

NO.13-03/2025-INC
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education
UNESCO Branch

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi

Dated 25 February, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: - Call for nominations: 2025 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education.

The undersigned is directed to enclose UNESCO's email dated 21.02.2025 thereby forwarding letter No. CL/4496 inviting to send applications for 2025 UNESCO Kind Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education.

2. In this regard, it is requested that information enclosed with this communication may kindly be uploaded on the Ministry of Education's website for transmitting the offer to all concerned.


(Madhu Bala Soni)

Under Secretary (UNESCO)

Email: inc.edu@nic.in

Tel.: 011- 2338 4442

Encl: As above.

Director (Stat.) & Web Master
R.K. Puram, New Delhi.

Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education

UNESCO has called for nominations for the 2025 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education.

The **deadline for submission of nominations** for the 2025 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education is 28th March, 2025.

Applications may be forwarded to the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) latest by 1st March, 2025 at the following address for further consideration and onward transmission to UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France by 28th March, 2025 :-

Ms. Madhu Bala Soni
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education
Room No. 203-A 'C' Wing
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road
Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi - 110001
Contact No.: +91-011-2338 4442
E-mail: inc.edu@nic.in

Ref.: CL/4496

Subject: **Call for nominations – 2025 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education**

Dear Minister,

It is my pleasure to invite your Government to submit nominations for the 2025 edition of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education.

Established in 2005 with support from the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Prize rewards projects that use new technologies to enhance learning and teaching.

The 2025 edition marks the 20th anniversary of the Prize and focuses on the theme **“Preparing learners and teachers to the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence”**.

Selected programmes must enable young generations and education stakeholders to acquire key skills in artificial intelligence, helping them to develop critical thinking and to make the best possible use of this already ubiquitous technology.

Four prize-winners will be chosen based on the recommendations of an international jury. Each laureate will receive a diploma and a monetary award of US \$25,000.

Applications must be submitted online in English or French by **28 March 2025** at the latest. UNESCO encourages Member States to set up a national selection process and present up to three candidates via their National Commission.

More information about the theme of the 2025 edition and application procedures are available at the following link: <https://www.unesco.org/en/prizes/ict-education>. The Statutes of the Prize are attached for your reference and are available online.

The Secretariat of the Prize (tel.: +33 1 45 68 23 42; e-mail: ictprize@unesco.org) remains at your disposal for any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Audrey Azoulay
Director-General

Enclosure: Statutes of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
Field Offices of UNESCO
UNESCO Category 1 Institutes for Education

ANNEX I

STATUTES OF THE UNESCO KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL-KHALIFA PRIZE FOR THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION

Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education (ICT) is to reward projects and activities of individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations for excellent models, best practice, and creative use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to enhance learning, teaching and overall educational performance. The objective of the Prize is in conformity with UNESCO's mandate and policies and with the Organization's Strategic Objectives 1, 2, and 9, as laid out in the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021. In line with SDG 4 – Education 2030 as well as the Qingdao Declaration and Beijing Consensus on Artificial Intelligence and Education, the Prize advocates for the ethical use of technologies to accelerate the achievement of inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all.

Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled “UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Education”.

2.2. The Prize shall be funded by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and shall consist of a one-time contribution sum of US \$758,600, which shall cover both the monetary value of the Prize and the costs of administering the Prize. Any interest that may accrue will be added to the overall contribution. As determined by the Director-General and in consultation with the Donor, the Prize shall consist of a sum of US \$50,000 to be equally divided between two prize-winners.

2.3 All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in a special interest-bearing account for the Prize (see Financial Regulations in Annex II).

2.4 The full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including all costs related to the award ceremony and public information activities, estimated at a maximum of US \$458,600, shall be fully covered by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain. To this end, the Director-General shall determine a mandatory overhead cost amount to be applied and charged against the funds in the Special Account, which is to be established under the Financial Regulations of the Prize.

2.5 The Prize shall be awarded every year for a six-year period, starting from the 2021 edition of the Prize, it being understood that this period may be adjusted to take into consideration fluctuations in administration costs.

