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## **ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women Official Prize Rules**

**Date of Issuance: April 4, 2018**

**Closing Date: May 6, 2018**

**Notification of Finalists: August 2018**

**Estimated Notification of Winner and Awards Ceremony: October  
2018**

## **I. Introduction:**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Mission to ASEAN, in partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL), aim to strengthen ASEAN science and technology capacity and gender equality and improvement through an annual ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women (“Prize”). The 2018 Prize will provide promising, ASEAN-based, early- to mid-career female scientists with recognition awards from ASEAN and the United States government for their academic and professional achievements.

The 2018 Prize will emphasize the role of female scientists who use their work to better society in sustainable ways and act as role models for other women working in and pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

This year, the Prize theme will focus on **precision agriculture** in the ASEAN region. The Prize administrators will look to award those working at the intersection of agriculture, digital tools, technology, and data to help smallholder farmers:

- Improve and economize farming practices
- Increase agricultural outputs and livelihoods
- Create sustainability and improve environmental standards
- Adapt to shocks and stressors related to farming in volatile climates

Through their work, these women scientists help support the agricultural industry in the ASEAN region and smallholder farmers. Ideal applicants will have a demonstrated past of using science, technology and information to subvert labor-intensive agricultural practices to increase farming and harvesting efficiency, manage human error, cut costs, and account for stressors and shocks.

Along with recognition for their achievements, applicants are eligible to receive cash awards of \$20,000 for first place and \$5,000 for honorable mention, as well as separate provisions for travel and lodging to attend a pitch competition and awards ceremony in late Fall 2018 at an ASEAN ministerial meeting hosted in the Philippines.

## **II. Eligibility**

In order to participate in this Prize, applicants must meet all of the following criteria. An applicant must be:

- Female professional working in applied science
- Citizen and resident of an ASEAN member state
  - ASEAN member states include: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.
- Holder of a PhD or equivalent degree

- 40 years of age or younger at the time of submission
- Expert / practitioner in this year's theme of precision agriculture

### III. Prize Theme

Southeast Asia is home to over 600 million people. By 2025, the region's population will grow by an additional 60 million people, increasing demand on the region's food system and farmers. Experts believe that by 2050, an estimated [40 percent](#) more food will be needed to feed the region.

The backbone of the agricultural industry is smallholder farmers. Globally, there are 525 million smallholder farmers, who are responsible for producing 40 percent of the world's food. [100 million](#) of them farm in the ASEAN region.

With pressures to feed a growing population and other challenges to ASEAN's food security, such as resource scarcity, extreme weather phenomena, and lack of incentives to motivate young people to engage in agricultural work, farmers require new tools in their arsenal. Many are turning towards precision agriculture.

Precision agriculture is the practice of using data, information and technology to make informed decisions around farming techniques. By streamlining efforts and conserving resources, precision agriculture allows farmers to improve productivity and achieve sustainable growth.

With the dawn of the modern era, farmers have more data at their fingertips than ever before, and can use technology and information to subvert labor-intensive practices to increase efficiency, manage human error, cut costs, and account for stressors and shocks.

Digital technology can provide fast and specific guidance, like knowing when to plant seeds, when to harvest, understanding weather patterns, soil data, and how to make the most of the resources you have at hand. These tools can make a huge difference with crop yields, quality, nutritional diversity, and importantly, rural farmers' profits.

With this framing in mind, the 2018 ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women will focus on precision agriculture, and emphasize the role of female professionals working in applied science who use their work to better understand the opportunities for agricultural improvement and sustainability across Southeast Asia. The prize seeks applicants who are working towards technological solutions for improved, efficient, low-cost, and sustainable farming practices.

Furthermore, the Prize will support female scientists who act as role models for other women working in and pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

Along with recognition for their achievements, applicants are eligible to receive cash awards of \$20,000 for first place and \$5,000 for honorable mention, as well as separate provisions for

travel and lodging to attend and compete in a pitch competition in late Fall 2018 at an ASEAN ministerial meeting hosted in the Philippines.

#### **IV. Funding**

The total amount of prize funding available for winners will be \$25,000, and will be provided by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). The prize administrators anticipate awarding \$20,000 to the first place winner and \$5,000 to the runner up. Separate provisions will be made for travel and lodging expenses as well as meal provisions for the winners to attend a pitch competition and awards ceremony at an ASEAN ministerial meeting in the Philippines in the Fall of 2018. The winners will receive official award disbursements shortly after the awards ceremony.

#### **V. Application Requirements**

In order to be considered for the Prize, applicants should submit a **completed application form** online at: <http://ow.ly/2nW130jiADe>. If you are having trouble with your form, please contact [scienceprizeforwomen@gmail.com](mailto:scienceprizeforwomen@gmail.com). Forms must be completed in their entirety. Along with a completed application, candidates must submit their **curriculum vitae (CV)** to the application platform.

**Candidates must also have two letters of recommendation submitted on their behalf.** The prize administrators recommend:

- A letter of recommendation submitted by an academic or professional contact
- A letter of support submitted by a mentee or other women who have been impacted by the applicant

Letters of recommendation must be sent directly by the referee to [scienceprizeforwomen@gmail.com](mailto:scienceprizeforwomen@gmail.com) with the candidate's name in the subject line. Letters must be received by 11:59 PM GMT +7 on May 6, 2018.

