



# **ASEAN-US Science Prize for Women 2020 Supported by UL**

## **Official Prize Rules**

**Date of Issuance: 22 November 2019**

**Closing Date: 31 January 2020**

**Notification of National Finalists: 20 March 2020**

**Estimated Notification of Regional Finalist: April 2020**

**Head to Head Pitch Competition: June 2020**

**Awards Ceremony: October 2020**

## I. Introduction

The United States Government, in partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and UL, aim to strengthen ASEAN science and technology capacity and gender equality through the annual ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women (“Prize”). The 2020 Prize will provide promising, ASEAN-citizen, early- to mid-career female scientists with recognition awards from ASEAN and the United States government for their academic and professional achievements.

The 2020 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 **preventive healthcare** in the ASEAN region. The applicants will have to clearly demonstrate not only a strong understanding of preventive healthcare, but specifically how her research, technology, impact for community, or business model supports preventive healthcare. They must demonstrate how their work targets one or more of the following goals:

- Promote activities or design method to avoid the development of risk factors in the first place where it is called as Primal and Primordial Prevention.
- Promote activities or design method to avoid occurrence of disease, prevent disease, minimize the source of disease and maintain a healthy environment where it is named as Primary Prevention.
- Create or refine methods or techniques for detecting, eliminating and curing existing diseases where it is called as Secondary Prevention,
- Create methods to reduce the harm of symptomatic disease where it is called Tertiary Prevention.

Along with recognition for their achievements, the winners are eligible to receive cash awards of \$20,000 (winner) and \$5,000 (honorable mention), as well as separate provisions for travel and lodging to attend a pitch competition during the ASEAN – U.S. Consultation Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation on June 2020 in Lao PDR and awarding ceremony during the gala dinner of ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI) on October 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand.

## II. Eligibility

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

- Female professional working in applied science
- Citizen 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 doctoral degree. Applicant who is a candidate for or in process of pursuing a PhD or doctoral degree are not eligible.
- Maximum of 45 years of age or born on or after 1 February 1975
- Academician / researcher / innovator / technologist / expert / practitioner / activist in this year's theme of preventive healthcare

### III. Prize Theme

The current population of ASEAN is currently around 642 million, and it is expected to grow to 660 million by 2025<sup>1</sup>. The rising population will impact to the people quality of life such as changes in people's lifestyle that may affect to their health. Data from the ASEAN Secretariat<sup>1</sup> and World Health Organization (WHO)<sup>2</sup> show that diabetes, cancer, heart and lung disease which are classified as Noncommunicable Disease (NCDs) are the leading cause of death in Southeast Asia. WHO reported that those NCDs are killed around 8,5 million people each year. Those leading causes of death are contributed by changes in people's lifestyle including smoking, alcohol, fast food, poor diet and insufficient physical activity. Without strong action, the combination of rising population and changes in people's lifestyle may threaten people's health and future generations.

One approach to address this issue is through the application of the **preventive healthcare**, which is defined as:

*Preventive healthcare deals with the prevention of illness to decrease the burden of disease and associated risk factors. It aims to prevent human body from a disease, either by preventing the occurrence of disease or by halting a disease in human body<sup>3</sup>.*

Having preventive healthcare measures and facilities may provide many benefits for the people but that will require thorough education on how they work so that the public can take advantage of their existence. People must therefore be educated about preventive healthcare, basic understanding on various illnesses and their symptoms and what it takes to maintain good health. If properly disseminated, preventive healthcare may eliminate early symptoms of any disease, increase lifespan and life expectancy, and prevent large medical bills.

Against this backdrop, the 2020 ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women will focus on preventive healthcare in general and will emphasize how preventive healthcare can bring about positive outcomes for ASEAN. The prize seeks female applicants who are engaged in research or are promoting activities related to the preventive healthcare in the region and who are role models for

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<sup>1</sup> ASEAN Secretariat Yearbook 2018, Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, December 2018

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.who.int/nmh/ncd-tools/who-regions-south-east-asia/en/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.colleaga.org/article/what-preventive-healthcare>

other women working in and pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

## IV. Funding

The total amount of prize funding available for winners will be \$25,000 and will be provided by UL. The prize administrators anticipate awarding \$20,000 to the first-place winner and \$5,000 to the honorable mention. Separate provisions will be made for travel and lodging expenses as well as meal provisions for the winners to attend a pitch competition on June 2020 during the ASEAN – U.S. Consultation Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation in Lao PDR and awards ceremony will be held on October 2020 during ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI) in Bangkok, Thailand.

## V. Application Requirements

In order to be considered for the Prize, applicants should submit a **completed application form and curriculum vitae (CV)** through online application at: [www.scienceprize4women.asean.org](http://www.scienceprize4women.asean.org). The application form can be downloaded from that website. There is no fixed template for the CV. If you are having any difficulty with the form or have any questions regarding the application, please contact [scienceprize4women@gmail.com](mailto:scienceprize4women@gmail.com).