Article 3 – Conditions/Qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall have made a significant contribution to the creative use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to enhance learning, teaching and overall educational performance. Prizes may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations.

Article 4 – Designation/Selection of the prize-winners

The two prize-winners shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made to her by a jury.

Article 5 – Jury

5.1 The Jury shall consist of five independent members, being personalities with a recognized reputation in the field covered while also taking into consideration the need for equitable geographical distribution, gender equality and the principle of non-payment of honoraria. They shall be appointed by the Director-General for a period of two-years, eligible for re-election for a maximum term of three consecutive two-year periods. Representatives and alternates of Members of the Executive Board cannot be appointed as jurors. Jurors involved in a real or potential conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from further deliberations or be asked by the Director-General to do so. The Director-General may replace members of the Jury for reason.

5.2 The Jury shall elect its own Chair and Deputy Chair. Members shall receive no remuneration for their work, but will receive allowances for travel and accommodation, where required. A quorum of three jurors present will be required for Jury deliberations to proceed. The working languages for deliberations by the Jury shall be English and French.

5.3 The Jury shall conduct its business and deliberations in conformity with these Statutes, and shall be assisted in the performance of its task by a member of the UNESCO Secretariat designated by the Director-General. Decisions shall be taken by consensus to the extent possible, and otherwise by secret ballot until a simple majority is obtained. A member shall not take part in a vote concerning a nomination from his or her country.

5.4 The Jury shall meet once every year.

5.5 The Jury shall send an assessment of nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than 14 days after the completion of the deliberations of the Jury.

Article 6 – Nomination of candidates

6.1 When UNESCO has received the funding of the Prize, as indicated in Article 2 above, the Director-General of UNESCO shall officially invite the submission of nominations to the Secretariat of the Prize by 15 October every year from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as from the non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with the Organization and active in the field covered by the Prize. It is understood that the deadline may be adjusted to take into consideration unprecedented crises or emergencies.

6.2 Nominations shall be submitted to the Director-General by the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, and by non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO. A self-nomination cannot be considered.

6.3 Each nomination shall be accompanied by a written recommendation, which shall include, in English or French, *inter alia*:

- (a) a description of the candidate's background and achievements;
- (b) a summary of the work or the results of the work, publications and other supporting documents of major importance, submitted for consideration;
- (c) a definition of the candidate's contribution to the Prize's objectives.

Article 7 – Procedure for the awarding of the Prize

7.1 The Prize shall be awarded by the Director-General at an official ceremony held for that purpose at UNESCO Headquarters or online based on the agreement with the Government of

Bahrain no later than 31 March, the date to be mutually agreed upon. UNESCO shall present to the prize-winners a cheque for the amount of the Prize as well as a diploma. UNESCO shall officially announce the names of the prize-winners.

7.2 If a work being rewarded has been produced by two or more persons, the Prize shall be awarded to them jointly. In no case may a prize amount be divided between more than three persons.

7.3 The prize winners, if possible, shall give a lecture on a subject relevant to the work for which the Prize has been awarded. Such a lecture shall be organized during or in connection with the Prize ceremony.

7.4 The work produced by a person since deceased shall not be considered for the Prize. If, however, a prize winner dies before he or she has received the Prize, then the Prize may be presented posthumously.

7.5 Should a prize winner decline the Prize, the jury shall submit a new proposal to the Director-General.

Article 8 – Sunset clause – mandatory renewal of the Prize

8.1 Six months prior to the agreed end of the term of the Prize, the Director-General of UNESCO together with the donor will undertake a review of all aspects of the Prize and decide about its continuation or termination. The Director-General will inform the Executive Board of UNESCO about the results of this review.

8.2 In case of termination of the Prize, any unspent balance of funds shall be returned to the donor unless otherwise agreed, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Prize.

Article 9 – Appeals

No appeals shall be allowed against the decision of UNESCO with regard to the award of the Prize. Proposals received for the award of the Prize may not be divulged.

