



# AU-TWAS Young Scientists National Award

## Purpose and Nature

- The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in January 2007, “declared 2007 as the launching year for building constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa” and called for international scientific cooperation. Further to the recommendations of the AMCOST Bureau in June 2007 on the Scientific Awards Programme, the AU Commission is collaborating with TWAS, the academy of sciences for developing world on the “AU-TWAS Young Scientist National Award” with a view to promote science in Africa.
- A major objective of TWAS is to recognize and support individual scientists in developing countries who have made excellent contributions to the advancement of science.
- In many African countries a system of recognizing and awarding achievements of young talented scientists living and working in Africa is not fully implemented
- Against this background, the African Union (AU) and TWAS have joined efforts to provide financial assistance to African National Academies of Sciences and/or Research Councils and other National Scientific Organizations under the supervision of the Ministries of Science and Technology in Africa to enable them to institute a scheme of TWAS awards for young scientists in their respective countries.
- The AU-TWAS Young Scientist National Award which is open to both male and female young researchers is designed to recognize the scientific achievements of young researchers working and living in Africa and to encourage them to continue to strive for excellence in their scientific careers.
- In each African country the AU-TWAS award will be given annually in the following 2 fields of science:
  - Life and Earth Sciences;
  - Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation.
- For each award, AU and TWAS shall make available a yearly amount of up to US\$5,000 as prize money.
- In addition to the cash award, the winners will also receive a certificate.
- This new initiative, to be implemented from 2010, has been developed from the existing TWAS award for your scientists from developed countries. In African countries, the AU-TWAS Young Scientists National Award will replace any previous agreement of collaboration signed with TWAS within the framework of the prizes to young scientists from developing countries.

## Procedure

- African National Academies of Sciences and/or Research Councils intending to award the AU-TWAS Young Scientists National Award, under the supervision of Ministries of Science and Technology, in their respective countries will be requested to sign an agreement of collaboration with the Ministry, AU and TWAS outlining the rules and regulations governing the scheme.
- Candidates eligible for the prizes should be no older than forty years of age on 31 December of the year of the award, be nationals of that country, have lived and worked there for at least the previous 3 years, hold at least a Master's degree and have a good record of research publications.
- The participating organizations will set up a committee of eminent scientists in the country for selecting the prize winners, including, where applicable, TWAS members.
- Names of committee members should be sent to TWAS for information.
- The deadline to receive applications for this Award is 30 June of each year (*Africa Scientific Renaissance day*).
- Once the winners have been selected, a “Profile of Award Winner” form is to be filled out for each winner by the awarding national scientific organization with details on the scientific achievements of the winner and justification for selection and submitted to the AU Commission and TWAS by 31 July of the year of the award for endorsement before the winners are announced.
- The awarding national scientific organization will be responsible for organizing a prize ceremony where the winners will receive their award and certificate. The award ceremony should be hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology in their respective Member States on African Union Day, 9 September of each year
- AU/TWAS support will be limited to developing agreements with participating countries; checking and approving the selected candidates; disbursing the prize payments.
- For more information prospective candidates may contact the awarding national scientific organization in their countries.