**Candidates must also provide 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 to [scienceprize4women@gmail.com](mailto:scienceprize4women@gmail.com) by the referees with file name and subject line: Letter of Recommendation for [candidate's name and country of origin]. Letters must be received by **11:59 PM GMT +7 on 31 January 2020**.

**The four documents (application form, CV and two letters of recommendation)** must be presented before the submission deadline for an application to be considered.

## VI. Important Dates

- Deadline of submission **11:59 pm GMT +7 on 31 January 2020**.
- Announcement of National Finalist **20 March 2020**
- Announcement of two Regional Finalists **April 2020**
- Judging Session **June 2020**
- Award Ceremony on **October 2020**

## VII. Review Process

Once the application window has closed, the Prize administrators will review each application to verify that it is complete, and that the applicant meets the basic qualifications for the prize.

The pool of qualified applicants will then be judged through a four-phase process. The evaluation criteria at all stages are the same

### 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 what healthcare is all about, but specifically how her research, technology or business model relates to the prize topic of preventive healthcare. Applicant demonstrates how their work targets one or more of the following goals:
  - Demonstrate activities to prevent and / or minimize the source of disease
  - Create an impact in improving public health or preventing occurrence of disease
  - Show the benefits of preventive healthcare for the communities
  - 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 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 preventive healthcare. **(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 the practice of preventive healthcare strategies. She explains how work specifically targets or thinks about women have been able to become a change agent in this area. **(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 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 implementation of preventive healthcare methods in 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)**

There will be **four phases** to the selection process:

1. Short listing of applicants
2. Selection of the National Finalists
3. Selection of the two Regional Finalists
4. Selection of winner and honorable mention through a head-to-head pitch competition during ASEAN – U.S. Consultation Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation

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

### **A. Short Listing of Applicants**

All submitted documents of eligible applicants will be reviewed against the evaluation criteria above by the ASEAN Secretariat, USAID and UL. Each group will submit its ranking of the applications from each country to the prize administrators. The Prize administrators will then average the ranks to identify the top five applicants for each country. If there is a tie, the relative ranking provided by UL will be used to identify the fifth short-listed candidate.

## **B. Selection of National Finalists**

Each AMS will be asked to review the five short-listed applicants and select its national finalist using the evaluation criteria above. The decision of the AMS is final.

Prize administrators will notify each national finalist of her status by **20 March 2020**. Upon receiving word of her selection, each national finalist will be asked to submit a short video to aid in the final judging committee's decision. National finalists will have **two weeks** 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 national finalists. National finalists will receive further detail of what should be included in their video upon notice of national finalist status.

## **C. Selection of Two Regional Finalists**

The ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI), ASEAN Secretariat, USAID, and UL will then evaluate the submissions of the national finalists to select the two regional finalists. The evaluation criteria will be as set out above. Each country representative from COSTI will be asked to submit their rank ordering of candidates. The ten rankings will be averaged to determine the combined COSTI ranking. The COSTI, ASEAN Secretariat, USAID, and UL rankings will then be averaged to determine the two regional finalists. In case of a tie, the COSTI ranking will be used to determine the second regional finalist.

The two Regional Finalists will be asked to prepare an abstract, resume and presentation material for and to travel to the pitch competition in Lao PDR on June 2020. The two finalists will be notified of their selection and aided in their travel arrangements in early June 2020.

## **D. Selection of Winner and Honorable Mention -- Pitch Competition**

The two Regional Finalists will be invited to attend ASEAN – U.S. Consultation Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation on June 2020 in Lao PDR where they will compete in a head-to-head pitch competition. The pitch will determine the overall winner and honorable mentioned of the prize. The Regional Finalists will be required to give **no more than a five-minute presentation** of their work and answer questions from the judging panel.

The judges at this stage will be the 10 COSTI members as well as single representatives of USAID, UL and the ASEAN Secretariat. Judges will vote one of the two regional finalists based on the quality of the presentations, videos, resume and abstract. The committee will collect and calculate the votes. The highest total vote will become a winner and the other will awarded honorable mention.

## **E. Transfer of Award**

The transfer of the Prize funds will come directly from 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 grants to USAID, the U.S. Mission to ASEAN, ASEAN, UL, and IGNITE 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, 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, that are related to or pertaining to the 2020 ASEAN-US Science Prize for Women.

## **IX. Disclaimers**

- The prize administrators may cancel solicitation and not make an award
- The prize administrators may reject any or all responses received according to the rules above
- Issuance of solicitation does not constitute an award commitment
- The prize administrators reserve the right to disqualify any application based on candidate's failure to follow solicitation instructions
- The prize administrators will not compensate applicants for responding to the solicitation