Article 10 – Amendments to the Statutes of the Prize

Any amendment to the present Statutes shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education

2025 Guidelines

Theme: Preparing learners and teachers for the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence

The deadline for nominations: 28 March 2025

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2025 theme

The 2025 edition marks the 20th anniversary of the Prize and focuses on the theme “**Preparing learners and teachers for the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence**”. It will recognize projects that enable young generations and education stakeholders to acquire key skills in artificial intelligence, helping them to develop critical thinking and to make the best possible use of this already ubiquitous technology. The Prize seeks to surface and spotlight best practices that provide training programmes, competency frameworks, curricula, as well as professional development models for teachers and learners on AI, across all education levels and in both formal and non-formal learning environments. The project could also include institutional guidance, policy documents, and practices, alongside capacity-building initiatives that support the ethical and responsible use of AI for teachers and learners.

Who can apply?

Individuals, institutions, non-governmental organizations or other entities

Eligibility criteria

- ✓ The project is relevant to the theme of the year

- ✓ The project should have been implemented for at least 1 year with evidence of concrete activities
- ✓ The project and its organization should not be affiliated with, or receive any funding from UNESCO

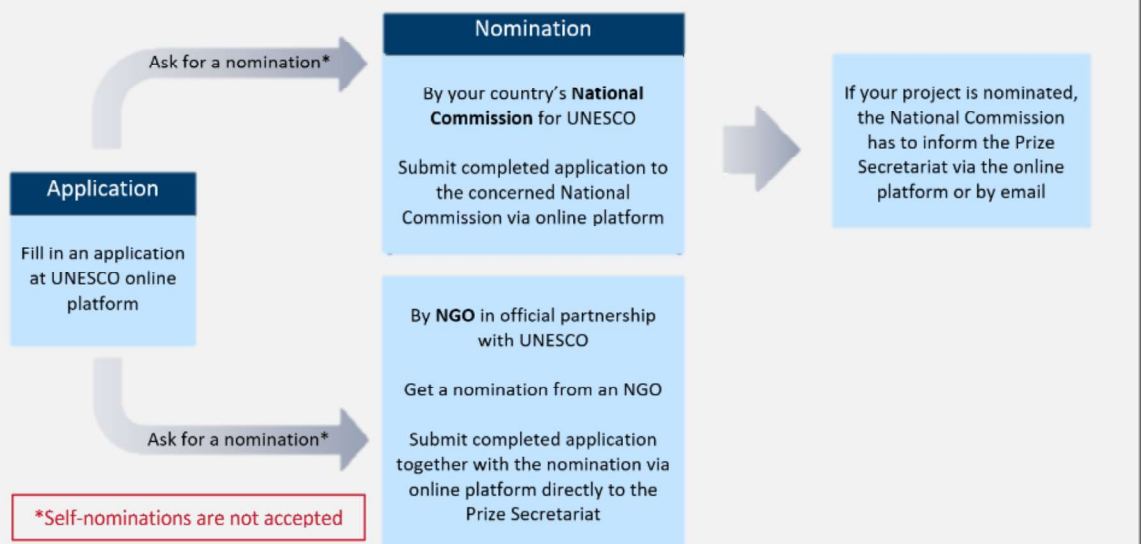
Selection criteria

- ✓ **Integrated approach to the use of AI:** The project should demonstrate an integrated approach that addresses technical understanding of AI with critical reflection on its implications on society and environment at large, ensuring that learners and educators not only develop practical AI skills but also cultivate the ability to evaluate, responsibly use, and co-create AI technologies in the project context.
- ✓ **Pedagogical relevance:** The project should demonstrate an alignment with sound pedagogical principles, with an intent to ensure that the design, content, and delivery methods are appropriate for the target groups.
- ✓ **Promotion of inclusive learning opportunities:** The project should consider inclusion in the design and implementation, so that they are equally accessible to all members in the target groups. The project can also be designed specifically for underserved communities such as refugees, learners with special educational needs, speakers of minority languages, etc.
- ✓ **Evidence of progress:** The project should provide proof of its results, including the number of individuals reached, impact on target groups, and other achievement of pre-set project targets. The project may consider building evidence base to inform scale-up or future adaptation.
- ✓ **Potential for replicability and scalability:** The project demonstrates the potential to be replicated in other contexts and shows promise for further optimization and scaling to expand its impact.

