showcase outstanding projects and programmes in the field of ESD undertaken by individuals, institutions, organizations or other entities. It was awarded for the first time in 2015.

Within the framework of the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD, the UNESCO-Japan Prize aims to generate and scale-up action at all levels and in all areas of education and learning, and contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Generously funded by the Government of Japan, the Prize consists of three annual awards of US \$50,000 for each recipient. In addition, winners will be invited to join the Partner Networks of the Global Action Programme on ESD, in order to tie long-term collaboration with UNESCO. This year's laureates will be announced and awarded in the last quarter of 2018.

The nomination process takes place online via a platform accessible through the UNESCO website, available from 29 January to 3 May 2018, at the following Internet link:

<http://unesco.org/esd>

As stipulated in the Statutes of the Prize (enclosed), nominations can be submitted by the Governments of Member States via their Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, and by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) in official partnership with UNESCO. Each Permanent Delegation or NGO may not submit more than three nominations for any one edition of the Prize.

The online nominations should be received by UNESCO in English or French by midnight of **3 May 2018 at the very latest** (Paris time, UTC+1). Any nomination received after the deadline, or through a different channel or means, will not be considered.

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To Ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO

UNESCO recommends that this call for nominations be made widely known in your country among relevant stakeholders involved in ESD (government entities, public/private educational institutions, NGOs, local communities, media), and encourages Member States both to set up a national selection process and to publicly announce the selected nominees.

Further information on the UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD, including a user guide for the online platform, and the nomination process can be found at:

<https://en.unesco.org/prize-esd>

Any enquiries with regard to the nomination process should be addressed directly to the Secretariat of the Prize (Ms Miriam Tereick, Section of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, Education Sector; tel.: +33 1 45 68 16 68; e-mail: [esdprize@unesco.org](mailto:esdprize@unesco.org)).

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



Audrey Azoulay  
Director-General

Enclosures:

- Annex I: Explanatory note on the nomination process and form
- Annex II: Statutes of the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development

## ANNEX I



# UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

## Explanatory note for the 2018 call for nominations



### A. Background

#### (1) What is ESD?

“ESD empowers learners to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society, for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity. It is about lifelong learning, and is an integral part of quality education. ESD is holistic and transformational education which addresses learning content and outcomes, pedagogy and the learning environment. It achieves its purpose by transforming society.” (*UNESCO Roadmap for implementing the Global Action Programme on ESD, 2014*)

#### (2) Establishment of the Prize

Within the framework of the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD, the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) honours individuals, institutions, organizations or other entities for outstanding projects or programmes in the field of ESD. The Prize was established by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 195th session, and officially announced at the UNESCO World Conference on ESD (November 2014, Aichi-Nagoya, Japan). It consists of three annual awards of US \$50,000 for each recipient, and was awarded for the first time in November 2015.

### B. Nominations

Nominations can be made by Governments of UNESCO Member States via their Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, and by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in official partnership with UNESCO. Nominations must focus on a specific ESD project or programme of the nominee. Each Permanent Delegation or NGO can make up to three nominations for any edition of the Prize. Self-nominations are not accepted.

### C. Selection Criteria

The three winners will be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of recommendations made by the independent International Jury of the UNESCO-Japan Prize, consisting of five experts from all geographical regions. The project/programme of the nominee will be assessed by the Jury on the basis of the following criteria:

#### (1) Transformation: practices ESD as transformative education in support of sustainable development, leading to individual and social change

ESD is transformative education in that it empowers learners to transform themselves and the society they live in. The project/programme of the nominee should therefore enable learners to bring about changes for a more just, peaceful and sustainable world. This can mean, for example, taking action against climate change, changing one's consumption patterns, developing social entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods, or supporting those struggling against poverty.

#### (2) Integration: addresses the three dimensions of sustainable development (society, economy, environment) in an integrated way

Sustainable development calls for the integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development. The project/programme of the nominee should be in line with this definition of sustainable development. It should address the three dimensions (society, economy,

environment), and help learners understand the interdependence between them and act accordingly.

