

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

AFRICAN UNION SCIENTIFIC AWARDS

Rules and Procedure for Applicants

2010 EDITION

Table of Contents

ACRONYMS	3
1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. AWARDS SCHEMES.....	5
3. ELIGIBILITY	6
4. EXCLUSION.....	6
5. ADVISORY COMMITTEE	7
6. SECRETARIATS	7
Secretariat for African Union Young Scientist National Award	7
Secretariat for African Union Women Scientist Regional Award	7
Secretariat for African Union Scientific Award.....	7
7. THE JURY	7
National Scientific Award Jury	8
Regional Scientific Award Jury	8
African Union CONTINENTAL SCIENTIFIC Awards.....	8
8. LAUNCH OF THE AWARDS	8
9. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS	8
10. DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS	8
AWARD CEREMONY	9
Annex 1: AU REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBER STATES	10
Annex 2: Application Form	10

ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
OAU	Organization of African Unity
AMCOST	African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology
EC	European Commission
TWAS	Academy of Sciences for Developing World
AfDB	African Development Bank
WIPO	Intellectual Property Organization
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
AAS	African Academy of Science
ICSU	International Council for Science
NASAC	National Academies of Science, Network of African Science Academies
REC	Regional Economic Community
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
CEN-SAD	Community of Sahel-Saharan States
SADC	Southern African Development Community
ECOSSOC	Economic, Social and Cultural Council

1. INTRODUCTION

Science and Technology is one of the key focal areas on Africa's development agenda. Constitutive Act, establishing the African Union, recognizes the need to advance the development of Africa by promoting research in all fields, in particular in science and technology.

In January 2007, the AU Heads of State and Government "*declared 2007 as the launching year for building constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa*". In response to this political momentum and commitment to: - raise community awareness,- engage African citizens in Africa's science and technology programmes, promote elements of human intellectual development, encourage technological and scientific leadership and – to strengthen Africa's research capacities, the AU Commission, with the support of its key Development Partners, initiated the prestigious "African Union Scientific Awards Programme" targeting young researchers at Member State level, women at regional level and open to all outstanding scientists at continental level .

The programme is designed to celebrate the achievements of African scientists and to promote all efforts to transform scientific research into entrepreneurship, attract investments to Africa, and create research centers of excellence. It will further encourage the science community, and the public to participate in scientific engagements towards addressing critical problems in Africa. The programme will contribute towards raising the profile of science and technology sector and building a scientific culture amongst African citizens. There is a strong urge for Africa to quickly mobilize its scientific resources, competencies and comparative advantages to champion programmes that promote access to science and technology by all, strengthen research capacities, and increase the use, and generation of scientific knowledge for the development of the continent.

A prize will be awarded to each of the following two scientific sectors (a) Life and Earth Sciences¹; and (b) Basic Science, Technology and Innovation² within the categories of the Awards.

¹ Life and Earth Science embraces all sciences related to the planet earth, covering (*but not limited to*) the following disciplines, geology, geophysics and geodesy. On the other hand, we regard Life Sciences to encompass all sciences that have to do with 'organisms', like plants, animals and human .This may be Agro-technology, Animal Science, Plant Science, Biotechnology, Biology, Environmental Sciences, Food Sciences, Medicine, and Tissue Engineering to mention a few.

² Basic, Science, Technology and Innovation category will consist of all other sciences, technologies and innovations excluding those covered within Earth and life Sciences category. These may include, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Engineering (Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics, civil etc), Artificial Intelligence, Material Sciences, Manufacturing and Production Technologies, Metallurgy, Textiles, Energy and Innovations etc.

2. AWARDS SCHEMES

(i) THE AU - TWAS YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD

This award is open to both male and female young researchers. The Commission believes that it is important to recognize the scientific achievements of young researchers and to encourage them to continue to strive for excellence in their careers. The awards will acknowledge their contribution to progress in science. It is expected that the publicity surrounding the awards will encourage young people to consider a career in research.

