



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

**STATUTES OF THE  
UNESCO KING SEJONG LITERACY PRIZE  
AS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD  
AT ITS HUNDRED AND NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

**(194 EX/Decision 13 Part II, April 2014)**

*Article 1 – Purpose*

The purpose of the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize is to reward the efforts of institutions, organizations or individuals for their contribution to the fight against illiteracy in commemoration of King Sejong who invented the Korean alphabet. The objective of the Prize is in conformity with UNESCO's policies and is related to the programme of the Organization in its pursuit of *Education for All*.

*Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize*

- 2.1 The Prize shall be entitled “UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize”.
- 2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Donor, the Government of the Republic of Korea, and shall consist of a recurrent minimum payment of US \$107,000 per year. As determined by the Director-General and in consultation with the Donor, the Prize shall consist of two awards of US \$20,000 each, a silver medal and a certificate for the each of the two recipients.
- 2.3 All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in a special interest-bearing account for the Prize.
- 2.4 The full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including all costs related to the award ceremony, public information activities (including the production and dissemination of publicity materials) and overhead charges, estimated at a minimum of US \$67,000, shall be fully covered by the Government of the Republic of Korea. To this end, the Director-General will 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 for the prize.
- 2.5 The Prize shall be awarded annually, on an initial basis of six years, starting from the 2014 edition of the Prize.

*Article 3 – Qualifications of candidates*

Candidates shall have made a significant contribution to effective results in literacy and post-literacy activities in their integration in basic education programmes. Prizes may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations.

#### *Article 4 – Selection of the prize winners*

The prize winner shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made to him/her by a jury.

#### *Article 5 – Jury*

5.1 The Jury shall consist of five independent members, being personalities with 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 two-year periods for a maximum period of six years. 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 and French.

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 31 July of the year of the award of the Prize.

#### *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 the international non-governmental organizations maintaining formal consultative relations 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 partnership with UNESCO. 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 definition of the nominee's contribution to the Prize's objectives.

*Article 7 – Procedure for the awarding of the Prize*

7.1 The Prize shall be awarded by the Director-General at an official ceremony held for that purpose on the occasion of International Literacy Day (8 September). UNESCO shall present to the prize winners a check for the amount of the Prize as well as a diploma and a medal. UNESCO shall officially announce the names of the prize winners.

7.2 If a work being rewarded has been produced by two or three persons, the Prize shall be awarded to them jointly. In no case may a prize amount be divided between more than three persons.

7.3 THE Prize-winner/s, if possible, shall give a lecture on subject relevant to the work for which the Prize has been awarded. Such a lecture shall be organized during or in connection with the Prize ceremony.

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

7.5 Should a prize winner 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 (six 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 by the Director-General, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of 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.

## **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS OF THE SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR THE UNESCO KING SEJONG LITERACY PRIZE**

### *Article 1 – Creation of a Special Account*

- 1.1 In accordance with Article 6, paragraph 5 and 6, of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, there is hereby created a Special Account for “UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize”, hereafter referred to as the Special Account.
- 1.2 The following regulations shall govern the operation of the Special Account.

### *Article 2 – Financial period*

The financial period shall correspond to that of UNESCO.

### *Article 3 – Purpose*

The purpose of the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize is to reward the efforts of institutions, organizations or individuals for their contribution to the fight against illiteracy in commemoration of King Sejong who invented the Korean alphabet. The objective of the Prize is in conformity with UNESCO’s policies and is related to the programme of the Organization in its pursuit of *Education for All*.

The amounts deposited in the Special Account shall be used to finance the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize, its operational and related costs.

### *Article 4 – Income*

The income of the Special Account shall consist of:

- (a) donations from the Government of the Republic of Korea placed in the Special Account with the prior agreement of the Government of the Republic of Korea;
- (b) such subventions, endowments, gifts and bequests as are allocated to it for purposed consistent with the object of the Special Account;
- (c) miscellaneous income, including any interest earned on the investments referred to in Article 7 below.

### *Article 5 – Expenditure*

The Special Account shall be debited with the expenditure relating to its purpose as described in Article 3 above, including administrative expenses specifically relating to it.

*Article 6 – Accounts*

- 6.1 The Chief Financial Officer shall maintain such accounting records as are necessary.
- 6.2 Any unused balance at the end of a financial period shall be carried forward to the following financial period.
- 6.3 The accounts of the Special Account shall be presented for audit to the External Auditor of UNESCO, together with the other accounts of the Organization.
- 6.4 Contributions in kind shall be recorded outside the Special Account.

*Article 7 – Investments*

- 7.1 The Director-General may make short-term investments of sums standing to the credit of the Special Account.
- 7.2 Interest earned on these investments shall be credited to the Special Account.

*Article 8 – Closure of the Special Account*

The Director-General shall decide upon the closure of the Special Account at such time as he deems that its operation is no longer necessary and inform the Executive Board accordingly. The Director-General shall decide about the use of any unspent balance of funds.

*Article 9 – General provision*

Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, the Special Account shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO.