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ASEAN – U.S. Science Prize for Women Official Prize Rules

Date of Issuance: January 25, 2016

Due Date for Questions: March 4, 2016

Response to Questions: March 14, 2016

Closing Date: April 11, 2016

Notification of Finalists: Early June 2016

Estimated Notification of Winner: July 2016

Estimated Date of Awards Ceremony: Early October 2016

I. INTRODUCTION:

The U.S. Agency for International Development and U.S. Mission to ASEAN, in partnership with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and UL, aim to strengthen ASEAN science and technical capacity through an annual ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women (“Prize”). The 2016 Prize will provide a promising, ASEAN-based, early to mid-career woman scientist whose research focuses on sustainable energy with recognition from ASEAN and the United States government for their academic and professional achievements. Along with her recognition, the winner will receive a \$25,000 USD award and separate provision of travel/lodging to attend an award ceremony at an October ASEAN ministerial meeting.

The Prize aims to:

- Support and recognize promising, early to mid-career women scientists pursuing scientific career in the ASEAN region; and
- Encourage intra-ASEAN and ASEAN-U.S. collaboration around materials science research to enable sustainable energy
- Inspire young women in the ASEAN region to pursue STEM careers

II. INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

Eligibility

Any female citizen and resident of an ASEAN member state is eligible to apply for the ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women. ASEAN member states include: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Candidates must have a Ph.D. degree and be under 40 years of age at the start of the open application period on January 25, 2016. The candidate’s field of expertise must fall under this year’s theme of sustainable energy research to be considered for this Prize.

Funding

The total amount of prize funding available for the winner is \$25,000 USD, and will be provided by UL. Separate provisions will be made for travel and lodging expenses for the winner to attend an Awards Ceremony at an ASEAN ministerial meeting, projected to occur in October 2016. The winner must be available to attend the Awards Ceremony to receive the Prize.

Application Submission Deadline

Applications may be submitted any time before 11:59 pm GMT +7 on the April 1, 2016 using:

<https://scienceprizeforwomen.formstack.com/forms/scienceprizeforwomenapplication>

Questions may be submitted at any time before 11:59 pm GMT +7 on March 4, 2016 via email to scienceprizeforwomen@gmail.com.

Submission of Applications

Submit materials via the web-based application available online at: <https://scienceprizeforwomen.formstack.com/forms/scienceprizeforwomenapplication>. The application must be completed in its entirety. Along with a completed application, candidates should submit their curriculum vitae to the application platform. The candidate must also have **two** professional contacts (colleague, professor, supervisor, or other professional or academic contact) submit letters of recommendation on behalf of the applicant. Letters of recommendation must be sent **directly by the referee to scienceprizeforwomen@gmail.com with the candidate's name in the subject line**. Letters must be received by 11:59 pm GMT +7 on the April 1, 2016.

Review Process

There will be three phases to the selection process—an eligibility review to ensure all applicants meet the basic Prize criteria, finalist selection, and winner selection.

Selection of Finalists

A committee comprised of members from all the partner organizations will review all applications, based on the evaluation criteria below. If a large number of applications are received they may be sub-divided among multiple panels. Up to ten finalists will be selected. One finalist spot will be guaranteed for the highest scoring applicant from each of the ASEAN member state from which eligible applications were received. The decision of the committee is final.

Evaluation Criteria

The criteria presented below have been tailored to the requirements of this Prize. A total of 100 points are possible for the complete application.

Scientific excellence: (60pts)

What is the focus of your research and how does it help to address sustainable energy needs? Please cite any of your relevant research publications or reference patents you may have that would help exemplify the outstanding nature of your research.

Relevance to ASEAN's regional goals (20 pts)

How does your work relate to ASEAN's regional science and technology and sustainable energy needs and goals? What kinds of regional collaborations are part of your work?

Experience in Mentoring, inspiring and supporting students and female scientists (20 pts)

One objective of this prize is to recognize and empower female scientist role models. How do you currently mentor, collaborate, with, or otherwise inspire, support and encourage students and women in science?

Selection of Winner

A final selection committee will determine the overall winner from among the finalists based upon the candidate's original application, as well a video submission from the candidates. The committee also reserves the right to interview all finalists.

Up to 10 selected finalists will be notified of their finalist status around early-June. Finalists will submit a short minute video to aid the committee's final decision. Instructions will be provided to finalists, and videos will be submitted by mid-June. Partners reserve all rights to utilize any and all submitted videos both during and after the contest. If the committee deems it necessary to conduct interviews these will be held in late June.

The final selection committee will evaluate applicants based on the criteria above, considering all submitted materials as well as interviews, if conducted. The committee's decision will be final. The winner will be notified by July and will have their expenses paid to attend an ASEAN ministerial event in the fall of 2016.

Transfer of Award

The transfer of the Prize funds will come direct from UL.

III. PUBLICITY CONSENT

By submitting an entry or accepting a prize, each candidate named a finalist grants to USAID, the U.S. Mission to ASEAN, ASEAN, UL, and DAI the irrevocable right without any further notice, review or consent to print, publish, broadcast, distribute, and use, worldwide in any media now known or hereafter developed including, but not limited to, the World Wide Web, in perpetuity and throughout the universe, the candidate's entry, including without limitation, the entry and candidate's name, portrait, picture, voice, likeness, image or statements about the contest, and biographical information as news, or publicity or information and for trade, advertising, public relations and promotional purposes without any further compensation.

IV. DISCLAIMERS

- The prize sponsors may cancel solicitation and not award
- The prize sponsors may reject any or all responses received
- Issuance of solicitation does not constitute an award commitment
- The prize sponsors reserves the right to disqualify any application based on candidate's failure to follow solicitation instructions
- The prize sponsors will not compensate applicants for response to solicitation
- The prize sponsors reserves the right to issue award based on initial evaluation of applications without further discussion