Award	AU-TWAS ³ Young Scientist National Award " <i>Life and Earth Sciences</i> "	AU -TWAS Young Scientist National Award " <i>Basic Science, Technology and Innovation</i> "
Value	5,000 USD	5,000 USD
Target Group	Young Scientists (<i>of less than 40 years⁴ on 31 December of the year of contest</i>)	
Region	AU Member States	

(ii) THE AFRICAN UNION REGIONAL AWARD FOR WOMEN SCIENTISTS

The Regional Scientific Award will promote participation of African women in science, technology and innovation. The Commission endeavours to ensure that African women in science achieve their full potential by breaking down barriers and increasing opportunities. There is a need to address their under representation in Science, Engineering and Mathematics and to promote their access to science education, scientific professional careers and greater utilization of science in daily lives. The awards will acknowledge their contribution to progress in science. These awards are expected to raise the profile of women researchers in the population as a whole and thereby to inspire young women and girls to aim for a career in research

Award	African Union Women Scientist Regional Award " <i>Life and Earth Sciences</i> "	African Union Women Scientist Regional Award " <i>Basic Science, Technology and Innovation</i> "
Value	20,000 USD	20,000 USD
Target Group	Excelling Woman Scientists	
Region ⁵	African Union Regions (Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western)	

³ TWAS – Academy of Sciences for Developing World

⁴ Up to 40 years is the age accepted for the National Young Scientist Award

(iii) THE AFRICAN UNION CONTINENTAL SCIENTIFIC AWARD

This award is open to both outstanding male and female researchers. Science, technology and innovation form an indispensable tool for driving socio-economic progress and it requires a strong, dynamic and sustainable basic research enterprise, which in turn, is sustained by adequate and competent human capital. It is now compulsory to strengthen the capacities of African researchers and scientists by facilitating the integration of their efforts and competencies for the sustainable development of the African continent.

The already existing scientific excellence should be tapped profitably and acknowledged via a various initiatives. In this programme a prize of 100,000 USD will be given to the outstanding African scientist as a mark of recognition of the African Union to acknowledge the Africa's children who have had the merit to incontestably emerge in science and technology.

Award	African Union Scientific Award Life and Earth Sciences	African Union Scientific Award for Basic Science, Technology and Innovation
Value	100,000 USD	100,000 USD
Target Group	Outstanding African Scientists	
Region	African Union	

3. ELIGIBILITY

The African Union Scientific Awards will be awarded to African scientists who have remarkable achievements, demonstrated by number of publications, number of research graduate students, applicability of the scientific work to Africa's challenges, and its patentability. Only nationals of the African Union (AU) Member States are eligible to participate in these Awards.

4. EXCLUSION

Applicants will be excluded due to the following:

- (i) Their applications are not complete and/or all supporting document/s are not included or not attached
- (ii) If they received an AU Award in the past five years under this programme
- (iii) If their Member State is under AU sanctions as determined by the AU Legal Council advice
- (iv) If they are employees of any an AU organ or employees of the Regional Economic Communities

⁵ For the distribution of the countries by regions according to the resolution CM/Res.464 of the 20th Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers, please refer to Annex 1.

5. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee is the supreme body of the awards programme and is chaired by the Commissioner of Human Resources, Science and Technology. Other members of the Committee are European Commission (EC), African Development Bank (AfDB), World Intellectual Property Organization, (WIPO), Third World Academy of Science (TWAS)-Africa Bureau, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Academy of Science (AAS), International Council for Science (ICSU) Africa Regional Office and the AMCOST Chair. The major functions of this committee are advisory issues, policy, operational modalities and ensuring adequate resources for the programme.

6. SECRETARIATS

SECRETARIAT FOR AFRICAN UNION YOUNG SCIENTIST NATIONAL AWARD

National Awards will be run by National Academy of Sciences and /or National Research Councils under the supervision of the Ministries in Charge of Science and Technology in Member States.

Names of the National Competition Winners should be sent to the Commission in order for them to receive their prizes.

SECRETARIAT FOR AFRICAN UNION WOMEN SCIENTIST REGIONAL AWARD

The Regional awards will be run by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). For 2010 the following RECs have been mandated to run the awards. The annex 1 shows the AU Regions, the REC assigned to that Region and the Member States within that Region.

SECRETARIAT FOR AFRICAN UNION SCIENTIFIC AWARD

The Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology will be the secretariat for the Continental Awards.

