

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

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AFRICAN UNION SCIENTIFIC AWARDS



African Union Scientific Awards

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
CATEGORIES OF THE AWARDS.....	3
ELIGIBILITY.....	5
ADVISORY COMMITTEE	5
SECRETARIATS	5
Secretariat for African Union Young Scientist National Award	5
Secretariat for African Union Women Scientist Regional Award.....	6
Secretariat for African Union Scientific Award	7
THE JURY	7
National Scientific Award Jury	7
Regional Scientific Award Jury.....	7
Continental Scientific Awards	8
LAUNCH OF THE AWARDS.....	8
SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.....	8
DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS.....	8
AWARD CEREMONY	9

INTRODUCTION

The African Union Commission is committed to promote elements of human intellectual development, encourage technological and scientific leadership and inspire young generations in Africa. Science and Technology is one of the key focal areas on Africa's development agenda. The African Union Constitutive Act recognizes the need to advance the development of Africa by promoting research in all fields, in particular in science and technology.

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*". In response to this political momentum and commitment to: - raise community awareness,- engage African citizens in Africa's science and technology programmes, and - strengthen Africa's research capacities, the AU Commission, with the support of its key Development Partners, initiated the prestigious "African Union Scientific Awards Programme".

The programme is designed to celebrate the achievements of African scientists on national, regional and continental levels and to promote all efforts to transform scientific research into entrepreneurship, attract investments to Africa, and create research centers of excellence. It will further encourage the science community, and the public to participate in scientific engagements towards addressing critical problems in Africa. The programme will contribute towards raising the profile of science and technology sector and building a scientific culture amongst African citizens. There is a strong urge for Africa to quickly mobilize its scientific resources and competencies to champion programmes that promote access to science and technology by all, strengthen research capacities, and increase the use, and generation of scientific knowledge for the development of the continent.

A prize will be awarded to each of the following two scientific sectors (a) *Life and Earth Sciences*; and (b) *Basic Science, Technology and Innovation*.

CATEGORIES OF THE AWARDS

(i) **Category 1: African Union Young Scientist National Award**

Award	AU Young Scientist National Award for <i>Life and Earth Sciences</i>	AU Young Scientist National Award for <i>Basic Science, Technology and Innovation</i>
Value	5,000 USD	5,000 USD
Target Group	Young Scientists (<i>of less than 35 years on 31 December of the year of contest</i>)	
Region	AU Member States	

The Commission believes that it is important to introduce young minds early to science and technology, to inculcate a scientific culture amongst them and to create a fertile environment for them so that they can develop a positive perspective of science and make it a norm rather an exception.

(ii) Category 2: African Union Women Scientist Regional Award

Award	African Union Women Scientist Regional Award Life and Earth Sciences	African Union Women Scientist Regional Award for Basic Science, Technology and Innovation
Value	20,000 USD	20,000 USD
Target Group	Excelling Woman Scientists	
Region	African Union Regions (Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western)	

For the distribution of the countries, please refer to Annex 1.

The Regional Scientific Award will promote participation of African women in science, technology and innovation by equal opportunity and recognition. The Commission endeavours to ensure that African women in science achieve their full potential by breaking down barriers and increasing opportunities. There is a need to address their under representation in Science, Engineering and Mathematics and to promote their access to science education, scientific professional careers and greater utilization of science in daily lives.

(iii) Category 3: African Union Scientific Award

Award	African Union Scientific Award Life and Earth Sciences	African Union Scientific Award for Basic Science, Technology and Innovation
Value	100,000 USD	100,000 USD
Target Group	Outstanding African Scientists	
Region	African Union	

Science, technology and innovation form an indispensable tool for driving socio-economic progress and it requires a strong, dynamic and sustainable basic research enterprise, which in turn, is sustained by adequate and competent human capital. It is now compulsory to strengthen the capacities of African researchers and scientists by facilitating the integration of their efforts and competencies for the sustainable development of the African continent.

The already existing scientific excellence should be tapped profitably and acknowledged via a various initiatives. In this programme a prize of 100,000 USD will be given to the outstanding African scientist as a mark of recognition of the African Union to acknowledge the Africa's children who have had the merit to incontestably emerge in science and technology.

ELIGIBILITY

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. Only nationals of the African Union (AU) Member States are eligible for this Award.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee is the supreme body of the awards programme and is chaired by the Commissioner of Human Resources, Science and Technology. Other members of the Committee are European Commission (EC), African Development Bank (AfDB), World Intellectual Property Organization, (WIPO), Third World Academy of Science (TWAS)-Africa Bureau, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Academy of Science (AAS) and International Council for Science (ICSU) Africa Regional Office. The major functions of this committee are advisory issues, policy, operational modalities and ensuring adequate resources for the programme.

SECRETARIATS

SECRETARIAT FOR AFRICAN UNION YOUNG SCIENTIST NATIONAL AWARD

National Awards will be run by National Academy of Sciences and /or National Research Councils under the supervision of the Ministries in Charge of Science and Technology in Member States.

