

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

Wenhui Award Secretariat at the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok has Called for Nominations for Wenhui Award 2022 "Educational Innovations for Learning Recovery".

Nominations should be forwarded to the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) latest by **10<sup>th</sup> February, 2023** at the following address for further consideration and onward transmission to UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France.

**Mr. Saroj Kumar Choudhary  
Under Secretary to the Government of India  
Ministry of Education  
Department of Higher Education  
Room No. 203-A 'C' Wing  
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road  
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**[Wenhui Award 2022] Call for Nominations - Updates**

**From :** Wenhui Award <Wenhui.Award@unesco.org>  
**Subject :** [Wenhui Award 2022] Call for Nominations - Updates  
**To :** Wenhui Award <Wenhui.Award@unesco.org>

Wed, Nov 02, 2022 03:45 PM

4 attachments

Dear National Commissions for UNESCO,

Warm greetings again from the Wenhui Award Secretariat at the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education!

Following the email below about **Wenhui Award 2022** themed "**Educational Innovations for Learning Recovery**", we have further refined the key documents shared with you, and prepared Frequently Asked Questions for you as nominators, in addition to the FAQs for applicants and nominees. Please find the latest version of the following documents attached:

1. **Concept Note**
2. **Nomination Form**
3. **Template for the Detailed Summary of the Educational Innovation**
4. **FAQs for Applicants & Nominees**
5. **FAQs for Nominators**

All these documents and the full information are also available on the webpage for Wenhui Award 2022:

<https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/wenhui-award-2022-call-applications-nominations-educational-innovations-learning-recovery-unesco>.

The **nomination deadline** is **24 February 2023**, yet early submissions would be welcome.

Kindly note that we have also informed all UNESCO Field Offices in the Asia-Pacific region and invited them to nominate qualified innovations. We have advised them to coordinate with you to avoid repeated nominations, and we would also greatly appreciate your coordination with our Field Offices on this.

In parallel with the nominations initiated by UNESCO National Commissions and Field Offices in the Asia-Pacific region, the Wenhui Award Secretariat also accepts applications directly submitted to us, and the deadline is **27 January 2023**. Such applicants will indicate their preferred nominators, either UNESCO NatCom or FO. We will forward those direct applications which have passed our prescreening to the chosen nominators within 2 weeks after receiving them.

If you have any questions about how the parallel channels of application work, please see the Nomination part on pages 1&2 of the FAQs for nominators. Should you need any further clarification, please do not hesitate to email us.

Thank you very much for your attention and support.

Best wishes,

Wenhui Award Secretariat

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**From:** Wenhui Award Secretariat <Wenhui.Award@unesco.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 28, 2022 4:51 PM  
**To:** Wenhui Award Secretariat <Wenhui.Award@unesco.org>  
**Subject:** [Wenhui Award 2022] Call for Nominations  
**Importance:** High

Dear National Commissions for UNESCO,  
Greetings from the Wenhui Award Secretariat at UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education!

We are delighted to inform you that the **Call for Nominations** for **Wenhui Award 2022 "Educational Innovations for Learning Recovery"** has been launched.

The Award will be conferred on **two individuals or institutions in UNESCO Member States in the Asia-Pacific region** for their outstanding efforts and achievements in educational innovation focused on the specific theme of the current edition. The **two winners** will each receive a **prize of USD20,000**. In addition to the Winners, **Honourable Mentions** will be granted to individuals or institutions that have demonstrated commendable innovative educational practices. Since the inception of the Wenhui Award, there have been 22 Winners and 34 Honourable Mentions from 19 different countries.

The full information is available on our website: <https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/wenhui-award-2022-call-applications-nominations-educational-innovations-learning-recovery-unesco>. Here are the links of our social media posts:  
<https://www.facebook.com/unescobangkok/posts/pfbid034oCqWVL8JJt8M44D8QULLcDBwGmd2zuzuWyytYnNTbQMHNUDztttNURXN6fcPsPzI>; <https://twitter.com/unescobangkok/status/1585904282939052032>.

The following documents are attached for your convenient reference: **1) Concept Note; 2) Nomination Form; 3) Template for the Innovation Summary; 4) Frequently Asked Questions** (mainly for applicants/nominees; the FAQs for nominators will be shared with you when ready).

**All National Commissions for UNESCO and UNESCO Field Offices in our Member States in the Asia-Pacific region are entitled to be nominators for the Wenhui Award.** You are very welcome to **identify eligible educational innovations** in your country, based on the criteria stated on the website and in the Concept Note (pp.3-4), and then **nominate them to the Wenhui Award Secretariat**.

