

AFRICAN UNION



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**AFRICAN UNION KWAME
NKRUMAH SCIENTIFIC AWARDS
2015 EDITION**

RULES OF PROCEDURE

BACKGROUND

The African Union Commission is committed to ensure that science and technology contributes to our sustainable development efforts. The Constitutive Act, establishing the African Union, recognizes the need to advance the development of Africa by promoting research in all fields, and in science and technology in particular. The Commission, through its Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology implements a strategic science and technology development programme, aimed at contributing to the wellbeing and improved quality of life for the African citizens. 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*”.

As a holistic and deliberate measure to maintain science and technology on top of our development, cooperation and political agenda, the Commission urges the Member States the Regional Economic Communities to popularize science among African citizens, empower them, celebrate their achievements and promote all efforts to transform scientific research into sustainable development. With the support of its Development Partners particularly the European Commission, the African Union Commission, launched on 9 September 2008, the prestigious **African Union Scientific Award Programme**. The programme is implemented at national level for young researchers, regional level for women scientists and continental level open to all scientists. The Continental level is the highest and level of the programme. The objective is to give out scientific awards to top African scientists for their scientific achievements and valuable discoveries and findings.

In July 2010, the African Union Heads of State and Government took a decision to rename this Programme as “**African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards**”. This decision reflects and underscores a success story and the critical role of science and technology in the development and integration of Africa. It also offers us the opportunity to constantly honour the memory of the Great Pan-Africanist and First President of the Republic of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. A firm believer in African liberation and unity! A man who pursued a revolutionary pan-African policy, with a strong vision extending beyond national boundaries, for the creation of a new Africa, “a federal union of African states”, to take charge of its own destiny. He is among the key founding fathers of the then Organization of African Unity in 1963, an important pan-Africanist organization, which later become the African Union in 2002. Today the “dream and determination” of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah inspires Africa in all facets of development.

Under this programme prizes are awarded to top African scientists in each of the following two sectors (a) **Life and Earth Science; and (b) Basic Science, Technology and Innovation** at the national, regional and continental levels. The African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards Programme is implemented using the following rules of procedure.

1. ESTABLISHMENT, APPELLATION AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 An Awards scheme known as the “**African Union Scientific Awards (AUSA)**” was established by the African Union Commission on the 9th Of September 2008 and named “**African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards (AUKNSA)**” by Assembly/AU/Dec.306 (XV) of the 15th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on 27 July 2010 in Kampala, Uganda.
- 1.2 The **objectives** of **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards** are to:
 - 1.2.1 To award and honour outstanding African Scientists for their scientific achievements and discoveries.
 - 1.2.2 Promote scientific development in Africa through recognition of excellence among African scientists, women, men alike and younger researchers and encourage them to persevere in their research or academic careers, and nurture their ambitions;
 - 1.2.3 Popularize and Promote public understanding and participation in the implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) and AU Assembly decisions on science and technology.
 - 1.2.4 Raise the profile of science and technology sector in African Union Member States, Regional Economic Communities and so that science contributes Africa’s sustainable development, poverty alleviation and integration efforts.

2. DEFINITION

For the purpose of this award the following definitions shall apply:

- 2.1 **Scientific awards** are one-time monetary prizes that are given to outstanding African scientists for their scientific achievements and valuable discoveries and findings
- 2.2 **Life and 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 Agro-technology, Animal Science, Plant Science, Biotechnology, Biology, Environmental Sciences, Food Sciences, Medicine, and Tissue Engineering to mention a few.
- 2.3 **Basic, Science, Technology and Innovation:** this 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.

3. ORGANIZATION OF THE AWARDS

3.1 The **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award Programme** shall be organized at three levels:

- National;
- Regional; and
- Continental

3.2 One award per each of the following scientific sector shall be given out at each level:

- a) Life and Earth Sciences; and
- b) Basic Science, Technology and Innovation

NB: The sectors are defined in 2 above.

3.3 The awards to be covered under this scheme are:

- (i) AU-TWAS National Young Scientists Award at the National Level;
- (ii) African Union Regional Women Scientists Award at the AU Regional Level; and
- (iii) Continental Scientific Award at the continental level.