**If digital tools are used for the delivery of the project activities, the Prize prioritizes projects that deploy tools offering unrestricted access to their core features without imposing any fees for target users.*

**The Prize is not a grant scheme to support new projects or organizations. The Prize is aimed at recognizing already implemented projects and activities or individuals/institutions/organizations for the use of technologies in education, teaching, and learning.*

For Candidates: How to submit an application and ask for a nomination?



1. **Contact nominating entity:** If your project/programme meets the criteria, please get in contact as soon as possible with an appropriate nominating entity to inform about your interest in applying for the Prize.
 - [List of National Commissions for UNESCO](#)
 - [List of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO](#)
2. **Create your account:** Request a user account and indicate through which entity you will apply at: www.unesco.org/ict-ed-prize/register
3. **Go to the online platform** accessible at www.unesco.org/ict-ed-prize and start filling in the online application form in **English** or **French**.
4. **Present your project** in a clear and structured way, following the instructions given in the form and respecting the indicated word limit. All supporting materials (e.g. publications, photos, videos) must be transmitted electronically through the online system.
5. **Ensure that your project is nominated**

If you want to be nominated by your country's National Commission

If you want to be nominated by an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fill in the application and submit it via UNESCO online platform for review and possible nomination of the concerned National Commission ➤ If selected, the National Commission will provide the nomination via UNESCO online platform and submit it to the Prize Secretariat ➤ Please note that a National Commission can nominate only up to 3 submissions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO ➤ Provide this NGO with information about your project and ask for a nomination ➤ Receive a nomination (in form of a letter) and attach it to your online application ➤ Submit the application to the Prize Secretariat via UNESCO online platform |
|--|---|

We strongly recommend:

- * Contact your country's National Commission already while filling in the application
- * Some countries may have the national selection process and internal deadlines for submission. This is why it is essential to get in contact with the relevant National Commission from the very beginning of the application process in order to submit your application in line with the National Commission deadline and guidelines.

Please note that **self-nominations cannot be considered**. Any submission form **not nominated** by the National Commission or an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO will not be accepted by the Secretariat.

Difficulties in reaching an appropriate nominating entity: please contact the Prize Secretariat.

For Nominating Entities - National Commissions for UNESCO and NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO: How to nominate?

1. **Screen your candidates:** Inform all involved stakeholders and set up a selection committee or panel to screen the candidates.
2. **Nominate up to three candidates:** Select the three best candidates, whose projects are in line with the theme. You are encouraged to work with the candidates to prepare their submission forms.

National Commission for UNESCO	NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Commissions can access the platform with their generic UNESCO accounts. To access the nomination form, the National Commission should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the link provided to the application or access the online platform here: www.unesco.org/ict-ed-prize • On the login page, enter the username (natcom.yourcountryname@natcom.unesco.org) • Enter the password associated with the UNESCO account of the National Commission. ➤ A National Commission can also initiate the process of nomination and submit an application on behalf of a candidate ➤ To nominate a candidate, the National Commission should edit the online form by entering a written recommendation in the appropriate fields, in English or French, and explain why the project of the candidate deserves the Prize (max 350 words). * If due to technical problems, the National Commission cannot access the online platform to provide the nomination, it can issue a nomination letter or inform the Prize Secretariat by email. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If solicited by a candidate and wishing to submit the nomination, you should provide a nomination letter to be attached by the candidate to the online form ➤ An NGO can also submit an application on behalf of a candidate. To create and fill in the application, please see the guidelines for candidates.

Should you require any clarification regarding the application or nomination process, please directly contact the Secretariat of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT in education at UNESCO: ictprize@unesco.org

We look forward to receiving your nominations!