7. THE JURY

The Jury⁶ for the awards may be composed by academic institutions namely the National Academies of Science, Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), and Academy of Sciences for Developing World (TWAS) -Bureau of Africa for each Award Category as follows:

⁶ All the Jury Members and any observers shall sign a Declaration of Impartiality and Confidentiality

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AWARD JURY

National awards will be independently run by the Member States through the National Academies of Science, Research Councils (*which automatically forms a National Jury*) under the supervision of the Ministry in Charge of Science and Technology.

REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AWARD JURY

The Jury for the African Union Women Scientist Regional Award will be chaired by the AMCOST Bureau Member and the REC's Higher Authority and will be composed of the following members drawn from African Academy of Science and NASAC, Academy of Sciences for Developing World (TWAS) -Bureau for Africa and the AU Commission may sit as an observer.

The following will apply:

- (i) Secretariat of the Jury Committee shall have no- voting powers
- (ii) Bureau Membership is determined by the AMCOST Rules and Procedures.
- (iii) The Bureau Member shall supervise the Jury Committee

AFRICAN UNION CONTINENTAL SCIENTIFIC AWARDS

African Academies Science, TWAS-Bureau Africa and NASAC form the Jury of the Continental Awards under the supervision of AMCOST Bureau and the AU Commission is a non- voting secretariat of the jury committee.

8. LAUNCH OF THE AWARDS

The competitions are launched annually on the African Union Day "9th of September". The 2010 Edition was launched in the African Union Headquarter by H.E. Prof. J. P. Ezin, the Commissioner for Human Resource Science and Technology during the African Union Day Celebration on 9 September 2009.

9. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Eligible Applicants are requested to complete the application form Annexed (*Annex 2*) herewith using either English or French.

10. DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS

All applicants are kindly requested to observe the following deadlines:

1. Application forms for the **AU-TWAS Young Scientist National Award** should be received by the National Secretariats not later than 30 June 2010, the Africa's Scientific Renaissance Day

Please contact Ministries in charge of Science and Technology on your Countries

2. Application forms for the African Union Women Scientist Regional should be received by the RECs not later than 15 July 2010.
3. *For more information on this award, contact the REC⁷ where your country belongs.*
4. Application forms for the African Union Continental Scientific Award should be received by the Commission not later than 9th September 2010⁸, African Union Day.

Applications (Hard copies and full package) for this award should be sent to:

Director of
Human Resources, Science and Technology
African Union Commission
P.O. Box 3243
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Fax: +251 115517844
E-mail: scientific-awards@africa-union.org

For any further enquiries please contact the Secretariat e-mail: scientific-awards@africa-union.org. Or visit the AU Commission official website for this programme.

AWARD CEREMONY

(i) The AU-TWAS Young Scientist National Award

The winners will receive their awards on African Union Day, 9 September each year, the Award ceremony will be on 9 September and hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology in their respective Member States.

(ii) The African Union Regional Award for Women Scientists

The winners will receive their awards on African Union Day, 9 September each year, the ceremony will be on 9 September in the country of the current AU chair otherwise it will take place in the AU Headquarter in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

(iii) The African Union Continental Scientific Award

The winners will receive their awards during the Summit Sessions of the African Union, for the 2010 Editions the award ceremony will be during the 2011 Summit in January.

⁷ For the distribution of the countries by regions please refer to Annex 1

⁸ Applications received after the above-mentioned deadlines will not be considered.

ANNEX 1: AU REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBER STATES

The RECs are the Secretariats of the Regional Scientific Awards for Women.

Region	Western Africa	Eastern Africa	Southern Africa	Central Africa	Northern Africa
(REC)	ECOWAS	EAC	SADC	ECCAS	CEN-SAD
Member States	Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Cote d'Ivoire Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea Bissau Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo	Comoros Djibouti Eritrea Ethiopia Kenya Madagascar Mauritius Rwanda Seychelles Somalia Sudan Tanzania Uganda	Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia South Africa Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe	Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Congo Congo (DRC) Equatorial Guinea Gabon Sao Tome & Principe	Algeria Egypt Libya Mauritania Tunisia SADR

ANNEX 2: APPLICATION FORM

The Application form is attached to these rules and procedure.