

AFRICAN UNION



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African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards

Rules of Procedure



BACKGROUND

The African Union Commission is committed to ensure that science and technology contributes to our sustainable development efforts. The Constitutive Act, establishing the African Union, recognizes the need to advance the development of Africa by promoting research in all fields, and in science and technology in particular. The Commission, through its Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology implements a strategic science and technology development programme, aimed at contributing to the wellbeing and improved quality of life for the African citizens. 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*”.

As a holistic and deliberate measure to maintain science and technology on top of our development, cooperation and political agenda, the Commission urges the Member States to popularize science among African citizens, empower them, celebrate their achievements and promote all efforts to transform scientific research into sustainable development. With the support of our Development Partners particularly the European Commission, the African Union Commission, launched on 9 September 2008, the prestigious **African Union Scientific Award Programme**. The programme is implemented at national level for young researchers, regional level for women scientists and continental level open to all scientists. The Continental level is the highest and level of the programme. The objective is to give out scientific awards to top African scientists for their scientific achievements and valuable discoveries and findings.

In July 2010, the African Union Heads of State and Government took a decision to rename this Programme as “**African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards**”. This decision reflects and underscores a success story and the critical role of science and technology in the development and integration of Africa. It also offers us the opportunity to constantly honour the memory of the Great Pan-Africanist and First President of the Republic of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. A firm believer in African liberation and unity! A man who pursued a revolutionary pan-African policy, with a strong vision extending beyond national boundaries, for the creation of a new Africa, “a federal union of African states”, to take charge of its own destiny. He is among the key founding fathers of the then Organization of African Unity in 1963, an important pan-Africanist organization, which later become the African Union in 2002. Today the “dream and determination” of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah inspires Africa in all facets of development.

Prizes are awarded to top African scientists in each of the following two sectors (a) **Life and Earth Science; and (b) Basic Science, Technology and Innovation** at the national, regional and continental levels. The African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards Programme is implemented using the following rules of procedure.

1. ESTABLISHMENT, APPELLATION AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 An Awards scheme known as the “**African Union Scientific Awards (AUSA)**” was established by the African Union Commission on the 9th Of September 2008 and named “**African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards (AUKNSA)**” by Assembly/AU/Dec.306 (XV) of the 15th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on 27 July 2010 in Kampala, Uganda.
- 1.2 The **objectives** of **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards** are to:
 - 1.2.1 To award and honour outstanding African Scientists for their scientific achievements and discoveries.
 - 1.2.2 Promote scientific development in Africa through recognition of excellence among African scientists, women, men alike and younger researchers and encourage them to persevere in their research or academic careers, and nurture their ambitions;
 - 1.2.3 Popularize and Promote public understanding and participation in the implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) and AU Assembly decisions on science and technology.
 - 1.2.4 Raise the profile of science and technology sector in African Union Member States, Regional Economic Communities and so that science contributes Africa’s sustainable development, poverty alleviation and integration efforts.

2. DEFINITION

For the purpose of this award the following definitions shall apply:

- 2.1 **Scientific awards** are one-time monetary prizes that are given to outstanding African scientists for their scientific achievements and valuable discoveries and findings
- 2.2 **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.
- 2.3 **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.

3. ORGANIZATION OF THE AWARDS

3.1 The **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award Programme** shall be organized at three levels:

- National;
- Regional; and
- Continental

3.2 One award per each of the following scientific sector shall be given out at each level:

- a) Life and Earth Sciences; and
- b) Basic Science, Technology and Innovation

NB: The sectors are defined in 1 above.

3.3 The awards to be covered under this scheme are:

- (i) AU-TWAS National Young Scientists Award at the National Level;
- (ii) African Union Regional Women Scientists Award at the AU Regional Level; and
- (iii) Continental Scientific Award at the continental level.

3.4 Depending on organizational exigencies, the **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award Programme** may be limited to one or several disciplines in any of these two sectors.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AWARDS

4.1 AU-TWAS NATIONAL YOUNG SCIENTISTS AWARD / NATIONAL LEVEL

4.1.1 At National Level, the AU-TWAS¹ National Young Scientists AWARD shall be organized by the National Academy of Science or by the National Research Council.

4.1.2 The Award is intended for young scientists both men and women; aged not more than forty (40) by 31 December of the year of organization of the Award.