**(3) Innovation: demonstrates an innovative approach to ESD**

Sustainable development requires going beyond 'business as usual' and 'out-of-the-box' thinking. The project/programme of the nominee should demonstrate an innovative and inspirational approach to ESD, be it in the themes it covers, the methodology it employs, or the way the learning environment is designed. Reaching out to sectors beyond education and working with new partners can also be a sign of innovation.

In addition to these three criteria, the project/programme should:

- have already been running for **at least four years**
- show presence of evidence of **results** and a **high impact** relative to the invested resources
- be **replicable and scalable**
- contribute to **one or more of the five Priority Action Areas** of the GAP (advancing policy; transforming learning and training environments; building capacities of educators and trainers; empowering and mobilizing youth; accelerating sustainable solutions at local level).

**D. Submission Procedure**

- (1) The nomination form must be completed online in English or French via a platform accessible through the UNESCO website under the following link: <https://teams.unesco.org/sites/committees/esd-prize>
- (2) Nominations must be submitted online by the **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO** of the concerned Member State, or by an **NGO in official partnership with UNESCO**, through their official UNESTEAMS account.
- (3) It is possible for **National Commissions to UNESCO** to access and complete the online form. However, any nomination by a National Commission will need to be submitted by the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO of the respective Member State. An automatic notification message will be sent to the official e-mail address of the Delegation to this end.
- (4) If a National Commission or Permanent Delegation to UNESCO wishes that the form be completed electronically by the candidates, UNESCO can create a UNESTEAMS account for each **nominee**. A request should be sent to [esdprize@unesco.org](mailto:esdprize@unesco.org) **by 13 April 2018**. After completion of the online form by the nominee, the concerned National Commission and Permanent Delegation will receive a notification e-mail and can review the nomination before submission to UNESCO by the Delegation.
- (5) Attention should be paid to presenting the project/programme of the nominee in a **clear and structured way**, following the instructions given in the form and respecting the indicated word limit. All **supporting material** (e.g. publications, photos, videos) must be transmitted electronically through the online system.
- (6) Nominations have to be submitted in the online system by the concerned Permanent Delegations to UNESCO or the NGO by **midnight of 3 May 2018** (UTC+1, Paris time). Kindly note that each Permanent Delegation or NGO may not submit more than three nominations.
- (7) For any questions regarding the UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD or the submission process, please contact the Secretariat of the Prize at the Section of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship at UNESCO: [esdprize@unesco.org](mailto:esdprize@unesco.org)



<b>3. PROJECT</b>
<b>a. Project title</b>
<b>b. Project website</b>
<b>c. Abstract</b> <i>[Explain the objective of the project and its methodology in a maximum of 900 characters. Please include all important information in a structured way.]</i>
<b>d. Contribution to the Global Action Programme on ESD (GAP)</b> Tick the Priority Action Area of the GAP to which the project <u>mainly</u> contributes: <input type="checkbox"/> Advancing policy <input type="checkbox"/> Transforming learning and training environments (whole-institution approaches) <input type="checkbox"/> Building capacities of educators and trainers <input type="checkbox"/> Empowering and mobilizing youth <input type="checkbox"/> Accelerating sustainable solutions at local level
<b>e. Main target group(s)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Governments (National/Sub-national/Local) <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Civil society organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Media <input type="checkbox"/> Academia/research institutions <input type="checkbox"/> Education institutions <input type="checkbox"/> Educators <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>[Please specify]</i>
<b>f. Geographical coverage</b> <input type="checkbox"/> International <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Local Countries:
<b>g. Number of beneficiaries to date</b> <i>[Indicate the number of current and previous beneficiaries]</i>
<b>h. Duration</b> <i>[Indicate the start and expected end date. Please note that only projects having been running for at least four years will be considered.]</i>
<b>i. Funding</b> <i>[Explain the current and planned funding source(s) of the project in a maximum of 250 characters.]</i>
<b>j. Annual project cost</b> <i>[Specify the amount for 2017 in USD]</i>
<b>k. Number of staff</b> <i>[Specify the number of staff involved in the project in 2017]</i>
<b>l. Future strategy</b> <i>[Clearly describe the future strategy of the project in a maximum of 700 characters. Indicate information such as follow-up plan, scaling-up strategy, target groups, duration and budget.]</i>

