

Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resources Development
Department of Higher Education

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UNESCO Headquarters, Paris has invited nominations for the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science (2015). Relevant details are on the next page.

Nominations should be forwarded to the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) latest by **15th January, 2015** (and should not be sent directly to UNESCO) at the following address for onward transmission to UNESCO, Paris.

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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Dy No 339/2014/INC
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The Minister of Human Resource Development,
Communications & Information Technology
New Delhi
(India)

24 Septembre 2014

Ref.: CL/4069

Subject: **Call for nominations for the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science (2015)**

Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your Government to submit nominations for the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science (2015).

Intended to honour the activities of individuals and groups in the field of ethics in science, the Prize encourages ethical reflection on questions raised by scientific and technological advances – a goal that coincides with UNESCO's priorities.

Established in 2002 by UNESCO's Executive Board on the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Prize has been awarded biennially since 2004, and it may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations.

The first Avicenna Prize was awarded to Professor Margaret Somerville, Director of the Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law at McGill University in Montreal (Canada). The second Prize was awarded in 2006 to Professor Abdallah S. Daar, Director of the Program in Applied Ethics and Biotechnology at the University of Toronto (Canada). In 2009, the third Avicenna Prize was awarded to Professor Renzong Qiu, Emeritus Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Philosophy (People's Republic of China). In 2015, the Prize will be awarded for the fourth time.

The Prize consists of a gold Avicenna medal, a certificate and the sum of US \$10,000. The Prize-winner also is invited to pay a one-week academic visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, during which he/she will deliver speeches at relevant academic gatherings, organized for this purpose by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Donor of the Prize.

Nominations may be submitted to me by Member States in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as by non-governmental organizations enjoying official partnership with the Organization and active in a field covered by the Prize.

Confident as I am of your Government's interest in the promotion of the ethics of science, I am sure you will give this Prize all due attention and will be in a position to propose the most qualified candidates of your country.

13/10/14
A. B. I.

ANNEX I

THE AVICENNA PRIZE FOR ETHICS IN SCIENCE 2015

Nomination Form

A. NOTE FOR THE NOMINATORS

1. Nominees (i.e. candidates) must be living persons or existing institutions.
2. Each government of a Member State or each non-governmental organization in official partnership with UNESCO may present a maximum of **two** nominations if it considers them eligible for the Prize
3. Nomination form must be completed **in full in either English or French**, which are the working languages of the UNESCO Secretariat. It is the responsibility of nominators to ensure all nominations submitted are complete and comply with the requirements as per Article 6.3 of the Statutes of the Prize. To ensure this, nominators may obtain any necessary details from the nominees.
4. Nominators are kindly invited to provide UNESCO with the following documents and information:
 - (i) **The original of the nomination form:** the officials and organizations, qualified to present candidates and submit nominations for the Prize on behalf of their Government or of a non-governmental organization enjoying official partnership with UNESCO, must sign or initial every page of the original nomination form, date and place a stamp of their institution/organization on its last page. The nominators are kindly invited to send the original nomination form to UNESCO **accompanied by a cover letter**, duly signed and written on the official letter-headed paper of their institution/organization.
 - (ii) At least **two letters of support**, duly signed, from an institution/personality, providing the supporters' own professional perspectives concerning the nominated achievement and emphasizing the relevance of the nomination vis-à-vis the requirements of the Prize, to accompany the nomination;
 - (iii) **Additional material** (publications, video, audio and other materials), illustrating the relevance of the nomination vis-à-vis the requirements of the Prize may be attached to the nomination form or provided via e-mail. They will be presented to the Prize's Jury and will remain at UNESCO.
 - (iv) If a candidate is an institution/organization, the nominator should provide UNESCO with a copy of the candidate's General Rules/Statutes (the relevant document may be sent to UNESCO by e-mail).
5. The original nominations should be sent to: **UNESCO, Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Sciences, Social and Human Sciences Sector, SHS/YES/BIO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15.**
6. Nominations must be posted **before midnight on Monday 2 February 2015**, as attested by the date on the postmark.
7. To optimize the handling of nominations, the nominators are requested to send the advance copies of the nomination documents by electronic mail to: Avicenna.prize@unesco.org or by fax + 33 1 45 68 55 15.