Award	Level	Target Group	Value/ Sector	No. of Awards
(i) AU-TWAS National Young Scientists	National	Young Scientists/Researchers	USD 5,000	2 per country
(ii) African Union Regional Award	Regional (Central, Eastern, Northern, Western and Southern regions)	Women Scientists	USD 20,000	2 Per region
(iii) Continental Scientific Award	Continental	All Pioneer Scientists	USD 100,000	2

3.4 Depending on organizational exigencies, the **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award Programme** may be limited to one or several disciplines in any of these two sectors.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AWARDS

4.1 AU-TWAS NATIONAL YOUNG SCIENTISTS AWARD / NATIONAL LEVEL

- 4.1.1 At National Level, the AU-TWAS¹ National Young Scientists AWARD shall be organized by the National Academy of Science or by the National Research Council.
- 4.1.2 The Award is intended for young scientists both men and women; aged not more than forty (40) by 31 December of the year of organization of the Award.
- 4.1.3 The Award shall be organized in each Member State of the African Union under the supervision of the Ministry in charge of Science and Technology and based on the signed agreement of between the Ministry in Charge of Science and Technology, TWAS and the African Union Commission
- 4.1.4 The deadline for receipt of applications by the national office in charge shall be determined according to the date on the application form.
- 4.1.5 Information regarding young scientists award may be obtained from the Ministry in charge of Science and Technology in the Member States
- 4.1.6 The competition shall be launched in each country on 9 September² each year.
- 4.1.7 The profiles of the selected winning candidates must be communicated to TWAS according to the date on the application form..
- 4.1.8 The Award Ceremony will be organized in each Member State on 9 September each year and the Award will be handed out by the Minister in Charge of Science and Technology.
- 4.1.9 The value of the AU-TWAS National Young Scientist Award shall be US\$ 5,000 (Five thousand US Dollars) jointly conferred by the African Union Commission and TWAS for each scientific sector, *see 2.2 above*.
- 4.1.10 This amount is without prejudice to whatever national compensation might be approved by the national committee for the awardees in each nation.

¹ TWAS – the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World

² 9 September is the African Union Day

4.1.11 This amount shall be disbursed by bank transfer or bank draft payable to the recipient, on the day of the Award ceremony.

4.1.12 Approval is hereby given to the Minister of Science and Technology/ research in each member state to constitute an African Scientific Award National Committee for the purpose of discharging the responsibilities specified in Rules 4 and 5 at the national level

4.2 AFRICAN UNION REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AWARD FOR WOMEN

4.2.1 The 2015 Edition the Regional Awards shall be organized as follows:

4.2.2 The Award shall be organized under the supervision and responsibility of the African Union Commission and the highest Executive Authority of some participating Regional Economic Communities (RECs) -

4.2.3 The competition will be launched in each of the five AU Geographical Regions³ on **the 9th September at the end of each edition.**

4.2.4 A single Jury, composed of five voting members (top scientists) shall be appointed by the African Union Commission.

4.2.5 The Jury shall include the implementing authority or corresponding REC as secretariate, the AU Commission and the Chair of the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology as observers.

4.2.6 Members of the Jury shall be chosen from amongst eminent scientific personalities of the African Continent in consultation with national academies of science, the African Academy of Science, the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) or the Africa Bureau of TWAS.

4.2.7 The two winners per region will be selected from two different African Union Member States within the region

4.2.8 The Award conferment ceremony shall **take place on the AU Day, the 9th of September, though the Commission reserves the right to change the dates as deemed necessary.**

³ The distribution of the AU countries by regions according to the resolution CM/Res.464

- 4.2.9 All the Award winners shall be invited thereto by the African Union Commission.
- 4.2.10 The value of the African Union Women Scientists Regional Award shall be US\$20,000 (Twenty thousand US Dollars for each scientific sector, *see 2.2 above*) conferred by the African Union Commission.
- 4.2.11 This amount shall be disbursed by bank transfer or bank draft payable to the recipient, towards the day of the Award ceremony.
- 4.2.12 The deadline for receipt of applications by the Implementing Authorities will usual be 30 October 2015⁴, but *the Commission reserves the right in consultation with implementing RECs to extend the deadline to ensure success of the programme. Note: Applications should be send (NOT by fax or e-mail) to the Implementing Authority as indicated below:*

Region	Implementing Authority and Address
1. Central Africa ⁵ 2. Northern Africa ⁶ (Note: For 2015 Edition the African Union Commission will take charge of the Regional Competitions for the above two regions)	The Officer in Charge AU Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards 2015 Edition, Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology African Union Commission Roosevelt Street P. O. Box 3243 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Western	The Officer in Charge AU Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards 2015 Edition, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) 101, Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro District P.M.B. 401 Abuja, Nigeria
Eastern Africa ⁷	The Officer in Charge AU Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards 2015 Edition, COMESA Secretariat COMESA Centre Ben Bella Road P. O. Box 30051 Lusaka - ZAMBIA

