Purpose

The Kalinga Prize rewards the exceptional efforts of a person who has had a distinguished career as a writer, editor, lecturer, radio/television programme director or film producer, which has enabled her/him to help interpret science, research and technology to the public. He/she is expected to be knowledgeable of the role of science, technology, and general research in the improvement of the public welfare, the enrichment of the cultural heritage of nations and the solutions to the problems of humanity.

The objective of the Prize is in directly in line with UNESCO’s policies and is related to the Programme on the popularization of science.

Donors and Prize

The Prize is funded by the Kalinga Foundation Trust, the Government of the State of Orissa, and the Government of India (Department of Science and Technology). It will be awarded by the Director-General of UNESCO at the World Science Forum, tentatively planned for December 2021 hosted by the Government of South Africa.

The award consists of a cheque for the amount of the prize US$40,000, an award certificate, and the UNESCO-Albert Einstein silver medal. The laureate will also receive the Kalinga Chair as established by the Government of India (Department of Science and Technology) which comprises a certificate and cash award of US$5,000.

He/she will be invited to travel to India (travel and accommodation will be provided by the Government of India), for a two to four-week tour to interact with scientists and science communicators. He/she will be provided with appropriate facilities to familiarize herself/himself with Indian life and culture, Indian research and educational institutions, and the development of India’s industry and economy. He/she will also be invited to visit Indian universities, and attend meetings within India’s scientific societies, particularly those of the Indian Science Congress Association. While in India, the Prize-winner will be asked to deliver lectures in English, and to take part in meetings in order to present recent progress in science and technology as well as the social, cultural and educational impacts of modern science.

Application process

The Prize is destined to candidates having contributed significantly to the popularization of science. The Prize may be awarded only to individuals. A work produced by a group of people shall not be considered. Applications shall be submitted to the Director-General through the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, or through Non-Governmental Organizations maintaining formal relations with UNESCO. A self-nomination cannot be considered. Each Member State and Non-Governmental Organization may designate one candidate.

Each application shall include a cover letter, and the following documents, in English or French:

a) Description of the candidate’s background;

b) Completed submission form;
c) Summary of the work, or the results of the work, on the popularization of science, including publications and other supporting materials, to be submitted for consideration;

d) Description of how the candidate’s submitted work has contributed to the popularization of science.

The application dossier should preferably be sent by email. If, however it must be sent by postal services, it should be sent in either five hard copies, or on five digital supports (USB, CD or DVD).

Applications should be addressed to the Kalinga Prize Secretariat at UNESCO, preferably by email:

Mr Yoslan Nur
Programme Specialist
Division for Science Policy and Capacity Building
Natural Sciences Sector
UNESCO
7 Place Fontenoy
75732 Paris Cedex 07 SP
France
E-mail: y.nur@unesco.org

The deadline for reception by UNESCO of applications and materials is 14 June 2021. Evaluation process. The laureate is selected by the Director-General of UNESCO upon the recommendation of a Jury of five members. This Jury, composed of recognised personalities in the field, is designated by the Director-General on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. By end of June/early July 2019, the jury member will receive all applications for evaluation. In September, the jury will meet at UNESCO to present the results of the evaluation to the Director-General and issue their recommendations for a laureate.

More information
For further information, please visit the UNESCO-Kalinga webpage: https://en.unesco.org/prizes/kalinga