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ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women Official Prize Rules

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Closing Date: June 23, 2017

Notification of Finalists: August 2017

Estimated Notification of Winner: October 2017

Estimated Date of Awards Ceremony: November 2017

I. Introduction:

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Mission to ASEAN, in partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL), aim to strengthen ASEAN science and technology capacity and gender equality and improvement through an annual ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women (“Prize”). The 2017 Prize will provide promising, ASEAN-based, early- to mid-career female professionals utilizing applied science with recognition awards from ASEAN and the United States government for their academic and professional achievements.

The 2017 Prize will emphasize the role of female professionals working in applied science who use their work to better society in safe and sustainable ways and act as role models for other women working in and pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

This year, the Prize theme will focus on rapid urbanization across the ASEAN region. The Prize administrators will look to award those working in biotechnology, microelectronics and information technology, or material science and technology to address:

- Rapid urbanization with a focus on health such as disease spread and mutation, counterfeit medication, or health care access
- Rapid urbanization with a focus on improving transportation and infrastructure
- Rapid urbanization with a focus on workplace safety and retention (health, machinery safety, pollution in the formal sector)

Through their work, these women help cities mitigate the negative effects of rapid urbanization, which can stymie economic growth for the ASEAN region. Advances in applied sciences promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Southeast Asia.

Along with recognition for their achievements, applicants are eligible to receive cash awards of \$20,000 for first place and \$5,000 for honorable mention, as well as separate provisions for travel and lodging to attend an awards ceremony in late Fall 2017 at an ASEAN ministerial meeting hosted in Myanmar.

II. Eligibility

Any female citizen and resident of an ASEAN member state is eligible to apply for the ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women. ASEAN member states include: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Candidates should have a PhD or equivalent degree. Additionally, candidates should be 40 years of age or younger at the time of submission and their area of expertise should fall under this year’s theme of rapid urbanization (please see below for complete details).

III. Prize Theme

Rapid urbanization is a trend facing many metropolises across the world, but is particularly affecting the ASEAN region, with nearly half of its population living in urban centers. ASEAN comprises some of the largest and fastest growing cities of the world. By 2050 it is projected that the most rural ASEAN country, Cambodia, will have just under a 40% urbanization rate. On the highest end of the spectrum, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei are expected to boast 80-100% urbanization¹. This massive growth can signal great opportunity for the region, but it does not come without challenges. Cities are now faced with increased pressure on infrastructure and public service and health systems, urban poverty and slums, and shocks resulting from natural disasters.

The 2017 Prize will look to award female professionals working in applied science who are striving to improve the safety, sustainability, and security of cities in the face of rapid urbanization and helping to improve resilience in the face of stressors and shocks. The 2017 Prize will focus on ASEAN-identified science and technology priority areas:

- Biotechnology
- Microelectronics and information technology
- Material science and technology

Applicants should use their field of focus to address:

- Rapid urbanization with a focus on health such as disease spread and mutation, counterfeit medication, or health care access
- Rapid urbanization with a focus on improving transportation and infrastructure
- Rapid urbanization with a focus on workplace safety and retention (health, machinery safety, pollution in the formal sector)

Importantly, interested applicants to the Prize should be prepared to demonstrate how their work is actively improving the safety and wellbeing of women in urban areas.

IV. Funding

The total amount of prize funding available for winners will be \$25,000, and will be provided by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). The prize administrators anticipate awarding \$20,000 to the first place winner and \$5,000 to the runner up. Separate provisions will be made for travel and lodging expenses as well as meal provisions for the winners to attend an awards ceremony at an ASEAN ministerial meeting in Myanmar. The winners will receive official award disbursements shortly after the awards ceremony.

V. Application Requirements

¹ *The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development, the United States Government, or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).*

In order to be considered for the Prize, applicants should submit a completed application form online at: <https://scienceprizeforwomen.formstack.com/forms/2017scienceprize>. If you are having trouble with your form, please contact scienceprizeforwomen@gmail.com. Forms must be completed in their entirety. Along with a completed application, candidates should submit their curriculum vitae (CV) to the application platform. **Candidates must also have two letters of recommendation submitted on their behalf.**

- A letter of support submitted by a mentee or other women who have been impacted by the applicant
- A letter of recommendation submitted by an academic or professional contact

Letters of recommendation must be sent directly by the referee to scienceprizeforwomen@gmail.com with the candidate's name in the subject line. Letters must be received by 11:59 PM GMT +7 on June 23, 2017. **Applications will not be considered without any of these three components.**

VI. Submission Deadline

Applications may be submitted any time before 11:59 pm GMT +7 on June 23, 2017 using: <https://scienceprizeforwomen.formstack.com/forms/2017scienceprize>

VII. Review Process

There will be four phases to the selection process--an eligibility review to ensure all applicants meet the basic Prize criteria, semi-finalist, country finalists, and winner selection.

