



# Wenhui (文暉) Award for Educational Innovation 2016

## *Innovative Partnerships for Quality Inclusive Education*

Muhammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank and Nobel Prize winner, said, “Access to quality education has enabled me to reach far beyond the Bangladeshi village I grew up in.”

Imagine the potential impact on society worldwide when we multiply Mr. Yunus’ accomplishments by 7 billion (the number of people in the world) if EVERYONE has access to quality education! Unfortunately, statistics tells a different story – at the moment.

According to the 2015 Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report:<sup>1</sup>

- Nearly 58 million children were out-of-school in 2012, and progress towards universal primary education has stalled since then. The drop-out rates showed that 1 in 6 children in low and middle income countries did not complete their primary education by 2015.
- While lower secondary gross enrolment ratios increased from 71% in 1999 to 85% in 2012, inequality persists for those from the poorest families.
- Despite admirable efforts to address the problem, at least 781 million adults still lack basic literacy skills.

Similarly, improvement in quality has not kept pace: 250 million children were not learning basic skills, even though half of them had spent at least four years in school.<sup>2</sup> Such data in tandem with persistent shortages of trained teachers, teaching materials, facilities and resources led to this recommendation – “Must try harder” – in the report card for EFA Goal 6 on the quality of education at the end of 2015.

On a more positive note, international efforts to push the quality imperative in education to the forefront resulted in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: *ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*. This comprehensive, aspirational and ambitious stand-alone goal for education commits governments to provide quality education to all irrespective of their sex, age, race, ethnicity, including persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples, children and youth, and at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary, technical and vocational training.<sup>3</sup> Such quality education is not only about literacy and numeracy. Along with the basics, all learners need to acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes and values so that they can contribute to a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

It is clear that to meet all the SDG 4 targets, active participation of all sectors and stakeholders is critical, especially when we consider the challenges through the lens of the entire education system, including the curriculum, teaching and learning materials; teachers and their teaching practices; school environment and infrastructure; allocation and use of resources; school leadership and management; students, their families and communities; and the diverse socio-cultural contexts and conditions. Therefore, fomenting effective partnerships and engagement at the local, national, regional and global levels to plan and implement programmes and activities, monitor and evaluate their progress and achievements, mobilize resources, share knowledge and expertise, and so on, is a priority.

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<sup>1</sup> UNESCO. 2015. *Education for All 2000-2015: Achievements and Challenges*. EFA Global Monitoring Report 2015. UNESCO, Paris.

<sup>2</sup> UNESCO. 2014. *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2013/14. Teaching and Learning: Achieving Quality for All*. UNESCO, Paris.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations. 2015. *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. United Nations, New York.

Emphasizing the capacity of education and the human innovative spirit to address and resolve pressing issues and problems, the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID) and the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO established the Wenhui (文暉) Award for Educational Innovation in 2010.

The Wenhui Award embodies two important elements of educational innovation. Wen (文) refers to all facets of civilization and culture, including wisdom, knowledge, moral and ethics, and encompasses the desire for learning and inquiry. Hui (暉) symbolizes the creative and radiant force of education that allows civilization and culture to flourish. Taken together, the Wenhui Award personifies the power of education in promoting learning and allowing individuals and cultures to innovate and grow. This Award will serve to improve the access to and quality of education and training, especially to those most in need. Given the challenges facing education, it is necessary to strengthen the commitment of individuals and institutions to continuously innovate and enlighten people.

For 2016, the theme of the Wenhui Award is *Innovative Partnerships for Quality Inclusive Education* in line with SDG 4 and UNESCO's vision of education to recognize innovative and strategic partnerships that have helped to provide and enhance quality learning opportunities for all, particularly to those most disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalized.

Two individuals or institutions from the Asia and Pacific region will be selected by a jury of distinguished educators. The winners will each receive a Certificate of Excellence and prize money of US\$ 20,000. Certificates of Merit may also be awarded to individuals or institutions that have demonstrated commendable innovative practices. The results will be announced through a variety of channels to share the achievements of the winners and awardees.

## **What are the objectives of the Award?**

The specific objectives of the 2016 Award are to:

- Value and encourage innovative partnerships that have contributed to quality inclusive education;
- Recognize the collective contributions of individuals or institutions in improving the quality of education for all;
- Foster indigenous wisdom and ingenuity in educational innovations for quality inclusive education.

## **What is in the Award?**

The Award shall be conferred on two individuals or institutions in recognition of their commitment and outstanding efforts in the development of educational innovations according to the theme of the year. The two winners will receive a Certificate of Excellence and prize money of US\$ 20,000 each. Certificates of Merit may also be awarded to individuals or institutions that have demonstrated commendable innovative practices.

## **Who is eligible for the Award?**

Individuals or institutions from UNESCO Member States in Asia and the Pacific region that have designed and implemented significant educational innovations leading to improved access to, and quality in, education and skills development will be eligible for the Award.

