



# Wenhui (文暉) Award for Educational Innovation 2019 *Promoting University and School Partnerships in Advancing the Education 2030 Agenda*

Schools and universities are both institutions of education, charged to provide quality education to children, youth and adults. Data from the UNESCO-Institute of Statistics (UIS) show that 4 out of 5 children between 6 and 17 years old are now enrolled in school, while data for higher education participation reveal a massive increase from 33 million in 1970 to 221 million currently, with a projection of 377 million in 2030.<sup>1</sup> While these statistics are very encouraging, about 262 million children and youth were out of school in 2017, and millions are unable to further their studies beyond basic education.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have set an ambitious target to leave no one behind by calling on all stakeholders and partners to eradicate poverty, inequality and hunger; to provide quality universal education; to protect our planet; and to build sustainable cities, communities and societies. Of particular relevance to the education community is SDG 4-Education 2030 Agenda which aims to *ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030*; and we have only 11 years left to meet this goal!

Clearly, from a lifelong learning perspective, education should flow seamlessly from cradle-to-grave. The transition from early childhood education, to primary and secondary education, and to post-secondary and tertiary education, as well in non-formal education, must not hinder learning at any stage.

What is the purpose of education? Should young people go to school so that they can find a job later in life and contribute to economic growth? Or is education about nurturing the intellectual, academic, social, cultural and citizenship capacity of students? To John Dewey, the purpose of education is “*to give the young the things they need in order to develop in an orderly, sequential way into members of society.*”<sup>2</sup> Paulo Freire adopted a broader approach: “*... there are different ways to this question, ... educator with a different dream, a different vision of utopia, a different political and ideological position, and a different understanding of our presence in the world, the answer would be different.*”<sup>3</sup> Continuing this discourse, UNESCO’s report, *Rethinking Education: Toward a Global Common Good?*, published in 2015, reconciled the purpose and organization of education as a collective societal endeavor in a complex world.<sup>4</sup>

There is general agreement that the purpose of education covers three broad areas, (i) intellectual: knowledge creation; (ii) economic: skills training and job preparation; and (iii) social: personal growth and moral development. All of them are equally important in preparing children and youth for life, work and citizenship. Schools lay the foundation of education and universities focus on specialized areas of study, research, expertise and professional training.

Speaking at the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education in London in December 2018, Ms. Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education of UNESCO, emphasized that education is the “main infrastructure to build sustainable development and sustainable societies”. She added that the challenges facing the world today are interconnected

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<sup>1</sup> UIS, <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>.

<sup>2</sup> Dewey, J., 1934. Individual Psychology and Education. *The Philosopher*, 12, 1934.

<sup>3</sup> Fieire, P. The Purpose of Education. Extract from the 40th Anniversary of the UNESCO Institute for Education”, UIE Reports No. 6, 1992.

<sup>4</sup> UNESC, 2015. *Rethinking Education: Toward a Global Common Good?*

requiring multidisciplinary solutions, and the SDGs can only be achieved with quality education at all levels.<sup>5</sup> To do so, partnership between schools and universities is vital for advancing the SDG 4-Education 2030 Agenda.

The structure, context and reach of higher education systems in a globalized world present higher education institutions a huge responsibility and advantage in shaping the world's economic, social and environmental state of affairs. The image of professors and students sitting in their ivory towers being detached from the 'real' world is no longer valid in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as universities are reaching out to schools and communities, near and far, to improve the quality of education and make it more relevant. Working in partnership with schools – the other key institution in education – will increase the impact of education, benefiting generations of children and youth by and beyond 2030.

## **The Wenhui Award**

Emphasizing the capacity of education and the human innovative spirit to address and resolve pressing issues and problems, the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID) and the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO established the Wenhui (文暉) Award for Educational Innovation in 2010.

The Wenhui Award embodies two important elements of educational innovation. Wen (文) refers to all facets of civilization and culture, including wisdom, knowledge, moral and ethics, and encompasses the desire for learning and inquiry. Hui (暉) symbolizes the creative and radiant force of education that allows civilization and culture to flourish. Taken together, the Wenhui Award personifies the power of education in promoting learning and allowing individuals and cultures to innovate and grow. This Award will serve to improve the access to and quality of education and training, especially to those most in need. Given the challenges facing education, it is necessary to strengthen the commitment of individuals and institutions to continuously innovate and enlighten people.

For 2019, the theme of the Wenhui Award is *Promoting University and School Partnerships in Advancing the Education 2030 Agenda*. It is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 4 - Education 2030 Agenda to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, as well as UNESCO's vision of education to provide and enhance quality learning opportunities particularly to those most disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalized.

Two individuals or institutions from the Asia and Pacific region will be selected by a jury of distinguished educators. The winners will each receive a Certificate of Excellence and prize money of US\$ 20,000. Certificates of Merit may also be awarded to individuals or institutions that have demonstrated commendable innovative practices. The results will be announced through a variety of channels to share the achievements of the winners and awardees.

## **What are the objectives of the Award?**

The specific objectives of the 2019 Award are to:

- Value and encourage university-school partnerships in enhancing the quality of education and lifelong learning;

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<sup>5</sup> O'Malley, B., 2018. Higher education's role is to reassert universal values. University World News, 16 December 2018. <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20181216124727531>.

- Recognize the collective contributions of individuals or institutions in developing university-school partnerships to improve the quality of education and lifelong learning; and
- Foster local wisdom and ingenuity in innovative university-school partnerships in enhancing the quality of education and lifelong learning.

