

**Message from Mr Jan Hladík, Head of the UNESCO Tashkent Office and the UNESCO representative to Uzbekistan, on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day**

***The Official Ceremony of Awarding the Winners of the International Contest for the 15th National Prize “Oltin Kalam” (“Golden Pen”), 3 May 2021.***

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to greet you on behalf of the UNESCO Tashkent Office at the Ceremony of Awarding the Winners of the International Contest for the 15th National Prize “Oltin Kalam”, dedicated to the World Press Freedom Day.

It is a great pleasure for me to address the opening of this landmark event which has become an integral part of the development of journalism in Uzbekistan.

For the 15th time, the Oltin Kalam Contest provides an opportunity to identify the best professionals in the field of journalism and give them public recognition for their contribution to the development of journalism in Uzbekistan.

There are more than 1500 media in the country which provide people with information about what is happening in Uzbekistan and abroad. Civic journalism and the blogosphere are actively developing, while the number of Internet users in Uzbekistan reaches more than 22 million.

Since 2006, the UNESCO Tashkent Office presented its international nominations at the national contest for journalists “Oltin Qalam.” . In different years, we have granted the winners with the certificates and prizes in various nominations, including "Best work in the field of sustainable development", "Best contribution to the development and promotion of cultural heritage", best media coverage on People with Disabilities and others. In 2019, the UNESCO Tashkent Office submitted its nomination on the theme "Access to Information and Protection of Journalists' Professional Activities".

This year, 17 journalists, including five foreign ones, will be awarded the main prizes. Although we did not submit an incentive prize this year, it is encouraging to see that one of the incentive prizes will go to an author for the best material on human rights.

Moreover, among the changes in the 2021 Contest, the inclusion of the nomination "Best Material about Uzbekistan by a Foreign Journalist" is yet another reason to highlight the new approaches and the dynamic development of the Contest every year.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate all those present on the World Press Freedom Day, to stress the importance of today’s event and to express my deep appreciation to all journalists and media workers whose efforts and dedicated work help us build a better future for all.

The UNESCO Tashkent Office is utmost pleased to express our readiness to support the development of free, independent and pluralistic journalism in Uzbekistan with a view to ensuring sustainable development and building a better future for all.

I wish all those present today every success, good health and prosperity.

Thank you for your attention.

## **YuNESKOning Toshkentdagi vakolatxonasi rahbari**

### **YuNESKOning O'zbekistondagi vakili janob Yan Xladikning**

#### **Butunjahon matbuot erkinligi kuni munosabati bilan "Oltin qalam" 15-milliy mukofot xalqaro tanlovining g'oliblarini taqdirlash marosimida yo'llagan maktubi**

**2021 yil 3-may**

Hurmatli xonimlar va janoblar,

Butunjahon matbuot erkinligi kuniga bag'ishlangan "Oltin qalam" 15-milliy mukofoti uchun xalqaro tanlov g'oliblarini taqdirlash marosimida Sizni YuNESKOning O'zbekistondagi vakolatxonasi nomidan qutlayotganimdan bag'oyat hursandman.

O'zbekiston jurnalistikasi rivojlanishining ajralmas qismiga aylangan ushbu muhim tadbirning ochilish marosimida tabrik so'z bilan sizlarga murojat qilish men uchun sharaftir .

Oltin Kalam tanlovi 15-marotaba jurnalistika sohasidagi eng etuk mutaxassislarni aniqlash va ularga O'zbekistonda jurnalistika rivojiga qo'shgan hissasi uchun davlat va jamoatchilik tomonidan e'tirof etilishlari imkoniyatini beradi.

Mamlakatda 1500 dan ortiq ommaviy axborot vositalari mavjud bo'lib, ular insonlarga O'zbekistonda va mamlakatdan tashqarida sodir bo'layotgan voqealar to'g'risida ma'lumot beradi. O'zbekistonda Internetdan foydalanuvchilar soni 22 milliondan oshgan bir paytda, fuqarolik jurnalistikasi va blogosferasi jadal rivojlanmoqda.

2006 yildan boshlab YuNESKOning O'zbekistongadi vakolatxonasi "Oltin qalam" jurnalistlar milliy tanlovida o'zining xalqaro nominatsiyasilarini taqdim etgan. Turli yillarda biz turli nominatsiyalar bo'yicha tanlov g'oliblarini sertifikatlar va sovrinlar bilan taqdirladik, jumladan "Barqaror rivojlanish sohasidagi eng yaxshi maqola", "Madaniy merosni rivojlantirish va targ'ib qilishda eng katta hissa", 'Nogironligi bor insonlarning hayoti yoritilgan eng yahshi matbuot materiali'. 2019 yilda YuNESKOning O'zbekistondagi vakolatxonasi "Axborotdan erkin foydalanish va jurnalistlarning faoliyatini himoya qilish" mavzusida o'z nominatsiyasini taqdim etdi.

Bu yil 17 nafar jurnalist, shu jumladan beshta xorijlik jurnalist asosiy mukofotlar bilan taqdirlanadi. Bu yil biz hech qanday rag'batlantiruvchi mukofotni taqdim etmagan bo'lsak-da, rag'batlantiruvchi sovrinlardan biri inson huquqlari bo'yicha eng yaxshi matbuot materiali muallifiga topshirilayotganini ko'rish bizni quvontiradi.

Bundan tashqari, 2021 yilgi tanlovdagi o'zgarishlar qatorida "Chet el jurnalisti tomonidan" O'zbekiston haqida eng yaxshi material "nominatsiyasining kiritilishi tanlovning har yili yangi yondashuvlari va jadal rivojlanib borayotganligidan dalolat beradi.

Fursatdan foydalanib, barchangizni Jahon matbuoti erkinligi kuni bilan tabriklab, bugungi tadbirning muhim ahamiyatini yana bir bor ta'kidlab, barcha jurnalistlar va ommaviy axborot vositalari xodimlariga faravon kelajak qurishdagi sa'y-harakatlari va fidokorona mehnatlari uchun o'z minnatdorchiligimni bildirishga ijozat bering.

YuNESKOning O'zbekistondagi vakolatxonasi barqaror rivojlanishni ta'minlash maqsadida O'zbekistonda erkin, mustaqil va pluralistik jurnalistikani rivojlantirishga doim ko'maklashishga tayyormiz.

Barchangizga sihat-salomatlik, muvaffaqiyat va farovonlik tilayman.

E'tiboringiz uchun rahmat.