4.1.3 The Award shall be organized in each Member State of the African Union under the supervision of the Ministry in charge of Science and Technology and based on the signed agreement of between the Ministry in Charge of Science and Technology, TWAS and the African Union Commission

¹ TWAS – Academy of Sciences for Developing Word

4.1.4 The deadline for receipt of applications by the national office in charge shall be 30th of June² each year.

Information regarding young scientists award may be obtained from the Ministry in charge of Science and Technology in the Member States

4.1.5 The competition shall be launched in each country on 9 September³ each year.

4.1.6 The profiles of the selected winning candidates must be communicated to TWAS on 15 August each year.

4.1.7 The Award Ceremony will be organized in each Member State on 9 September each year and the Award will be handed out by the Minister in Charge of Science and Technology.

4.1.8 The value of the AU-TWAS National Young Scientist Award shall be US\$ 5,000 (Five thousand US Dollars) jointly conferred by the African Union Commission and TWAS for each scientific sector, *see 2.2 above*.

4.1.9 This amount is without prejudice to whatever national compensation might be approved by the national committee for the awardees in each nation.

4.1.10 This amount shall be disbursed by bank transfer or bank draft payable to the recipient, on the day of the Award ceremony.

4.1.11 Approval is hereby given to the Minister of Science and Technology/ research in each member state to constitute an African Scientific Award National Committee for the purpose of discharging the responsibilities specified in Rules 4 and 5 at the national level

4.2 AFRICAN UNION REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AWARD FOR WOMEN

4.2.1 The Award shall be organized under the supervision and responsibility of the highest executive authority of the African Union Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as set forth in Annex 1 of these Rules.

4.2.2 The competition shall be launched in each of the five AU Geographical Regions⁴ on 9 September each year.

² 30 June is Africa's Scientific Renaissance Day

³ 9 September is the African Union Day

4.2.3 The deadline for receipt of applications by the Regional Economic Communities responsible for the programme shall be 30 June each year. *(The Commission reserves the right in consultation with RECs to extend the deadline)*

Applications should be send (NOT by fax or e-mail) to the Regional Economic Community, see Annex 1.

4.2.4 A single Jury, composed of five voting members shall be appointed by the African Union Commission, in consultation with RECs. The Jury shall include the RECS as secretariate, the AU Commission and the Chair of the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology as observers. Jury meetings will be held on rotational basis in each region.

4.2.5 Members of the Jury shall be chosen from amongst eminent scientific personalities of the African Continent in consultation with national academies of science, the African Academy of Science, the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) or the Africa Bureau of TWAS.

4.2.6 The two winners per region will be selected from two different African Union member States within the region.

4.2.7 The Award conferment ceremony shall take place on 9 September every year, that is one year after the launch of the award process. The ceremony shall be organized in the capital of the country of the chair of the African Union; or that failing, at the Headquarters of the African Union.

4.2.8 All the Award winners shall be invited thereto by the African Union Commission.

4.2.9 The value of the African Union Women Scientists Regional Award shall be US\$20,000 (Twenty thousand US Dollars for each scientific sector, *see 2.2 above*) conferred by the African Union Commission.

4.2.10 This amount shall be disbursed by bank transfer or bank draft payable to the recipient, towards the day of the Award ceremony.

⁴ 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.

4.3 THE CONTINENTAL SCIENTIFIC AWARD

- 4.3.1 The Continental Scientific Award shall be organized under the supervision of the African Union Commission.
- 4.3.2 The competition shall be open each year on the 9th of September.
- 4.3.3 The deadline for submission of applications shall be the 9th of September each year. Unlike the other schemes, Applications for the **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award** with all the supporting documents should be submitted to the following address NOT by Fax or E-mail:

**To:
The Director
Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology
African Union Commission
Roosevelt Street
P. O. Box 3243
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

NB: In the right back side of the envelope, please insert the following information:

[From: Full Name, Contact and E-mail Addresses of the Applicant] and add the following note ["African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award/Not to be opened before the opening session"]

- 4.3.4 There will be no age limit to participate, and participation shall be open following a call to be announced by the AUC.
- 4.3.5 The Jury shall be composed of members appointed by the Chairperson of African Union Commission on the advice of the Commissioner in charge of Human Resources, Science and Technology, in concert with the chairperson of AMCOST Bureau.
- 4.3.6 Members of the Jury shall be chosen from amongst eminent scientific personalities of the African Continent in consultation with the African Academy of Science, the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) or the TWAS Africa Bureau.
- 4.3.7 The two winners will be selected from two different African Union member States.
- 4.3.8 The Award conferment ceremony shall take place at an Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held the year following the launch of the process.