Names of the National Competition Winners should be sent to the Commission in order for them to receive Certificates of Recognition.

SECRETARIAT FOR AFRICAN UNION WOMEN SCIENTIST REGIONAL AWARD

The Regional awards will be run by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). For 2009 the following RECs have been mandated to run the awards. The figure below shows the AU Regions, the REC assigned to that Region and the Member States within that Region.

REGION	WESTERN	EASTERN	SOUTHERN	CENTRAL	NORTHERN
REC	ECOWAS	EAC	SADC	CEMAC	CEN-SAD
MEMBER STATES	Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Cote d'Ivoire Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea Bissau Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo	Comoros Djibouti Eritrea Ethiopia Kenya Madagascar Mauritius Rwanda Seychelles Somalia Sudan Tanzania Uganda	Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia South Africa Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe	Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Congo Congo (DRC) Equatorial Guinea Gabon Sao Tome & Principe	Algeria Egypt Libya Mauritania Tunisia SADR

SECRETARIAT FOR AFRICAN UNION SCIENTIFIC AWARD

The Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology will be the secretariat for the Continental Awards.

THE JURY

The Jury for the awards may be composed by academic institutions namely the National Academies of Science, Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), and TWAS-Bureau of Africa for each Award Category as follows:

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AWARD JURY

National awards will be independently run by the Member States through the National Academies of Science, Research Councils (*which automatically forms a National Jury*) under the supervision of the Ministry in Charge of Science and Technology. The AU Commission will ensure adequate funding for this award.

REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AWARD JURY

The Jury for the African Union Women Scientist Regional Award will be chaired by the AMCOST Bureau Member and the REC's Higher Authority and will be composed of the following members as shown in the table below in addition to members from African Academy of Science and NASAC, TWAS-Bureau for Africa.

Region	Western Africa	Eastern Africa	Southern Africa	Central Africa	Northern Africa
REC/s	ECOWAS	EAC	SADC	CEMAC	CEN-SAD
AMCOST Bureau	Nigeria	Kenya	Zambia	Burundi	Algeria

Africa Scientific Organizations	African Academy of Science and NASAC, TWAS-Bureau for Africa.	African Academy of Science and NASAC, TWAS-Bureau for Africa.	African Academy of Science and NASAC, TWAS-Bureau for Africa.	African Academy of Science and NASAC, TWAS-Bureau for Africa.	African Academy of Science and NASAC, TWAS-Bureau for Africa.
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Refer to Annex 1 for AU Regional distribution for the Member States.

** Chair of Regional Jury Committee*

NB: Bureau Membership is determined by the AMCOST Rules and procedures.

CONTINENTAL SCIENTIFIC AWARDS

African Academies Science, TWAS-Bureau Africa and NASAC form the Jury of the Continental Awards under the supervision of AMCOST Bureau and the The AU Commission.

LAUNCH OF THE AWARDS

The competitions are launched annually on the **African Union Day** “9th of September”. The 2009 Edition was launched in Dar es Salaam by His Excellency President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of the Republic of Tanzania during the African Union Day Celebration and launch of ECOSSOC.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Eligible Applicants are requested to complete the application form Annexed (*Annex 2*) herewith using either English or French.

DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS

All applicants are kindly requested to observe the following deadlines:

- ? Application forms for the **African Union Young Scientist National Award** should be received by the National Secretariats not later than 30 June 2009, the Africa's Scientific Renaissance Day
- ? Application forms for the African Union Women Scientist Regional should be received by the RECs not later than 30 June 2009, the Africa's Scientific Renaissance Day.
- ? Application forms for the African Union Scientific Award for the outstanding scientist should be received by the Commission not later than 9th September 2009, **African Union Day**.

Applications received after the above-mentioned deadline will not be considered.

AWARD CEREMONY

? **Category 1: African Union Young Scientist National Award**

The winners will receive their awards on **African Union Day**, 9 September each year, the Award ceremony will be on 9 September and hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology in their respective Member States.

? **Category 2: African Union Regional Women Scientist Award**

The winners will receive their awards on **African Union Day**, 9 September each year and for the 2009 Edition, the ceremony will be on 9 September in the country of the chair of the AU.

? **Category 3: African Union Scientific Award**

The winners will receive their awards during the Summit Sessions of the African Union, for the 2009 Editions the award ceremony will be during the 2010 Summit in January.

Annex 1: AU REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBER STATES

Region	Western Africa	Eastern Africa	Southern Africa	Central Africa	Northern Africa
Member States	Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Cote d'Ivoire Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea Bissau Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo	Comoros Djibouti Eritrea Ethiopia Kenya Madagascar Mauritius Rwanda Seychelles Somalia Sudan Tanzania Uganda	Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia South Africa Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe	Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Congo Congo (DRC) Equatorial Guinea Gabon Sao Tome & Principe	Algeria Egypt Libya Mauritania Tunisia SADR

Annex 2: Application Form