⁵ **CENTRAL AFRICA:** Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome & Principe

⁶ **NORTHERN AFRICA:** Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Tunisia, and The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic

⁷ **EASTERN AFRICA:** Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda

Southern Africa ⁸	The Officer in Charge SADC Secretariat Botswana SADC House Plot No. 54385 Central Business District Private Bag 0095 Gaborone Botswana
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4.3 THE CONTINENTAL SCIENTIFIC AWARD

- 4.3.1 The 2015 Edition of the Continental Scientific Awards shall be organized under the supervision of the African Union Commission as follows.
- 4.3.2 The competition shall be launched on the 9th of September each at the end of each edition.
- 4.3.3 The deadline for submission of 2015 edition applications shall be the 15 November 2015 but *the Commission reserves to extend this deadline to ensure success of the programme*. Unlike the other schemes. Applications for the **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award** with all the supporting documents should be posted (physical) to the following address NOT by Fax or E-mail:

To:
The Officer in Charge
AU Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards 2015 Edition,
Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology
African Union Commission
Roosevelt Street
P. O. Box 3243
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

NB: In the right back side of the envelope, please insert the following information:

[FROM: FULL NAME, CONTACT AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES OF THE APPLICANT] AND ADD THE FOLLOWING NOTE ["AFRICAN UNION KWAME NKUMAH SCIENTIFIC AWARD/NOT TO BE OPENED BEFORE THE OPENING SESSION"]

⁸ **SOUTHERN AFRICA:** Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe

- 4.3.4 There will be no age limit to participate, and participation shall be open following a call to be announced by the AUC.
- 4.3.5 The Jury shall be composed of members appointed by the Chairperson of African Union Commission on the advice of the Commissioner in charge of Human Resources, Science and Technology, in concert with the chairperson of AMCOST Bureau.
- 4.3.6 Members of the Jury shall be chosen from amongst eminent scientific personalities of the African Continent in consultation with the African Academy of Science, the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) or the TWAS Africa Bureau.
- 4.3.7 The two winners will be selected from two different African Union member States.
- 4.3.8 The Award conferment ceremony shall take place at an Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held the year following the launch of the process.
- 4.3.9 The value of the Continental Scientific Award shall be US\$100,000 (One hundred thousand US Dollars for each scientific sector, *see 2.2 above*) conferred by the African Union Commission on the award winners in each sector.

5. ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 Only nationals of the African Union (AU) Member States are eligible to participate in these Awards.
- 5.3 For the African Union Regional Scientific Award for Women, applicants should have intensively published at least ten (10) SCI publications.
- 5.4 For the Continental applicants should have at least twenty (20) SCI publications.

6. EXCLUSION

- 6.1 Applicants may be excluded due to the following:
- 6.2 Their applications are not complete and/or all supporting document/s are not included or not attached.
- 6.3 If they received an **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award Programme** in the past five years under this programme.
- 6.4 If their Member State is under AU sanctions in conformity with a decision taken by the AU relevant policy organ.
- 6.5 If they are employees of any an AU organ or employees of the Regional Economic Communities.
- 6.6 If Applications sent by fax or by e-mail or delivered to other addresses.

7. APPLICATION FORMS

- 7.1 The Application forms are available from:
- AU Commission official website,
 - Ministries in Charge of Science and Technology, National Academies and Research Councils in Member States, and
 - the Regional Economic Communities Headquarters

8. ENQUIRIES

- 8.1 For any enquiries and or clarifications, please contact the secretariat of **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award Programme**. For equal treatment answers to various questions will be posted on the AU Commission official website for this programme:
- E-mail: scientific-awards@africa-union.org
 - Or visit the AU Commission official website: www.au.int

9. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

9.1 An advisory committee known as “Advisory Committee” for the **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award Programme** is hereby established at the relevant levels.

9.2 This Committee shall be chaired by the Commissioner in charge of Human Resources, Science and Technology. It shall be composed of one representation each from:

- African Development Bank (AfDB);
- European Commission (EC);
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO);
- Third World Academy of Science (TWAS) – Africa Bureau;
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);
- African Academy of Sciences (AAS); and
- International Council for Science (ICSU) – Africa Regional Office.

9.3 The functions of the Advisory Committee shall be to make recommendations on policy issues, define operational modalities and ensure that adequate resources are available for the conduct of the **African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award Programme**.