**m. Achievements and impact**

*[Provide evidence of achievements and the impact that the project has had so far, using concrete information such as feedback or quotations by participants, material or publications produced, number and type of individuals or organizations trained, press coverage, previous awards received, number of views of the project website, in a maximum of 900 characters.]*

**n. Contribution to the SDGs**

*[Describe, in a maximum of 700 characters, how the project contributes to the implementation of one or several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).]*

**o. Transformation:**

*[Describe how the project practices ESD as transformative education in support of sustainable development, in a maximum of 900 characters. Transformative education means that ESD empowers learners to transform themselves and the society they live in. This can mean, for example, taking action against climate change, changing one's consumption patterns, developing social entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods, or supporting those struggling against poverty.]*

**p. Integration:**

*[Describe how the project addresses the three dimensions of sustainable development (society, economy, environment) in an integrated way, in a maximum of 900 characters.]*

**q. Innovation:**

*[Specify how the project demonstrates an innovative approach to ESD, in a maximum of 900 characters.]*

**4. Supporting material**

**a. Web links (websites, publications, videos, photo galleries)**

*[Provide up to 10 relevant web links with a short description.]*

**b. Other supporting documents**

*[To upload any supporting documents not available online, please use the "Attach File" function in the "EDIT" tab in the top left corner. Kindly note that attachments are limited to 350 MB.]*

## ANNEX II

### STATUTES OF THE UNESCO-JAPAN PRIZE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(195 EX/Decision 11 Part II, October 2014)

#### *Article 1 – Purpose*

The purpose of the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development is to reward the outstanding efforts of individuals, institutions, organizations or other entities engaged in activities on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), within the framework of the Global Action Programme on ESD (GAP) which was endorsed as a follow-up to the United Nations Decade of ESD by the 37th session of the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 12). The Prize rewards in particular activities that are innovative or have a high impact. The objective of the Prize is in conformity with UNESCO's policies, namely the Strategic Objective 2 of UNESCO's Medium-term Strategy 2014-2021 (37C/4) "empowering learners to be creative and responsible global citizens" and the programme of the Organization in the field of ESD.

#### *Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize*

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled "UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development".

2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Government of Japan and shall consist of a total payment of US \$2,000,000 for its first five-year period (2015-2019), 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.

2.3 All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in a special interest-bearing account for the Prize.

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 US \$250,000 per year, shall be fully covered by the Government of Japan. To this end, the Director-General will 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 for the Prize.

2.5 The Prize shall be awarded annually, initially for five years, starting from its 2015 edition. The Prize shall consist of three awards of US \$50,000 for each of the three recipients, each of which is considered to merit a Prize.

#### *Article 3 – Qualifications of candidates*

Candidates shall have made significant contributions to ESD, focusing on one or more of the five Priority Action Areas of the Global Action Programme on ESD: (1) policy support, (2) whole-institution approaches, (3) educators, (4) youth and (5) local communities. Prizes may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, non-governmental organizations or other entities engaged in ESD.

#### *Article 4 – Designation/Selection of the prize winners*

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

#### *Article 5 – Jury*

5.1 The Jury shall consist of a number of five independent members, being personalities with a recognized reputation in the field of ESD, 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 an initial two year period, with the possibility of renewal for the remainder of the five-year period of the Prize. 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 of 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 31 July of the year of the award of the Prize.

#### *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 April, from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as from non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships 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 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 on a date determined by the Director-General. UNESCO shall present to the prize winners a check for the amount of the Prize. UNESCO shall officially announce the names of the prize winners.

7.2 If a work being rewarded has been produced by two or three 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/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 (five 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.