For each nomination, you need to send the **full set of required documents** listed below to Wenhui Award Secretariat by email ([Wenhui.Award@unesco.org](mailto:Wenhui.Award@unesco.org)) before the **deadline, 24 February 2023**.

1. Fully completed **nomination form** (you can ask the nominees to fill in their parts and return the form to you, and you put the nominator's information on top);
2. **Nomination letter** signed and stamped by the nominating NatCom, stating why the NatCom recommends the nominee and the nominated innovation for the Wenhui Award (no template);
3. **Summary of the innovation**, using the given **template** (please ask the nominees to write by themselves according to the specific requirements in the template and submit to you together with other application materials);
4. **Other supporting materials** provided by the nominee (listed on the website, the Concept Note <p.5> and the Nomination Form <final page>).

*\*You may wish to set an earlier date (3-4 weeks before the nomination deadline) for your nominees to submit 1), 3) and 4) in one batch to you, to allow you sufficient time to review, consider and prepare nomination letters.*

As an alternative to nomination by UNESCO NatComs and Field Offices, **interested and eligible candidates may apply to Wenhui Award Secretariat directly**. We will prescreen such direct applications and shortlist the better ones based on the same criteria, and then forward them to the concerned UNESCO NatComs or Field Offices (depending on the choice of the applicants) to review and decide whether to provide them with nomination letters. The **deadline for direct applications is 27 January 2023**, and we will try to send the shortlisted applications to you by early February, so that you can have enough time to compare the potential nominees and select the ones you consider the most suitable to nominate to our Secretariat.

Thank you very much for your attention and support. Please do not hesitate to email us, should you need any clarification.

Kind regards,

Wenhui Award Secretariat

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 **Concept Note\_Wenhui Award 2022.pdf**  
295 KB

 **Nomination Form\_Wenhui Award 2022.pdf**  
406 KB

 **Template\_Innovation Summary\_Wenhui Award 2022.docx**  
21 KB

 **FAQs\_Wenhui Award.pdf**  
168 KB

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## Concept Note

### Context

The Transforming Education Summit convened by the United Nations in September 2022 mobilized over 130 countries to explore all options and innovations in response to the major challenges in education, including the catastrophic learning losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises.

The coronavirus has disrupted education all over the world, with more than 1.6 billion learners affected by school closures.<sup>1</sup> The Asia-Pacific is one of the most hit regions. Approximately 1.2 billion<sup>2</sup> students across the region have in total lost about 1.1 trillion hours of in-person learning as a result of COVID-19-caused school closures.<sup>3</sup>

The pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in education, with the disadvantaged groups suffering more, including girls, children with disabilities, and students from low-income families, ethnic minorities and remote rural areas. UNESCO warned that this unprecedented disruption to in-school learning might reverse the substantial progress made on girls' education in the past decades, and 11.2 million girls might not return to school anymore.<sup>4</sup> Besides, it is projected that in the developing parts of Asia, learning losses for the poorest quintile of students are 33% higher than for the richest quintile of students.<sup>5</sup>

COVID-19 has also deepened the pre-existing learning crisis. In 2019, the learning poverty rate – the share of children who cannot read a simple text with comprehension by age 10 – was already estimated at 57 percent in low- and middle-income countries. In 2022 this rate has surged to 70 percent, with the highest increases seen in South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, where schools have been closed the longest.<sup>6</sup>

1 UNESCO, UNICEF, and World Bank. 2021. *The State of the Global Education Crisis: A Path to Recovery*. p.5. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education/publication/the-state-of-the-global-education-crisis-a-path-to-recovery>.

2 UNESCO. 2022. *Learning recovery and addressing the learning crisis in the Asia Pacific: policy brief*. p.1. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381978>.

3 UNESCO. 2022. *Summary report of the 4th meeting of the Regional Network of the SDG 4 National Coordinators: back-to-back meeting of APREMC-II*. p.3. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382668>.

4 UNESCO. 2020. *COVID-19 education response: how many students are at risk of not returning to school?* p.5. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373992>.

5 Asian Development Bank. 2022. *Falling further behind: The cost of COVID-19 schools closures by gender and wealth*. p.54. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/784041/ado2022-learning-losses.pdf>.