**Applications will not be considered without any of these three components.**

#### **VI. Submission Deadline**

Applications may be submitted any time before 11:59 pm GMT +7 on May 6, 2018 using: <http://ow.ly/2nW130jiADe>.

#### **VII. Review Process**

There will be four phases to the selection process:

- Eligibility review to ensure all applicants meet the basic Prize criteria
- Selection of country finalists

- Selection of the two finalists who will compete in a head-to-head pitch competition at an ASEAN ministerial event and
- Winner selection

Please note that applicants will only be notified if they make it to the country-finalist phase.

#### *A. Selection of Country Finalists*

A committee of members from all the partner organizations will review all eligible applications, based on the evaluation criteria below. Prize administrators anticipate narrowing down the pool of applicants to one finalist per country for each of the ten ASEAN member states. Selection will be based on the evaluation criteria below. The decisions of the committee is final. Prize administrators will notify each country finalist of her status in June 2018. Upon receiving word of her selection, each finalist will be asked to submit a short video to aid in the final judging committee's decision. Finalists will have a month from the time of notice to submit videos. These videos will also be utilized in a social media campaign to highlight the work of each of the anticipated ten finalists. Finalists will receive further detail of what should be included in their video upon notice of finalist status.

##### *a. Evaluation Criteria*

The criteria presented below has been tailored to the requirements of this Prize. A total of 100 points are possible with the completion of the application.

#### **Scientific Excellence (50 pts)**

1. Applicant clearly demonstrates not only a strong understanding of the agriculture space, but specifically how her research, technology or business model relates to the prize topic of precision agriculture. Applicant demonstrates how work targets one or more of the following goals:
  - Improve and economize farming practices
  - Increase agricultural outputs and livelihoods
  - Create sustainability and improve environmental standards
  - Helps farmers adapt to shocks and stressors related to farming in volatile climates

Applicant provides concrete examples of her work. **(20 pts)**
2. Applicant provides examples of relevant and impactful awards or merits for her work. Higher scores will be reserved for well-established awards. **(10 pts)**
3. Applicant's work appears to be highly esteemed. Think about: Has she been featured in many media placements, policy briefs, or academic journals? Does her work suggest that she is an influencer in the space? **(10 pts)**
4. Applicant outlines clear areas for growth potential in her career. Applicant demonstrates excitement, passion, and motivation for her field of work. Higher scores will be reserved

for applicants who specifically demonstrate how they'd like to continue to improve in the field of precision agriculture. **(10 pts)**

***Mentoring, inspiring, and supporting women and up-and-coming female members of the STEM community (25 pts)***

1. Applicant shows clear level of involvement in mentoring, supporting and/or empowering female students, colleagues or other women in STEM. Applicant provides specific examples when possible and demonstrates passion and drive to create a gender-inclusive STEM environment. **(10 pts)**
2. Applicant clearly demonstrates how her work accounts for gender in smallholder agriculture. She explains how work specifically targets or thinks about female farmers or integrates gender inclusive practices. **(9pts)**
3. Applicant provides examples of how she strives to improve opportunities for women in STEM. Applicant should note any involvement or membership in/with organizations focused on this gender inclusivity. Applicant provides details about the organization and her unique role/contribution. **(6 pts)**

***Global Citizen (25 pts)***

1. Applicant shows a strong connection between her work and improving the agriculture practices, sustainability, and food security of ASEAN as a region. Applicant demonstrates how she uses science, technology and innovation to achieve these goals. **(10 pts)**
2. Applicant demonstrates an active role in scientific collaboration with scientists/scientific communities of practice across ASEAN to improve the regional value chain as a whole. Higher points will be awarded to applicants who provide concrete examples of collaboration. **(9 pts)**
3. Applicant shows how her work impacts her local community, country and the greater ASEAN region. Applicant provides examples where possible. Applicant sees larger role for her work across the greater ASEAN region and the world. **(6 pts)**

***B. Selection of Final Two***

A selection committee comprised of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST) administrators will determine the top two finalists who are eligible to travel to the pitch competition in the Philippines in October of 2018 based on the candidates' original applications, as well as their video submissions. The committee's decision will be final. The two finalists will be notified of their selection and aided in their travel arrangements by early Fall 2018.

### *C. Selection of Winner -- Pitch Competition*

The top two finalists will be invited to attend an ASEAN Ministerial event in the Philippines this October 2018. They will compete in a head-to-head pitch competition administered by a panel of ASEAN COST representatives and official prize partners, which will determine the overall winner and runner-up of the prize. Finalists will be required to give **no more than a three minute presentation** of their work and answer a questions from the judging panel. The two finalist will have their expenses covered to travel to and attend the ministerial meeting.

### *D. Transfer of Award*

The transfer of the Prize funds will come directly from Underwriters Laboratories--UL. The winner will receive \$20,000 and the honorable mention will receive \$5,000.

## **VIII. Publicity Consent**

By submitting an entry application or accepting a prize, each candidate named a finalist grants to USAID, the U.S. Mission to ASEAN, ASEAN, Underwriters Laboratories--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 statement 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.

## **IX. Disclaimers**

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