

**Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Human Resources Development**  
**Department of Higher Education**

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UNESCO Headquarters, Paris has invited nominations for the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture. Relevant details are on the next page.

Nominations should be forwarded to the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) latest by **1<sup>st</sup> June, 2015** (and should not be sent directly to UNESCO) at the following address for further consideration and onward transmission to UNESCO Headquarter, Paris.

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The Minister of Human Resource Development,  
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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Ref.: CL/4099

Subject: **Nominations for the 13th edition of the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture**

Sir/Madam,

Following the decision of the Executive Board, at its 195th session, to renew the UNESCO Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture for the next six years, I am pleased to invite your Government to submit nominations for the 13th edition of the Prize.

Established in 1998 and endowed fully by the Government of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates), this Prize has been awarded since 2001 with the purpose of rewarding significant contributions made by two eminent personalities, groups of persons or institutions – one from the Arab States and the other from abroad –, to the development, knowledge and spread of Arab culture by means of artistic, intellectual or promotional outreach aimed at enhancing intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. Proposed candidates should have earned an international reputation for meritorious action extending over several years.

Beyond the above, the Prize strives to reinforce the Organization's fundamental mission in the promotion of a dialogue among cultures through a better appreciation of the multifaceted aspects of Arab cultures.

In the perspective of enhancing the visibility of this Prize further, UNESCO and the Government of Sharjah would like to encourage you to propose qualified candidates who merit to be rewarded for their literary, scientific or artistic achievements, as well as for their global outreach devoted to promoting Arab Culture and its worldwide dissemination, and independent of any religious considerations.

As mentioned above, the Prize is endowed by the Government of Sharjah with US \$60,000, which is divided equally between two laureates selected by me on the basis of the recommendation of an International Jury established for that purpose.

I am pleased to inform you that in view of the importance of this Prize, the Organization has established a rigorous process for selecting candidates. We encourage you, therefore, to propose the most qualified candidates from your country. You may wish to note that candidatures can be submitted only online.

If, as I hope, you are in a position to nominate suitable candidates for the Prize, I invite you to send an e-mail to the Secretariat of the Prize (tel: +33 1 45 68 42 71; e-mail: [prix.sharjah@unesco.org](mailto:prix.sharjah@unesco.org)), with the name and e-mail of the person authorized to make the submission on your behalf. The Prize Secretariat will then send all necessary information to the concerned person, notably on how to submit the candidature online. Kindly note that the deadline for the submission of candidatures is **15 June 2015**. The Secretariat of the Prize stands ready to respond to any queries you might have.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irina Bokova', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left.

Irina Bokova  
Director-General

cc: Permanent Delegations and Observers to UNESCO  
National Commissions for UNESCO