6 UNICEF. 2022. *The State of Global Learning Poverty*. p.16. <https://www.unicef.org/media/122921/file/State%20of%20Learning%20Poverty%202022.pdf>.

Such severe learning losses have devastating socio-economic implications. The productivity and lifetime earnings of affected students are projected to decrease, and the unemployment rate in many societies is estimated to increase, which will aggravate poverty and backslash the long-term economic growth. In Asian developing countries, learning loss due solely to COVID-19 school closures may reduce lifetime earnings of the affected students by USD3.2 trillion (at constant 2020 prices).<sup>7</sup> It is also estimated that by 2030, school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic will lead to unemployment of 5.44 million people in the skilled labor force and 35.69 million people in the unskilled labor force around the world.<sup>8</sup>

Apart from COVID, other types of crises – violence, armed conflict, diseases, refugee and internal displacement, natural hazards including climate-induced disasters, food shortage and poverty – also contribute to global learning losses. The United Nations joint initiative “Education Cannot Wait” indicates in 2022 that 84% of the children losing access to schools are living in areas with protracted crises.<sup>9</sup>

Learning recovery from different crises, particularly COVID-19, has been placed on the high agenda of the international community. It means not only bringing all learners back to school and achieving effective remedial learning, but also improving and sustaining the wellbeing and development of students and teachers, filling divides, and equipping youth with the competences and skills for life, work, and sustainable development.

Urgent actions are needed to speed up learning recovery, and a powerful engine is education innovation, which is critical for inclusive, equitable, and quality education as well. The Transforming Education Summit also emphasized the need of innovations to prepare today’s learners for a rapidly changing world.

In its broadened sense, educational innovation involves all dimensions of the education ecosystem, including but not limited to 1) innovations for inclusive, equitable, safe, and healthy schools; 2) teaching innovations to cultivate competences and skills for life, work, and sustainable development; 3) innovations in digital learning; 4) innovations for the development of the teaching profession; 5) innovations in education financing; and 6) innovations in education partnerships.

Globally and in the Asia-Pacific region in particular, various innovative education policies and practices have emerged and accelerated learning recovery. Many countries have initiated innovations to increase autonomy and flexibility of schools to create a stable and conducive learning environment. A variety of innovative modalities (digital, low-tech and no-tech) have been introduced to ensure the continuity of learning and expand the access. Some countries have created specific systems to facilitate the communication between educators and learners and to support their psycho-social well-being. Innovative training packages are helping teachers adapt to distance education and identify solutions to achieve high

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7 Asian Development Bank. 2022. *Falling further behind: The cost of COVID-19 schools closures by gender and wealth*. p.52. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/784041/ado2022-learning-losses.pdf>.

8 Cohen, Spencer, et al. 2022. “Potential Economic Impact of COVID-19-Related School Closures.” Asian Development Bank Economics Working Paper Series 657. p.17. <https://www.adb.org/publications/economic-impact-covid-19-related-school-closures>.

9 UN. 2022. *Global Estimates: Number of crisis-affected children and adolescents in need of education support*. p.20. [https://www.educationcannotwait.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ecw\\_globalestimatesstudy\\_june2022.pdf](https://www.educationcannotwait.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ecw_globalestimatesstudy_june2022.pdf).

inclusivity and efficiency. Innovations in university-school partnership are contributing to leveraging more resources to support foundational education.

Despite the existing efforts and achievements, many societies are still suffering lingering learning losses. Concerted endeavours are needed to invigorate education innovations for effective learning recovery across the world.

### **About Wenhui Award**

Against the above background, this year's Wenhui Award is themed "Educational Innovations for Learning Recovery" with the objective to identify, acknowledge and encourage innovative policies and practices in various dimensions of the education system in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Wenhui (文暉) Award was jointly created in 2010 by the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID) and the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, to recognize and reward individuals or institutions that have made outstanding contributions to educational innovation in the Asia-Pacific region. Wen (文) in Chinese encompasses the meaning of culture, knowledge, wisdom, moral and ethics, and the desire for learning. Hui (暉) symbolizes the creative and radiant force of education that enables civilization and culture to flourish. Taken together, the name of the Award personifies the power of educational innovation in enabling individuals, institutions, societies, and cultures to thrive.

The Award shall be conferred on two individuals or institutions in the Asia-Pacific region for their outstanding efforts and achievements in educational innovation focused on the specific theme of the current edition. The two winners will each receive a Certificate of Excellence and a prize of USD20,000. In addition to the Winners, Honourable Mentions will be granted to individuals or institutions that have demonstrated commendable innovative educational practices. Since the inception of the Wenhui Award, there have been 22 Winners and 34 Honourable Mentions from 19 different countries.