## What is in the Award?

The Award shall be conferred on two individuals or institutions in recognition of their commitment and outstanding efforts in the development of educational partnerships in accordance to the theme of the Award this year. The two winners will receive a Certificate of Excellence and prize money of US\$ 20,000 each. Certificates of Merit may also be awarded to individuals or institutions that have demonstrated commendable innovative partnerships.

## Who is eligible for the Award?

Individuals or institutions from UNESCO Member States in Asia and the Pacific region that have designed and implemented significant educational innovations in the professional development of teachers leading to improved access to, and quality in, education and skills development will be eligible for the Award.

To qualify for nomination for the 2019 Wenhui Award, the candidates shall possess the following qualifications or attributes:

- Have demonstrated their ability in developing university-school partnership that has helped to enhance the quality of inclusive education and lifelong learning;
- Have verified the positive impact of their partnership in bringing about noticeable changes in the quality of inclusive education and lifelong learning;
- Have proven their commitment in promoting and supporting the principles of inclusive and lifelong quality learning for all; and
- Have established that their partnership is current and relevant to the Education 2030 Agenda.

## What are the evaluation criteria?

The emphasis of the 2019 Wenhui Award is on effective partnerships between universities and schools, not scientific writings or inventions. In line with the theme of the 2019 Award, ***Promoting University and School Partnerships in Advancing the Education 2030 Agenda***, partnerships that demonstrate real contributions in ensuring inclusive, quality education and in promoting lifelong learning will be positively assessed. More specifically, the entries will be evaluated according to selected criteria, such as:

- Uniqueness and originality of the partnership
- Timeliness and relevance of the partnership
- Success and impact of the partnership
- Leadership and management of the partnership
- Quality of the supporting evidence
- Innovative use of available resources
- Potential for replication of the partnership
- Sustainability of the partnership

## How to apply for the Award?

The Award organizers are calling for nominations from governments, educational institutions, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals in Asia and Pacific countries following the procedure below.

- Nominations shall be submitted to the Award Secretariat at UNESCO Bangkok through the National Commissions for UNESCO, UNESCO Offices and other organizations associated with UNESCO, using an official Award Application Form available online at <https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/wenhui-award-2019>
- Each nomination must be accompanied by the following attachments:
  - Description of the candidate's/institution's background and achievements (1 page, A4 size, in English)
  - Summary of work, publications and other relevant documents of major importance (maximum of 4 pages, A4 size, in English)
  - Evidence to support the nomination of the candidate (may be in English or local language)
  - Letter(s) of recommendation (in English or local languages), preferably from the Ministry of Education, or National Commission for UNESCO, or authorized Ministerial agencies.
  - Consent form for use and distribution of materials
- All nominations must reach the Award Secretariat by **31 July 2019**. Please check with your nomination agency on the status of your submission.
- For list of UNESCO offices, see <https://en.unesco.org/countries/field-offices>.
- For list of National Commissions for UNESCO in the Asia-Pacific region, see <https://en.unesco.org/countries/national-commissions>.

## Conditions of entry

- All entries must be from the Asia-Pacific region.
- The work must be attested to be authentic and original.
- The partnership must be current or initiated in the last five years.
- Shortlisted entries may be asked to supply more documents or evidence, if necessary.
- All entries must be accompanied by evidence that supports the nomination.
- All nominees will be responsible for the delivery of their materials to their respective nomination agencies and for checking that their materials are received by the Award Secretariat.
- All submissions will be taken to imply the granting of permission to publish all materials and particulars, without charge to UNESCO.
- All nominees must complete the consent form available online at the Award website permitting UNESCO to publish and share their work, on the understanding that the work will be fully acknowledged and credited to the relevant individuals or institutions stated in the nomination forms.
- All materials submitted will not be returned.
- The jury's decision is final and correspondence will not be entered into.

## Important dates

Closing date for nominations  
Announcement of winners  
Award ceremony

31 July 2019  
End of September 2019  
To be confirmed

Visit the Award website <https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/wenhui-award-2019> for details, including the following:

- The Wenhui (文暉) Award brochure
- Information and guidelines
- Application form
- Consent form

For further information, contact:

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Bangkok 10110, Thailand  
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Website: <https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/wenhui-award-2019>

## About the Organizers

The Asia-Pacific Region counts for almost two thirds of the world population. In serving the 46 Member States and 2 Associate Members in the region, UNESCO has to take into account the diversity of the countries in terms of their size, culture, socio-economy status and environment. Supported by a network of a Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok, a Regional Bureau for Science in Jakarta, five Cluster Offices (Almaty, Apia, Beijing, New Delhi and Tehran), and seven National Offices (Dhaka, Hanoi, Islamabad, Kabul, Kathmandu, Phnom Penh and Tashkent), UNESCO works to promote peace and human development through education, sciences, culture and communication, by facilitating international co-operation, setting common standards and fostering the dissemination of information.

The **Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID)** is a regional inter-country cooperative programme based in the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok, Thailand. APEID's mission is to contribute to sustainable human development through the design and implementation of educational programmes and projects, mainly at the post-primary level of education and focusing on educational innovation for development. In January 2016, APEID was restructured and incorporated into the Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD) to meet changing contexts, priorities, needs and challenges in the region.

The **National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO** was established in February 1979. It acts as an agency of coordination, consultation, liaison and information, in addition to mobilizing and coordinating partnerships with government institutions, academic circle and civil society to contribute to the realization of UNESCO's objectives and implementation of its programmes.

The **Chinese Society of Education (CSE)**, the first and also largest academic educational organization in China, was founded on 12 April 1979. Since then, the CSE has developed into the nation's leading academic educational organization which exerts a great influence on China's academic education, encouraging reforms and innovations. It has facilitated a nationwide, well-organized professional educational system covering all curricula and disciplines of basic education as well as relevant teaching and educational work.