

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

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UNESCO Headquarters, Paris has invited **nominations for the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture**. Relevant details are on the next page.

Nominations should be forwarded to the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) **latest by 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2016** (and should not be sent directly to UNESCO) at the following address for further consideration and onward transmission to UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France.

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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

The Minister of Human Resource Development,  
Communications & Information Technology  
New Delhi  
(India)

**- 5 APR 2016**

Ref.: CL/4149

Subject: **Nominations for the 14th edition of the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture**

Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to invite your government to submit candidatures for the UNESCO Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture. Established in 1998 and endowed by the government of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates), this Prize has been awarded since 2001 and is at its 14th edition.

As you know, the purpose of this Prize is to reward significant contributions made by two eminent personalities, groups of persons or institutions – one from the Arab States and the other from elsewhere – to the development, knowledge and spread of Arab culture by means of artistic, intellectual or promotional outreach aimed at enhancing intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. Proposed candidates should have earned an international reputation for meritorious action extending over several years.

At its 13th edition, the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture was awarded to the world-renowned author Elias Sanbar, and to the Islamic Library of Spain, which is an international reference in the field of Arabic and Andalusian studies.

By conferring this Prize on such eminent personalities and institutions, the Prize strives to reinforce the Organization's fundamental mission to promote dialogue among cultures through a better appreciation of the multifaceted aspects of Arab culture.

With a view to increasing the visibility of this Prize further, UNESCO and the government of Sharjah would like to encourage you to propose qualified candidates who deserve to be rewarded for their literary, scientific or artistic achievements, as well as for their global outreach devoted to promoting Arab culture and its worldwide dissemination – independent of any religious considerations.

As mentioned above, the Prize is endowed by the government of Sharjah with US \$60,000, which is divided equally between two laureates selected by me on the basis of the recommendation of an international jury established for that purpose.

In view of the importance of this Prize, the Organization has established a rigorous process for selecting candidates. We encourage you, therefore, to propose the most-qualified candidates from your country. You may wish to note that candidatures can be submitted online only.

If, as I hope, you are in a position to nominate suitable candidates for the Prize, I invite you to send an e-mail to the Secretariat of the Prize (e-mail: [prix.sharjah@unesco.org](mailto:prix.sharjah@unesco.org); tel.: +33 1 45 68 42 71), with the name and e-mail of the person authorized to make the submission on your behalf. The Prize Secretariat will then send all necessary information to the concerned person, notably on how to submit the candidature online. Kindly note that the deadline for the submission of candidatures is **15 July 2016**. The Secretariat of the Prize will happily respond to any queries you might have.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irina Bokova', written in a cursive style.

Irina Bokova  
Director-General

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO  
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

Calendar of Event:

Programme Events

Prizes and  
Celebrations**UNESCO Prizes**

Avicenna Prize  
Jaime Torres Bodet Pri  
José Martí Prize  
Juan Bosch Prize  
Madanjeet Singh Prize  
**Sharjah Prize**

Celebrations

# UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture



Established in 1998, the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture rewards, each year, two laureates – individuals, groups or institutions – who, through their work and outstanding achievements, endeavour to disseminate greater knowledge of Arab art and culture.

Applicants to the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab culture must have contributed significantly towards the development, dissemination and the promotion of Arab culture in the world. The winners are chosen by the

Director-General of UNESCO, on the recommendation of an international Jury of experts in the field of Arab Culture and having distinguished themselves, over several years, by meritorious actions. Thus, the winners contribute to the promotion of cultural dialogue and the revitalization of Arab culture.

Twenty-two laureates have so far been awarded the Prize (with an amount of US\$60 000, divided equally between the two laureates), in recognition of their contribution – in their respective disciplines – to Arab art and culture, or for participating in the dissemination of the latter outside the Arab world. Together, the prize winners have come to represent a new generation of researchers, artists, philosophers, authors and translators with a profound desire to achieve a genuine dialogue between Arab culture and other cultures.

In an era of globalization and profound political and social changes facing the world, this Prize fully meets the values of mutual understanding that is cited in the Constitution of the Organization. By rewarding careers, lives, whose efforts have been to promote a culture to which they own so much, the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab culture strives to foster a better understanding of other civilizations, thus promoting, or encouraging international exchange. Arab arts and culture have left traces all over the world, not only has the mosaic of cultures in the Arab region benefitted mutually but also cultures far beyond. One cannot find a better tread for cultivating peace.

## Laureates - 2015 Edition



Intellectual Elias Sanbar and the Biblioteca Islámica Spain, winners of the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture 2015

RELATED INFORMATION

**PAGES**

Sharjah and its Prize  
Members of the Jury  
Laureates  
Statutes  
Brochure on the Prize

13th edition - 2015  
Former editions: 12th / 11th / 10th

**EVENTS**

Award ceremony of the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture  
UNESCO Paris, France, 14 April 2016

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Arabic calligraphy or the transformations of an age-old art  
Calligraphy - Interview with Ghani Alani

**PARTICIPATE**

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**PUBLICATIONS**

10th Edition  
9th Edition  
8th Edition

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