### **Eligibility and Assessment Criteria**

#### **Eligibility of Applicants:**

- Be individuals or institutions from UNESCO Member States in the Asia-Pacific region<sup>10</sup>;
- Have initiated, developed and implemented innovative practices that are in line with the latest developments in education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and that help to improve access, equity and quality of education in the Asia-Pacific region;
- Have proved that their innovations have exerted positive impacts on education opportunities and quality in the Asia-Pacific region;

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<sup>10</sup> List of UNESCO Member States in the Asia-Pacific region: <https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/asia-and-pacific>.

- Be persistently dedicated to popularization of education, enhancement of education quality, and promotion of lifelong learning.

### **Assessment Criteria for the Innovations:**

All the educational innovations submitted for the Wenhui Award will be assessed equally against the following criteria:

1. Relevance (to the latest developments in education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; to Sustainable Development Goal 4 aiming to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; to the Asia-Pacific region; AND to the specific theme of the Award of the year);
2. Timeliness (started within the recent 3 years, with the key part completed by the time of application);
3. Effectiveness (in tackling specific challenges/issues in education);
4. Scale of benefits and long-term impact (evidenced by specific indicators, such as number of beneficiary countries in the Asia-Pacific region, number of beneficiary schools, number of beneficiary students, teachers, school leaders, and community members);
5. Engagement of stakeholders and partners from different sectors (public and non-public), if applicable;
6. Originality (how creative and unique the innovation is);
7. Sustainability (of the good practices, benefits and positive impacts of the innovation), scalability (the capacity to expand in coverage and grow in impact without much extra resources), and replicability (to other educational institutions, stakeholder groups, and even possibly other countries and regions).

### **Application Procedure and Required Materials**

Applications for Wenhui Award can be submitted in the following two alternative channels:

#### **Channel A. Direct Application**

Applicants directly submit the **required materials** (listed below) to the Wenhui Award Secretariat at the email address [Wenhui.Award@unesco.org](mailto:Wenhui.Award@unesco.org) by **27 January 2023, 23:59 Bangkok time (UTC+7)**.

#### **Channel B. Nominator-Initiated Application**

The **National Commissions for UNESCO** or **UNESCO Field Offices** in the Asia-Pacific Member States identify potentially qualified applicants and innovations, invite them to submit all the required materials to the nominator by a specific date, and then nominate them to the Wenhui Award Secretariat. Nominators shall send all the **required materials** (listed below) and the **nomination letter** (signed and stamped) by email to the Wenhui Award Secretariat by **24 February 2023, 23:59 Bangkok time (UTC+7)**.

Information on National Commissions for UNESCO: <https://en.unesco.org/countries/national-commissions>.

Information on UNESCO Field Offices: <https://en.unesco.org/countries/field-offices>.

*\*Only UNESCO National Commissions and Field Offices can be nominators for the Wenhui Award, and applicants from Channel A need to indicate their preferred nominator in the application form.*

*\*Such nominations should be initiated by UNESCO National Commissions or Field Offices in the Asia-Pacific region. Applicants do not need to contact the potential nominators.*

### **Required Materials:**

1. A fully completed **application form** (<https://bit.ly/Wenhui22AFA>) or **nomination form** (<https://bit.ly/Wenhui22NFB>);
2. **Detailed introduction of the innovation**, using the given template (<https://bit.ly/Wenhui22TDS>);
3. **Supporting materials**, including at least one of the following:
  - a) brochure of the innovation (no more than 12 pages, in PDF format);
  - b) link to photos (no more than 5, in JPG or PDF format) or a video (within 5 minutes) about the innovation;
  - c) link to the website of the innovation;
  - d) link(s) to the social media platform(s) of the innovation;
  - e) media coverage on the innovation (either the web link or PDF version).

*\*The above list is for both direct applications and nominator-initiated applications; for nominator-initiated applications, the nominators need to collect all the required materials from the nominees and then submit them to the Wenhui Award Secretariat.*

*\*All the links should be put on the application/nomination form, while the PDF documents need to be sent by email to the Wenhui Award Secretariat together with all the other application/nomination documents.*

### **Selection Process**

#### **Step 1: Pre-Screening**

The Wenhui Award Secretariat will pre-screen all applications received by the deadline based on the eligibility and assessment criteria.