To qualify for nomination for the 2016 Wenhui Award, the candidates shall possess the following qualifications or attributes:

- Have demonstrated their ability in developing practices that have contributed to the quality of education for all through innovative partnerships;

- Have verified the positive impact of their innovative partnerships in education bringing about noticeable changes enabling learners to contribute towards peaceful, just and sustainable world;
- Have proven their commitment in promoting and supporting the principles of inclusive and lifelong quality learning for all; and
- Have established that their innovative practices are current and relevant to the educational issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## What are the evaluation criteria?

The emphasis of the Wenhui Award is on innovations in education for skills development, not scientific inventions. In line with the theme of the 2016 Award, *Innovative Partnerships for Quality Inclusive Education*, innovations that can demonstrate real changes in values, mindsets, practices, behaviours and skills will be positively assessed. More specifically, the entries will be evaluated according to selected criteria reflecting the including but not limited to the following:

- Uniqueness and originality of the innovation
- Timeliness and relevance of the innovation
- Success and impact of the innovation
- Leadership and management of the innovation
- Quality of the supporting evidence
- Innovative use of available resources
- Potential for replication of the innovation
- Sustainability of the innovation

## How to apply for the Award?

The Award organizers are calling for nominations from governments, educational institutions, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals in Asia and Pacific countries following the procedure below.

- Nominations shall be submitted to the Award Secretariat at UNESCO Bangkok through the National Commissions for UNESCO, UNESCO Offices and other organizations associated with UNESCO, using an official Award Application Form available online at <http://www.unescobkk.org/education/apeid/wenhuiaward/2016>.
- Each nomination must be accompanied by the following attachments:
  - Description of the candidate's/institution's background and achievements (1 page, A4 size, in English)
  - Summary of work, publications and other relevant documents of major importance (maximum of 4 pages, A4 size, in English)
  - Evidence to support the nomination of the candidate (may be in English or local language)
  - Letter(s) of recommendation (in English or local languages)
  - Consent form for use and distribution of materials
- All nominations must reach the Award Secretariat by **29 July 2016**. Please check with your nomination agency on the status of your submission.
- For list of UNESCO offices, see [http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=34016&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=34016&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)
- For list of National Commissions for UNESCO in the Asia-Pacific region, see [http://www.unesco.org/ncp/index.php?lc=E&region=3&module=national\\_commissions&web](http://www.unesco.org/ncp/index.php?lc=E&region=3&module=national_commissions&web)

## Conditions of entry

- All entries must be from the Asia-Pacific region.

- The work must be attested to be authentic and original.
- The innovation must be current or initiated in the last five years.
- Shortlisted entries may be asked to supply more documents or evidence, if necessary.
- All entries must be accompanied by evidence that supports the nomination.
- All nominees will be responsible for the delivery of their materials to their respective nomination agencies and for checking that their materials are received by the Award Secretariat.
- All submissions will be taken to imply the granting of permission to publish all materials and particulars, without charge to UNESCO.
- All nominees must complete the consent form available online at the Award website permitting UNESCO to publish and share their work, on the understanding that the work will be fully acknowledged and credited to the relevant individuals or institutions stated in the nomination forms.
- All materials submitted will not be returned.
- The jury's decision is final and correspondence will not be entered into.

### **Important dates**

Closing date for nominations	29 July 2016
Selection of shortlisted nominations	2 September 2016
Final selection and announcement of winners	End of September 2016
Award ceremony	To be confirmed

Visit the Award website <http://www.unescobkk.org/education/apeid/wenhuiaward/2016> for details, including the following:

- The Wenhui (文暉) Award brochure
- Information and guidelines
- Application form
- Consent form

For further information, contact:

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 APEID-UNESCO Bangkok  
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 Bangkok 10110, Thailand  
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 Fax: (66-2) 391-0866  
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 Website: <http://www.unescobkk.org/education/apeid/wenhuiaward/2016>

### **About the Organizers**

The Asia-Pacific Region counts for almost two thirds of the world population. In serving the 46 Member States and 2 Associate Members in the region, UNESCO has to take into account the diversity of the countries in terms of their size, culture, socio-economy status and environment. Supported by a network of a Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok, a Regional Bureau for Science in Jakarta, five Cluster Offices (Almaty, Apia, Beijing, New Delhi and Tehran), and seven National Offices (Dhaka, Hanoi, Islamabad, Kabul, Kathmandu, Phnom Penh and Tashkent), UNESCO works to promote peace and human development through education, sciences, culture and communication, by facilitating international co-operation, setting common standards and fostering the dissemination of information.

The **Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID)** is a regional inter-country cooperative programme based in the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok, Thailand. APEID's mission is to contribute to sustainable human development through the design and implementation of educational programmes and projects, mainly at the post-primary level of education and focusing on educational innovation for development.

The **National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO** was established in February 1979. It acts as an agency of coordination, consultation, liaison and information, in addition to mobilizing and coordinating partnerships with government institutions, academic circle and civil society to contribute to the realization of UNESCO's objectives and implementation of its programmes.

The **Chinese Society of Education (CSE)**, the first and also largest academic educational organization in China, was founded on 12 April 1979. Since then, the CSE has developed into the nation's leading academic educational organization which exerts a great influence on China's academic education, encouraging reforms and innovations. It has facilitated a nationwide, well-organized professional educational system covering all curricula and disciplines of basic education as well as relevant teaching and educational work.