



UN-HABITAT- IESCO- CDB Orient

**UN-HABITAT YOUTH INNOVATION and
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD**

STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

FIRST ROUND, 2015

Introduction

The UN-Habitat Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award has been established as a result of a partnership between UN-Habitat, the International Ecological Safety Collaborative Organization (IESCO) together with CDB Orient¹ that aims to reward young inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs. Young inventors and entrepreneurs² are important catalysts for promoting sustainable cities and developing highly skilled talents needed for future urban development.

The Award stems from an agreement signed between UN-Habitat and IESCO in April 2013 during the twenty fourth session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council, to launch the **“Urban Youth Empowerment and Ecological Safety project”**. The project aims to address issues of youth unemployment, poverty, and ecological safety through the development of models and policies that will lead to the meaningful engagement of young people in the development of a number of cities in Africa and Asia.

The official launch of the Award took place at the 25th Governing Council of UN Habitat, in April 2015³ following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by UN-Habitat and IESCO. The MOU is in fact tripartite in character since a leading private sector organization in China; CDB Orient is the third signatory to the MOU.

UN-Habitat Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award is designed to recognize and celebrate young men and women throughout the world who have developed innovative programmes, practices, activities and solutions to the social, economic, political and environmental challenges facing human kind today. The Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award is open to young people aged between 18 and 32, primarily from the developing countries. Youth from other countries will also qualify to get recognition by way of citations. Institutions and individuals that promote and catalyze innovation and entrepreneurship will also be recognized and cited.

Applications will be reviewed against four core criteria: the applicant’s innovativeness of their approaches, their capacity to effectively address their stated objectives, their ability to create jobs and maintain partnerships, and the impact and sustainability of their projects.

Background and Rationale

All countries irrespective of their level of technological and industrial development experience find that adequate education and skills can increase the ability to innovate and adopt new technologies. Entrepreneurship is a vehicle that makes the benefits of innovation available to broad masses of people. A workforce that has been appropriately trained and is able to continue learning and to innovate boosts

¹IESCO, International Ecological Safety Collaboration Organization and CDB-ORIENT, China Development Orient Urban Development and Investment Company Limited, a major private sector organization and UN-Habitat have entered into a tripartite MOU to set up and manage the Award

² The difference between innovation and invention is that an invention involves the creation of new things (a concept, model, a drawing, a set of new ideas). An invention may remain in the inventor’s laboratory or inside his head; it is a pre-commercial phenomenon. An innovation is the translation of new ideas and concepts into products and processes and their introduction into the market; they are usually an improvement upon that which already exists.

³ <http://unhabitat.org/media-centre/news/>

investors' confidence and thus job growth.

As we are nearing the transition from MDGs, the success of Post-2015 Development Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will depend on whether or not due investments are made in young people. 1.8 billion strong, young people constitute a large proportion of world's population. Close to 90% of them live in developing countries, where they tend to make up a large proportion of the population. Only if the world truly commits to investing in this largest generation of young people ever, will we have a real shot at sustainable development for all.

Some 74 million youth are unemployed, and more than 600 million jobs need to be generated globally by the year 2030. Young people aged 15 to 24 people are almost three times more likely than older segments of the population to be unemployed, and in some countries the youth unemployment rate exceeds 50 per cent. Countries with populations composed of large proportions of adolescents and youth can reap a demographic dividend for national development, resilience and sustainability, by investing fully in young people. Countries will need to view right to education and jobs as the fundamentals, eliminate all forms of inequality including gender inequality, so that adolescents and youth can reach their full potential and in turn contribute to the prosperity of their families, communities, and countries.

In short, young people's engagement and their inclusion will contribute to the prosperity of societies. Young people are connected to each other like never before; they are driving social Progress, inspiring political change and building resilience. It has however been documented that many young people are prevented from reaching their true potential, because they lack access to quality education, health services, decent work and opportunities to participate in society, or live in areas affected by crises, and hence are prevented from reaching their true potential. What young people also need are role models who can inspire and energize them and help unlock their potential.

Investments in youth would not only translate into better lives for young people themselves, but also offer the opportunity to reap the benefits in terms of the contributions they in turn can make to development and ensuring a sustainable future for the generations to follow.

In this context Youth employment is one of the most pressing challenges of our times. Moreover, youth Not in Employment, Education, or Training, NEET will have to be reduced substantially if SDGs are to be achieved. Hence the need to promote youth entrepreneurship and innovation

It is a well-known fact that young people are brimming with innovative ideas to tackle the complex challenges that confront today's society. What is needed is to recognize, nurture, promote and reward the innovative nature of youth. The challenges of climate change and food security can be met by innovations and innovators that create new products and processes as we are already witnessing in through new technologies in the IT and environmental sector. Many of the young pioneers in these fields are already showing the way to phase out products and processes that are harmful as well as to connect the world closer. It is in this context that the UN-Habitat, IESCO and CDB-Orient are setting up the Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award.