A. Selection of Semi-Finalists

A committee of members from all the partner organizations will review all applications, based on the evaluation criteria below. Prize administrators anticipate narrowing down the pool of applicants to five semi-finalists per country. Selection will be based on the evaluation criteria below. The decisions of the committee is final. Prize administrators anticipate notifying all applicants of their status depending upon the size of the application pool.

B. Evaluation Criteria

The criteria presented below has been tailored to the requirements of this Prize. A total of 100 points are possible with the completion of the application.

Scientific Excellence (34 pts)

1. Applicant's research or professional experience actually addresses rapid urbanization in one of the three outlined categories (Health; transportation & infrastructure; workplace safety & retention) She is working in the field of biotechnology, microelectronics and information technology, or material science and technology. (5 pts)

2. Applicant adequately addresses how her work is promoting resilience in response to rapid urbanization. Her field of focus is within the boundaries of the prize. (5pts)
3. Applicant provides example of relevant and impactful awards or merits for her work. Please reserve higher scores for well-established awards. (8pts)
4. Applicant's work appears to be highly esteemed. Think about: Has she been featured in many media placements, policy briefs, or academic journals? Does her work suggest that she is an influencer in the space? (8 pts)
5. Applicant demonstrate clear professional growth steps and passion in her work and goals (8 pts)

Mentoring, inspiring, and supporting women and up-and-coming female members of the STEM community (33 pts)

1. Level of involvement to continue supporting students and young women in STEM. Consider if the involvement is a one-time effort or creates a sustainable effort/contribution (12 pts)
2. Applicant shows strong connection between her work and improving the lives of women living in large urban centers. Higher points should be awarded to applicants whose work specifically focuses on women, instead of simply finding a connection, noting proven results and/or sustainable actions. (11 pts)
3. Level of involvement in the scientific/academic/research community as evidenced by actively demonstrated memberships in professional organizations, teaching positions, mentoring of women in STEM, and/or other engagement supporting the science ecosystem in ASEAN. (10 pts)

Global Citizen (33 pts)

1. Applicant's work relates to ASEAN's regional science and technology goals (6 pts)
2. Applicant provides examples that demonstrate how she actively promotes and achieves sustainability throughout the ASEAN region (9 pts)
3. Applicant demonstrates an active role in scientific collaboration with scientists/scientific communities of practice across ASEAN (6 pts)
4. The applicant clearly demonstrates how she applies everyday work to the benefit of her community/city. (5pts)
5. Applicant sees larger role for her work across the greater ASEAN region and the world. (7 pts)

C. Selection of Country Finalists

In this phase of review, ASEAN's Committee on Science and Technology (COST) will select a country finalist for each of the ten ASEAN member states. Finalists will be reviewed based on the criteria established above. The ASEAN COST selection committee reserves the right to move more or less than one applicant per country to finalist status. Finalists will be notified of their selection, as will the unselected semi-finalists. Upon receiving note of their selection, finalists will have two weeks to submit a short video to aid in the final judging committee's decision. These videos will also be utilized in a social media campaign to highlight the work of

each of the anticipated ten finalists. Finalists will receive further detail of what should be included in their video upon notice of finalist status.

D. Selection of Winner

A final selection committee comprised of the Prize administrators will determine the overall winner and runner-up based on the candidates' original applications, as well as their video submissions. The committee's decision will be final. The winner and runner up, as well as finalists not selected, will be notified by late September 2017.

E. Transfer of Award

The transfer of the Prize funds will come directly from Underwriters Laboratories--UL.

VIII. Publicity Consent

By submitting an entry application or accepting a prize, each candidate named a finalist grants to USAID, the U.S. Mission to ASEAN, ASEAN, Underwriters Laboratories--UL, and DAI the irrevocable right without any further notice, review or consent to print, publish, broadcast, distribute, and use, worldwide in any media now known or hereafter developed including, but not limited to, the World Wide Web, in perpetuity and throughout the universe, the candidate's entry, including without limitation, the entry and candidate's name, portrait, picture, voice, likeness, image or statement about the contest, and biographical information as news or publicity or information and for trade, advertising, public relations and promotional purposes without any further compensation.

IX. Disclaimers

- The prize administrators may cancel solicitation and not award
- The prize administrators may reject any or all responses received
- Issuance of solicitation does not constitute an award commitment
- The prize administrators reserves the right to disqualify any application based on candidate's failure to follow solicitation instructions
- The prize administrators will not compensate applicants for response to solicitation
- The prize administrators reserve the right to issue award based on initial evaluation of applications without further discussion