- 4.3.9 The value of the Continental Scientific Award shall be US\$100,000 (One hundred thousand US Dollars for each scientific sector, *see 2.2 above*) conferred by the African Union Commission on the award winners in each sector.

5. ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 Only nationals of the African Union (AU) Member States are eligible to participate in these Awards.
- 5.3 For the African Union Regional Scientific Award for Women, applicants should have at least ten (10) SCI publications.
- 5.4 For the Continental applicants should have at least twenty (20) SCI publications.

6. EXCLUSION

Applicants may be excluded due to the following:

- 6.1 Their applications are not complete and/or all supporting document/s are not included or not attached.
- 6.2 If they received an **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award Programme** in the past five years under this programme.
- 6.3 If their Member State is under AU sanctions in conformity with a decision taken by the AU relevant policy organ.
- 6.4 If they are employees of any an AU organ or employees of the Regional Economic Communities.
- 6.5 If Applications sent by fax or by e-mail or delivered to other addresses.

7. APPLICATION FORMS

- 7.1 The Application forms are available from:
- AU Commission official website,
 - Ministries in Charge of Science and Technology, National Academies and Research Councils in Member States, and
 - the Regional Economic Communities Headquarters

8. ENQUIRIES

8.1 For any enquiries and or clarifications, please contact the secretariat of **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award Programme**. For equal treatment answers to various questions will be posted on the AU Commission official website for this programme:

- E-mail: scientific-awards@africa-union.org
- Or visit the AU Commission official website: <http://www.africa-union.org/> or <http://www.africahrst.org/>

9. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

9.1 An advisory committee known as “Advisory Committee” for the **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award Programme** is hereby established at the relevant levels.

9.2 This Committee shall be chaired by the Commissioner in charge of Human Resources, Science and Technology. It shall be composed of one representation each from:

- African Development Bank (AfDB);
- European Commission (EC);
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO);
- Third World Academy of Science (TWAS) – Africa Bureau;
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);
- African Academy of Sciences (AAS); and
- International Council for Science (ICSU) – Africa Regional Office.

9.3 The functions of the Advisory Committee shall be to make recommendations on policy issues, define operational modalities and ensure that adequate resources are available for the conduct of the **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award Programme**.

The African Union Commission Wishes You All the Best

Done at Addis ABABA, this ...day of.....

Jean PING

Chairperson of African Union Commission

ANNEX 1: AU REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBER STATES

The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are the Secretariats of the Regional Scientific Awards for Women as set for in this annex. Please note the distribution of Member States in the African Union Geographical Regions (Footnote 4).

REGION ⁵	REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY	CONTRIES	ADDRESS
Central African Region	Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Burundi 2. Cameroon 3. Central African Republic 4. Chad 5. Congo 6. Congo (DRC) 7. Equatorial Guinea 8. Gabon 9. Sao Tome & Principe 	Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (ECCAS) B.P 2112 Libreville GABON Tél: 241- 74664
Eastern Region	East African Community (EAC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comoros 2. Djibouti 3. Eritrea 4. Ethiopia 5. Kenya 6. Madagascar 7. Mauritius 8. Rwanda 9. Seychelles 10. Somalia 11. Sudan 12. Tanzania 13. Uganda 	East African Community (EAC) P.O. Box. 1096 Arusha, TANZANIA Tel: 255 27 2504253
Northern Region	Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Algeria 2. Egypt 3. Libya 4. Mauritania 5. Tunisia 6. SADR 	CEN-SAD P. O. Box 4041 Tripoli Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Tel: 218-21-3343670/3332347

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

REGION ⁵	REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY	CONTRIES	ADDRESS
Southern Region	Southern African Development Community (SADC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Angola 2. Botswana 3. Lesotho 4. Malawi 5. Mozambique 6. Namibia 7. South Africa 8. Swaziland 9. Zambia 10. Zimbabwe 	SADC P/Bag 0095 Gaborone BOTSWANA Tel: (267) 3951863
Western Region	Economic Community Of West African States	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benin 2. Burkina Faso 3. Cape Verde 4. Cote d'Ivoire 5. Gambia 6. Ghana 7. Guinea 8. Guinea Bissau 9. Liberia 10. Mali 11. Niger 12. Nigeria 13. Senegal 14. Sierra Leone 15. Togo 	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) PMB 401 Abuja, NIGERIA Tel: 234 9 3147644/3143006/234 3147635