Purpose

The purpose of this Award is to promote and nurture young people's inventions and innovative ideas and best practices in entrepreneurship, ecological safety and information communication technology. Granting this award provides a venue for showcasing youth inventiveness and innovativeness and will serve to generate more innovative ideas and open wider entrepreneurship avenues.

Mission Statement

"To inspire the youth to become true creative innovators and to highlight and demonstrate the contributions that young entrepreneurs can make all around the world."

This competition is an attempt to recognize and celebrate outstanding inventors, innovators, and entrepreneurs from all corners of the globe – particularly those from developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Key Objectives

The Award is being developed with two main objectives. **First**, to identify and publicly recognize the excellence of young inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs who have been the most successful in continuously developing a stream of value-creating new products and services. **The second**, equally important, rationale for the award is to provide a learning vehicle for the sharing of the winning awardees' individual best practices with young entrepreneurs and youth in general.

Hence the purpose of the Award is to promote and nurture young people's innovative ideas and best practices in entrepreneurship, ecological safety and information communication technology. Granting this award provides an entry point for showcasing youth innovativeness and an encouragement to generate more innovative ideas. **In sum, the Award is meant to honour technical and scientific accomplishments that have the potential for significant impact on the world as we know it.**

We expect that the Award will create a platform for engaging dynamical young innovators, and in the productive processes of their communities and countries.

Additionally, It will provide the tools for trainers and mentors to effectively inspire young people in creativity and innovation. Expanding the Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award (YIEA) to incorporate other young professionals adds another dimension and will drive greater engagement between regional businesses and educational institutions;

This Award is established to help inspire young men and women in urban and rural areas and to become innovators and entrepreneurs.

The Award

The winners are awarded a monetary prize: The total amount of the prize pool is USD 200,000 distributed among five categories. The Award will consist of

- a) A cash grant of \$ 20,000 for the winner (Up to 2 winners for each category)
- b) The prize also consists of a trophy and;
- c) A certificate jointly issued by UN-Habitat and IESCO and CDB Orient

An Innovator of the Biennium and an Entrepreneur of the biennium will also be named from among the winners.

Award Categories

There are five categories for the award and projects can be entered into only one of them; Young individuals also can be nominated;

Youth Leadership

This award will be presented to young people/youth organizations who have demonstrated outstanding leadership efforts in promoting and supporting innovations that have impacted other youth or community environments; and/or have created innovative and successful innovations, with strong sales growth. This award will help share best practice and case studies of excellence, and deliver the changes needed to ensure a sustainable future for all.

Green inventions and Innovations

This award is designed to recognize young innovators and entrepreneurs engaged in inventive and innovative activities that result in renewable energy and Green energy solutions such as solar power, wind energy as well energy saving innovations. Note: These are just some examples of Green energy projects

Ecological Safety

This award will recognize excellent youth who have excelled in tackling climate change, resolving ecological crisis and protecting environment in their communities. This award is also designed to recognize youth who have carried out innovative green inventions and innovations.

Youth Entrepreneurship Award

This award will recognize young entrepreneur who have made exceptional achievements for their age; and have demonstrated innovation, profitability, and business excellence. They will be able to provide

details of their journey to success including overcoming obstacles and identifying new opportunities. This entrepreneur should be an inspiration for other young entrepreneurs.

❑ **Social and Cultural innovations**

This award will be presented to young people who contribute in a cultural field, to fostering peace and dialogue; and have helped to solve social problems or effecting social change in their communities. This innovator will be able to amply demonstrate that they have created a sustainable innovation that is geared towards creating social change with strong examples of positive impact and success. The aim of the Award is not only to reward past contributions but to also encourage and support continued efforts.

Periodicity

UN-Habitat Youth Innovation and entrepreneurship Award is Biennial.

Eligibility/who can Apply

The Award is open to all Young women and men between 15 and 32 years from developing countries and run a youth led for-profit and or nonprofit organization, or a business or entity that aims to improve youth livelihoods and better serve their communities with accomplishment in any of the above Award Categories. In addition to organizations or entities mentioned above, young women and men can also be nominated as individuals for the Award for their achievements.