#### **Step 2: Selection by Nominators**

*\*This step is only for applications directly submitted to the Wenhui Award Secretariat (Channel A), and applicants do not need to initiate contact with any potential nominator.*

The Wenhui Award Secretariat will send the applications that have passed prescreening to the nominators chosen by the applicants themselves, either UNESCO National Commissions or Field Offices. The nominators will review and decide whether to nominate the applicants for further selection.

The nominators shall directly send the **nomination letters** by email to the Wenhui Award Secretariat. The



letter should comment on the applicant's eligibility for the Award and provide additional information if deemed necessary by the nominator.

### **Step 3: Shortlisting**

Upon receiving the nomination letters for direct applications (Channel A), the Wenhui Award Secretariat will further review and shortlist based on the eligibility and assessment criteria. For those nominations initiated directly by UNESCO National Commissions and Field Offices (Channel B), the Secretariat will also conduct prescreening and shortlisting based on the same criteria.

### **Step 4: Final Assessment**

The final assessment of shortlisted applications is conducted by a Jury consisting of multiple members who are from different countries and organizations in the Asia-Pacific region and have extensive expertise and experience in education.

### **Step 5: Result Announcement**

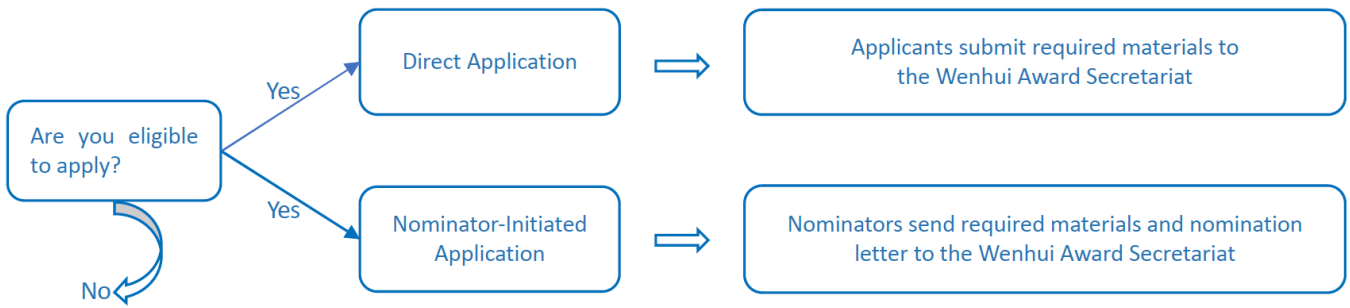
The winners of the Award and the recipients of the Honourable Mentions will be notified by email shortly after the Jury has made its final decisions, and upon written confirmation of acceptance, the results will be officially announced online in due course. The winners will be invited to the Award Ceremony to be held virtually or in person in China.

### **Inquiries & Contact**

For inquiries about Wenhui Award application, nomination, and selection process, please check the above information and Frequently Asked Questions at <https://bit.ly/Wenhui22FAQ>. If you have any further inquiries, please contact the Wenhui Award Secretariat at [Wenhui.Award@unesco.org](mailto:Wenhui.Award@unesco.org).

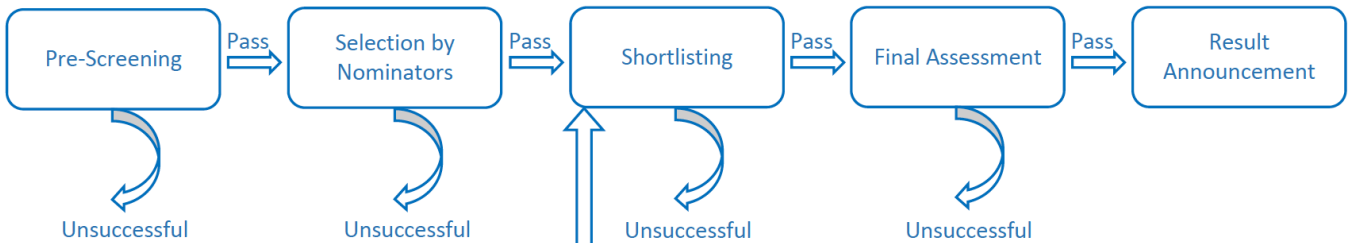
# Annex: Flow Chart for Wenhui Award Application and Selection

## Application



## Selection

### Direct Application



### Nominator-Initiated Application

