

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

## AFRICAN UNION SCIENTIFIC AWARDS



Revised Version II, April 2009

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms.....	3
INTRODUCTION .....	4
CATEGORIES OF THE AWARDS.....	5
ELIGIBILITY .....	6
ADVISORY COMMITTEE .....	7
SECRETARIATS.....	7
Secretariat for African Union Young Scientist National Award .....	7
Secretariat for African Union Women Scientist Regional Award .....	7
Secretariat for African Union Scientific Award .....	8
THE JURY .....	8
National Scientific Award Jury .....	9
Regional Scientific Award Jury.....	9
Continental Scientific Awards.....	10
LAUNCH OF THE AWARDS .....	10
SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.....	10
DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS .....	10
AWARD CEREMONY.....	11

## ACRONYMS

<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>OAU</b>	Organization of African Unity
<b>AMCOST</b>	African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>TWAS</b>	Academy of Sciences for Developing World
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>WIPO</b>	Intellectual Property Organization
<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>AAS</b>	African Academy of Science
<b>ICSU</b>	International Council for Science
<b>NASAC</b>	National Academies of Science, Network of African Science Academies
<b>REC</b>	Regional Economic Community
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>ECCAS</b>	Economic Community of Central African States
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>CEN-SAD</b>	Community of Sahel-Saharan States
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>ECOSSOC</b>	Economic, Social and Cultural Council

## INTRODUCTION

Science and Technology is one of the key focal areas on Africa's development agenda. The Constitutive Act, establishing the African Union, recognizes the need to advance the development of Africa by promoting research in all fields, and 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, promote elements of human intellectual development, encourage technological and scientific leadership 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" targeting young researchers at Member State level, women at regional level and open to all outstanding scientists at continental level .

The programme is designed to celebrate the achievements of African scientists 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, competencies and comparative advantages 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*<sup>1</sup>; and (b) *Basic Science, Technology and Innovation*<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 Agrotechnology, Animal Science, Plant Science, Biotechnology, Biology, Environmental Sciences, Food Sciences, Medicine, and Tissue Engineering to mention a few.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## CATEGORIES OF THE AWARDS

### (i) **Category 1: AU-TWAS Young Scientist National Award**

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

This award is open to both male and female young researchers. The Commission believes that it is important to recognize the scientific achievements of young researchers and to encourage them to continue to strive for excellence in their careers. The awards will acknowledge their contribution to progress in science. It is expected that the publicity surrounding the awards will encourage young people to consider a career in research.

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

Award	African Union Women Scientist Regional Award <b><i>Life and Earth Sciences</i></b>	African Union Women Scientist Regional Award for <b><i>Basic Science, Technology and Innovation</i></b>
Value	20,000 USD	20,000 USD
Target Group	Excelling Woman Scientists	
Region	African Union Regions <sup>3</sup> (Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western)	

<sup>3</sup> AU Countries are regionally grouped according to the resolution CM/Res.464 of the 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers, refer to Annex 1.

The Regional Scientific Award will promote participation of African women in science, technology and innovation. 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. The awards will acknowledge their contribution to progress in science. These awards are expected to raise the profile of women researchers in the population as a whole and thereby to inspire young women and girls to aim for a career in research

**(iii) Category 3: African Union Scientific Award**

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

This award is open to both outstanding male and female researchers. 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	ECCAS	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 Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (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 Academy of Sciences for Developing World (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, Academy of Sciences for Developing World (TWAS) -Bureau for Africa.

<b>Region</b>	Western Africa	Eastern Africa	Southern Africa	Central Africa	Northern Africa
<b>REC/s<sup>4</sup></b>	ECOWAS	EAC	SADC	ECCAS	CEN-SAD
<b>AMCOST Bureau<sup>5</sup></b>	Nigeria	Kenya	Zambia	Burundi	Algeria
<b>Africa Scientific Organizations</b>	AAS, NASAC, TWAS-Africa Bureau	AAS, NASAC, TWAS-Africa Bureau.	AAS, NASAC, TWAS-Africa Bureau	AAS, NASAC, TWAS-Africa Bureau	AAS, NASAC, TWAS-Africa Bureau

---

<sup>4</sup> For Countries in each REC, refer to Annex 1

<sup>5</sup> Bureau Membership is determined by the AMCOST Rules and procedures. The Member of the Bureau will chair the regional Bureau Committee.

## 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 AU Commission.

## LAUNCH OF THE AWARDS

The competitions are launched annually on the African Union Day “9<sup>th</sup> 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:

1. Application forms for the **AU-TWAS Young Scientist National Award** should be received by the National Secretariats not later than 30 June 2009, the Africa’s Scientific Renaissance Day

*For more information on this award contact Ministry in charge of Science and Technology in your Country*

2. Application forms for the **African Union Women Scientists (Regional Award)** should be received by the RECs not later than 30 June 2009, the Africa’s Scientific Renaissance Day.

*For more information on this award, contact the REC<sup>6</sup> where your country belongs.*

---

<sup>6</sup> For the distribution of the countries by regions please refer to Annex 1

3. Application forms for the **African Union Scientific Award** for the outstanding scientist should be received by the Commission not later than 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009, African Union Day.

Applications for this award should be sent to:

*H.E. Prof. J. P. Ezin*

*Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology*

*African Union Commission*

*P.O. Box 3243*

*Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

*Fax: +251 115517844*

*E-mail: [scientific-awards@africa-union.org](mailto:scientific-awards@africa-union.org)*

Applications received after the above-mentioned deadlines will not be considered. More information on this award is available on the AUC website: <http://www.africa-union.org/>

## AWARD CEREMONY

- **Category 1: AU-TWAS 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 current 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**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Western Africa</b>	<b>Eastern Africa</b>	<b>Southern Africa</b>	<b>Central Africa</b>	<b>Northern Africa</b>
<b>Member States</b>	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**