Or

1.1.2 NGO in official partnership with UNESCO:

Country: Responsible person: (Please indicate the name and title of the official qualified to submit nomination on behalf of the NGO.)
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1.2 Contact details (for all qualified nominators)

Full postal address: (street, house number, post code, city, country) Name and function of person(s) in charge: Telephone and Fax: _____ Tel.: _____ (please indicate country and city codes) Fax: _____ Email: Internet:
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C. INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOMINEE (i.e. the candidate):

2.1 The candidates for the Prize may be individuals or institutions (or other entities or non-governmental organizations).

2.1.1 For institutional candidates

Name and acronym:	
Date and place of creation (please provide a copy of the General Rules/Statutes):	

2.2 For institutional and individual candidates: contact details

Full postal address: (street, house number, post code, city, country)	
Name and function, if appropriate, of contact person(s):	
Telephone and Fax:	Tel.:
(please indicate country and city codes)	
	Fax:
Email:	
Internet:	

3. Presentation of the candidate

- 3.1 A description of the candidate's academic background and achievements extending over several years (not more than one A4 page).

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3.5 Referees (Please provide the names of three persons, not related to the candidates by relative or direct professional (supervisor/subordinate) links, who are familiar with his/her/their/its work, except the nominator):

(i) **Name:**

Profession:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

Email:

(ii) **Name:**

Profession:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

Email:

(iii) **Name:**

Profession:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

Email:

ANNEX II

STATUTES OF THE UNESCO AVICENNA PRIZE FOR ETHICS IN SCIENCE

1. Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science is to reward the activities of individuals and groups in the field of ethics in science. The objective of the Prize is in conformity with UNESCO's policies, and is related to the programme of the Organization in the field of ethics of science and technology.

2. Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

- 2.1 The Prize shall be entitled the "UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science".
- 2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Islamic Republic of Iran and shall consist of a recurrent payment of US \$65,000 in each biennium. The value of the Prize shall be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of the contribution received, the interest on the sum deposited in the special account, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, and the charges to be borne by the account for the cost of administering the Prize. In addition to the monetary value of the Prize as thus determined, the prizewinner shall receive a gold medal of Avicenna along with a certificate. Costs relating to the academic visit specified in Article 7.3 shall not be covered by the special account.
- 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, shall be fully covered by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The direct support and operating/management costs are estimated at US \$46,772. In addition, 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 every two years, in the second year of each biennium, on an initial basis for three biennia.

3. Conditions/qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall have contributed to high-quality research in the field of ethics of science and technology. The Prize may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or nongovernmental organizations.

4. Designation of the prizewinner

The prizewinner shall be designated by the Director-General of UNESCO, on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made to him/her by a jury.

5. Jury

- 5.1 The jury shall consist of three independent members, being personalities of 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 from among the members of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) for a period of two years, for a maximum term of three consecutive two-year periods. Representatives

- 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 among more than three persons.
- 7.3 Following the Prize ceremony, at a date to be determined by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the prizewinner shall be invited to participate in a week long academic visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the delivery of speeches in the relevant academic gatherings. Costs relating to the academic visit shall be borne directly and exclusively by the Islamic Republic of Iran and are not included in the recurrent payment specified in Article 2.2.
- 7.4 The work produced by a person since deceased shall not be considered for a Prize. If, however, a prizewinner dies before receiving 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.

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 Islamic Republic of Iran 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 through the submission of a document summarizing all pertinent developments in this regard in order to enable the Executive Board to adopt a decision on whether to renew or terminate the Prize.
- 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 Special Account for the Prize.

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.

10. Amendments to the Statutes of the Prize

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