Criteria and Considerations

The emphasis in judging applicants for the Youth Innovation Award will be on how effectively the innovation addresses its stated objectives, which may be to improve efficiency, increase job creation and achieve environmentally sustainable goals. Verifiability is also a factor. Specifically, the evaluation criteria that will guide the technical committee and the jury are as follows:

1. **Originality of the innovation:**
 - a. Is it a new concept or a variation of an existing idea?
 - b. Is it unique to the specified area or adapted from elsewhere?
 - c. Was it conceived and developed independently or was it in cooperation with others?
2. **Impact of the innovation:**
 - a. Will it make a fundamental positive change in youth development processes or simply a minor adjustment? How impactful will the change be in the promotion of youth development: will it be fundamentally profound or superficial and momentary? Will it be multifaceted or specific?
 - b. Will its impact be on multiple operational areas or just one specific area?
 - c. Does it have the potential to reach and impact multitudes? Is it possible to upscale?
3. **Practicality of its application:**

- a. Will it be readily integrated into an existing initiative, process or product ?
- b. **Will it be cost-effective to implement?**
- c. Does its implementation present any risk / uncertainty? What is the risk factor involved? Will its implementation lead to skepticism or will it be embraced wholeheartedly?
4. **Sustainability of the initiative/innovation:**
 - a. Does the innovation lead to long lasting impact on youth/economic empowerment?
 - b. Can the development approach be applied to similar problems / opportunities?
5. **Applicability:**
 - a. Is this an innovation that that will uplift the livelihood and living standards of diverse youth groups; can it be replicated in a different contexts or setups?
 - b. How have others learnt or benefited from the initiative?
6. **Reliability**– Is this innovation easy to replicate and has the capacity to be scaled up in different setup. This is a key evaluation criterion.
7. The innovation is not more than five years old.

Submission Process

- i. Applications for projects/organizations/entities shall be submitted in accordance with the submission format in Annex 1 and individual submission in accordance with Annex 2.
- ii. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit as comprehensive and verifiable information as possible, preferably in electronic form
- iii. Submissions shall be made in English. Applicants are strongly advised not to use automatic translation.
- iv. Submitters are encouraged to include the following optional supporting materials that can enhance verifiability:
 - a) Articles appearing in newspapers, professional journals, newsletters or other publications;
 - b) Digital standard format videos less than 10 minutes in length;
 - c) Photographs and/or other graphic material;
 - d) Brochures or other promotional material.
- v. Submissions shall be sent to UN-Habitat, see Annex 1 and 2 and 2a, via Email or mail
- vi. All submissions received will be acknowledged

SELECTION PROCESS

The deadline for submissions is 31 July 2015. Submissions received by this date will undergo the following selection process:

- i. All submissions are prescreened to ensure that eligibility requirements are met and that there are no technical problems.

- ii. Any submission that has not comply with the guidelines outlined in this document may be disqualified and removed from the competition
- iii. All submissions that meet the reporting format and the basic criteria shall be forwarded to the Technical Expert Review group/Committee (RG/C) for review.
- iv. The RG/C shall thoroughly review all eligible submissions and short list a maximum of 10 candidates for each award category and submit the list to the International Jury for its consideration and assessment, with due regard to gender and geographical balance.
- v. The International Jury shall review and assess the respective portfolios of the shortlisted candidates presented by the RC, and propose to the Steering Committee the winners (of the award and/or recommend splitting the award in accordance with the set criteria.
- vi. The Steering Committee shall consider the suggested Award winners and agree on the winners.
- vii. All entrants will receive confirmation via email when their submission has been officially accepted into the competition

Youth Innovation Award 2015 Schedule

Registration and Submissions will be made in accordance with the requirements provided on the website and the following timetable

Launch of Innovation Award	21 April 2015
Deadline for submission of the Projects	31 th July 2015
Shortlist of submissions by the Secretariat	June to August 15 2015
Steering Committee selects the Winners	September 2015
Youth Innovation Award Winners announced	September 2015
Awards Ceremony in Beijing	24 October 2015

AWARD CEREMONY AND POST AWARD ACTIVITES

By accepting the Award, the winner (s) must undertake to receive the Award in person (either as individuals or representing a winning entity) at the Ceremony in Beijing and to commit themselves to playing an active role in disseminating information about their innovations and ventures on lessons learned through documentation, and in participating in workshops, exchanges, conferences and seminars organized by UN-Habitat, IESCO or CDB Orient. Award winners are expected to participate in

the Award ceremony.

As mentioned earlier in this document, in addition to the cash prize, The Youth Innovation and entrepreneurship Award winners will be recognized by

- a) A trophy
- b) An honorary certificate;

The Award winners will also be invited

- to share their innovations and initiatives at the relevant UN-Habitat/IESCO/CDB Orient meetings and conferences;
 - to provide information about award winning innovations on the UN-Habitat and IESCO websites;
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