United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

STATUTES OF THE UNESCO CONFUCIUS PRIZE FOR LITERACY
(199 EX/8 – April 2016)

Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy is to reward the efforts of individuals, institutions, organizations or other entities engaged in activities on literacy serving rural adults and out-of-school youth, particularly women and girls. The Prize will contribute to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". The Prize will reward in particular activities that are innovative and/or have far-reaching sustainable impact.

Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled "UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy".

2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and shall consist of a recurrent payment of US $180,000 per year. The Prize shall consist of an amount of US $20,000 for each of the three prizewinners, and a study visit to project sites in China, to be jointly decided upon by the Government of China and UNESCO, and organized by China's National Commission for UNESCO, for the winners of the UNESCO Confucius Prize. The invitation to participate in the study visits will be extended to the prizewinners of the King Sejong Literacy Prizes, after consultation and agreement with the donors.

2.3 All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in a special interest-bearing account for the Prize (see Financial Regulations in Annex II).

2.4 The full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including all costs relating to the award ceremony, public information activities including the production and dissemination of publicity materials, and the relevant studies estimated at US $120,000, shall be fully covered by the Government of the People's Republic of China. To this end, the Director-General shall determine a mandatory overhead cost amount to be applied and charged against the funds in the Special Account, which is to be established under the Financial Regulations of the Prize.

2.5 The Prize shall be awarded annually, on an initial basis of five years.

Article 3 – Qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall have made a significant contribution to literacy work serving rural adults and out of-school youth, particularly women and girls. Prizes may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, organizations or other entities.

Article 4 – Selection of the prizewinners

The three prizewinners shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made by a jury.

Article 5 – Jury

5.1 The Jury shall consist of five independent members, being personalities with a recognized reputation in the field covered while also taking into consideration the need for equitable geographical distribution, gender equality and the principle of non-payment of honoraria. They shall be appointed by the Director-General for an initial two-year period, with the possibility of renewal for the remainder of the five-year period of the Prize. Representatives and alternatives of Members of the Executive Board cannot be appointed as jurors. Jurors involved in a real or potential conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from further deliberations or be asked by the Director-General to do so. The Director-General may replace members of the Jury for reason.

5.2 The Jury shall elect its own Chair and Deputy Chair. Members shall receive no remuneration for their work, but will receive allowances for travel and accommodation, where required. A quorum of three jurors present will be required for jury deliberations to proceed. The working language for deliberations by the Jury shall be English.

5.3 The Jury shall conduct its business and deliberations in conformity with these Statutes, and shall be assisted in the performance of its task by a member of the UNESCO Secretariat designated by the Director-General. Decisions shall be taken by consensus to the extent possible, and otherwise by secret ballot until a simple majority is obtained. A member shall not take part in a vote concerning a nomination from his or her country.

5.4 The Jury shall meet once every year.

5.5 The Jury shall send an assessment of nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than seven days after the completion of the deliberations of the Jury.

Article 6 – Nomination of candidates

6.1 When UNESCO has received the funding of the Prize, as indicated in Article 2 above, the Director-General of UNESCO shall officially invite the submission of nominations to the secretariat of the Prize by 30 April every year from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as from non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with the Organization and active in relevant fields covered by the Prize.

6.2 Nominations shall be submitted to the Director-General by the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, and by non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO. Each government or international NGO is entitled to nominate up to three candidates per year. A self-nomination cannot be considered.

6.3 Each nomination shall be accompanied by a written recommendation, which shall include, in English or French, inter alia:

a) a description of the nominee's background and achievements;

b) a summary of the work or the results of the work, publications and other supporting documents of major importance submitted for consideration;

c) a description of the nominee's contribution to the Prize's objectives.

Article 7 – Procedure for awarding the Prize

7.1 The Prize shall be awarded by the Director-General at an official ceremony held for that purpose either at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris or in China on the occasion of International Literacy Day (8 September). It may be held in any other country as deemed appropriate by the Director-General for a particular year. UNESCO shall present to the prizewinners a check for the amount of the Prize as well as a diploma and a medal. UNESCO shall officially announce the names of the prizewinners.

7.2 If a work being rewarded has been carried out by more than two persons, the Prize shall be awarded to them jointly.

7.3 The work produced by a person since deceased shall not be considered for the Prize. If, however, a prizewinner dies before he or she has received the Prize, then the Prize may be presented posthumously.

7.4 Should a prizewinner decline the Prize, the Jury shall submit a new proposal to the Director-General.

Article 8 – Sunset clause – mandatory renewal of the Prize

8.1 Six months prior to the agreed term of the Prize (five years), the Director-General of UNESCO together with the donor will undertake a review of all aspects of the Prize and decide about its continuation or termination. The Director-General will inform the Executive Board of UNESCO about the results of this review.

8.2 In case of termination of the Prize, the use of any unspent balance of funds shall be determined in consultation with the Donor, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Special Account for the Prize.

Article 9 – Appeals

No appeals shall be allowed against the decision of UNESCO with regard to the award of the Prize. Proposals received for the award of the Prize may not be divulged.

Article 10 – Amendments to the Statutes of the Prize

Any amendment to the present Statutes shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.