



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

03/05/2009

Ref.: CL/3876

Subject: **Call for nominations – UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2009**

Sir/Madam,

Every year, UNESCO launches a call for nominations for the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes. These prestigious Prizes are awarded to individuals, governments or governmental agencies, and non-governmental organizations in recognition of effective practices and successful results in the field of literacy throughout the world.

Promoting literacy requires strong commitment. To be effective, it needs high quality delivery and monitoring systems, as well as rich and appropriate literate environments that enable people to use their recently acquired skills in their daily life.

Despite some remarkable results, the challenge remains global: an estimated 776 million adults, approximately two-thirds of whom are women, lack the basic literacy skills needed to participate fully in society. Furthermore, 75 million children are out of school and many more attend irregularly or drop out. If current trends continue, there will be over 700 million adults unable to read or write in 2015.

In 2009, UNESCO will award the following International Literacy Prizes:

- the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize (two awards); and
- the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy (two awards).

The Prizes, which comprise a monetary award, a silver medal and a diploma, are awarded at an international ceremony organized by UNESCO on International Literacy Day (8 September).

In accordance with the thematic calendar of the UNESCO coordinated United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD), the 2009-2010 period will focus on the links between "Literacy and Empowerment".

For this reason, the Literacy Prizes will this year reward well-established and innovative practices documenting how literacy skills (basic skills in reading, writing and numeracy) contribute to empowerment, enabling people to better direct and control their lives and enhancing their chances in life.

I am pleased to invite your Government to submit nominations for a maximum of two projects or programmes that promote literacy as a means for nurturing inclusive societies.

To Ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO

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www.unesco.org

The *Guide to the International Literacy Prizes* – enclosed – sets out the rules and regulations that must be followed for the submission of candidatures. The King Sejong Prize gives special consideration to the development and use of mother tongues in developing countries, while the Confucius Prize aims at rewarding outstanding activities in the field of literacy for rural adults and out-of-school young people, particularly women and girls. Candidatures for the 2009 Prizes should address both the designated theme (Literacy and Empowerment) and respond to the criteria pertaining to each specific prize.

Nomination files should be forwarded in hard copy and, if possible, electronically, to the United Nations Literacy Decade Unit, Division for the Coordination of United Nations Priorities in Education (tel.: +33 1 45 68 09 52; fax: +33 1 45 68 56 26/27; e-mail: literacyprizes@unesco.org) **no later than 30 June 2009**.

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

Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General

Enclosure: UNESCO International Literacy Prizes – 2009 Guide

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

Call for candidatures

Every year, UNESCO invites Member States and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs)* maintaining formal consultative relations with the Organization to solicit and submit candidatures to the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes.

Who can apply

Institutions, organizations or individuals promoting literacy through effective and innovative programmes or projects.

How to apply

The candidatures must be submitted to the Director-General either by Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions for UNESCO, or by International Non-Governmental Organizations maintaining formal relations with UNESCO. Each nomination must be accompanied by a written recommendation. A self-nomination cannot be considered.

Each government or INGO is entitled to nominate only two candidates per year.

The files must be in English or French only.

Selection process

The selection of prizewinners is made by an International Jury appointed by UNESCO's Director-General which meets in Paris once a year. The Prize is normally awarded at an official ceremony held for that purpose at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on the occasion of International Literacy Day (8 September).

* The list of International Non-Governmental Organizations maintaining formal relations with UNESCO is available at <http://erc.unesco.org/ong>

The application process

A complete application should include:

1. The questionnaire duly completed.
2. The written recommendation by the Government of a Member State or by an International Non-governmental Organization (INGO) maintaining formal relations with UNESCO.
3. Accompanying supportive material.

The submissions should reach the secretariat either electronically or via regular mail. Candidates are encouraged to download the questionnaire from the UNESCO web site, complete it and send it electronically to the following e-mail: literacyprizes@unesco.org

To download the questionnaire, go to: www.unesco.org/education/en/literacy/prizes

Alternatively, candidates can refer to the questionnaire attached to this guide.

The accompanying supportive material should be sent by regular mail to the following address:

Literacy Prizes Secretariat
United Nations Literacy Decade Coordination Unit
Division for the Coordination of United Nations Priorities in Education
UNESCO Education Sector
7, place de Fontenoy,
75 352 PARIS 07 SP, France

Tel.: + 33 1 45 680 952

Fax: + 33 1 45 68 56 26/27

E-mail: literacyprizes@unesco.org

www.unesco.org/education/en/literacy/prizes

DEADLINE FOR RECEPTION OF APPLICATIONS:
30 JUNE

Learn more:
www.unesco.org/education/en/literacy/prizes

UNESCO International Literacy Prizes

The current UNESCO International Literacy Prizes are:

- **UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize**
Supporting literacy in multilingual contexts
- **UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy**
Supporting literacy in rural areas

Every biennium, the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD 2003-2012), focuses on a specific theme.

- 2003-2004 Literacy and Gender
- 2005-2006 Literacy and Sustainable Development
- 2007-2008 Literacy and Health
- 2009-2010 Literacy and Empowerment
- 2011-2012 Literacy and Peace

Candidatures should take into account the theme of the UNLD while also considering the specificity of each Prize.

Promoting excellence and innovation for a literate world

UNESCO International Literacy Prizes



Every year, the **UNESCO International Literacy Prizes** reward excellence and innovation in the field of literacy throughout the world. By honouring the work of institutions, organizations and individuals through these Prizes, UNESCO seeks to support effective literacy practices and encourage the promotion of talents and the