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| **COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY31st meeting – Geneva, 19-20 September 2017** |  |
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**World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes (2017/2018)**

WSIS Prizes is a unique international contest developed in response to requests from the WSIS stakeholders to create an effective mechanism to evaluate and recognize individuals, governments, civil society, local, regional and international agencies, research institutions and private-sector companies for outstanding success in implementing development oriented strategies that leverage the power of ICTs as an enabler of the development. The WSIS Prizes contest is an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking process ([www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)) set up in 2004 to assist WSIS implementation and follow-up. The contest was held for the first time in 2012, and rapidly gained attention and popularity within the ICT for Development (ICT4D) community and in particular, with the ICT for SDGs community.

Building upon the outcomes of the United Nations General Assembly Overall Review on WSIS as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the WSIS Prizes 2017 reflect close linkages with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The WSIS Prizes contest serves as the platform for identifying and showcasing the success stories across the WSIS Action Lines defined in the Geneva Plan of Action and SDGs. It also provides us with models that can be replicated in the interests of empowering the community at the local level, providing everyone with an opportunity to participate in the contest and, most importantly, recognizing the efforts made by stakeholders to contribute to the development of society and their commitment to achievement of both the WSIS goals and SDGs.

**WSIS Prizes 2017**

Facilitated by ITU in coordination with all WSIS stakeholders, the WSIS Prizes 2017 contest provided a platform to identify and showcase success stories across the WSIS Action Lines defined in the Geneva Plan of Action and Sustainable Development Goals. For the sixth year in a row, the WSIS recognized outstanding success stories from around the world for their part in building an inclusive information society. The 18 winners were presented with awards at the WSIS Prizes 2017 ceremony during WSIS Forum 2017. Additionally, 72 WSIS Prize 2017 Champions (the first four runner-up projects in each category) were recognized during the special ceremony dedicated to their achievements.

The contest comprises 18 categories which are linked to the 11 WSIS Action Lines outlined in the Geneva Plan of Action and SDGs. A record-breaking 1.1 million votes were cast from 30 March to 30 April 2017 in the online voting process that resulted in these 90 exceptional ICT initiatives being selected for the sixth edition of the WSIS Prize contest. Voters selected from a list of 345 ICT success stories nominated through a comprehensive review by the WSIS Prizes Expert Group from 467 submitted projects. And this year, we have 90 champions out of hundreds of projects from all over the world, and 18 winners out of the 90 champions.

The winners of the WSIS Awards along with the champions form a key part of our global and grassroots community engaged in online and community advocacy. Our common objective is to inspire and advance sustainable development through the effective use of ICTs. Please see the list of WSIS Prizes 2017 Winners in Annex 1.

**WSIS Prizes 2018**

ITU is pleased to inform you that we will soon be announcing the imminent launch and official 2017-2018 call for updates and new entries for the seventh edition of the WSIS Prizes contest, via our WSIS Stocktaking platform. All stakeholders benefit from the sharing of interesting case studies, as this undoubtedly facilitates the transfer of knowledge, experiences and models for project implementation. The WSIS Platform helps to create partnerships and to provide greater visibility and add value to ICT projects all around the world.

All stakeholders are urged to encourage their networks to join the WSIS Prizes process, including the multistakeholder open consultation process for the WSIS Forum 2018, in order to ensure that all features correspond to the real needs of the WSIS implementation process towards 2025. Phase one will open the call for submissions to the contest of the WSIS Prize 2017. Starting from **in August 2017**, all stakeholders are invited to submit WSIS related projects to the WSIS Prize 2018 contest. In order to process the submission, stakeholders are requested to complete the submission form for WSIS Prize 2018 online at [www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes).

ICTs are enablers for sustainable development, and reporting on ICT success stories to best showcase the possible achievement of SDGs is the major objective of WSIS Stocktaking process, including WSIS Prizes, as already recognized and anticipated by the WSIS stakeholders community. The contest thus comprises 18 categories which are linked to the 11 WSIS Action Lines outlined in the Geneva Plan of Action and SDGs. Submitted projects are to be recognized solely for the 18 categories covering the 11 WSIS Action Lines.

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| The 18 WSIS categories:1) The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development2) Information and communication infrastructure3) Access to knowledge and information4) Capacity building5) Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs6) Enabling environment7) E-government8) E-business9) E-learning10) E-health11) E-employment12) E-environment13) E-agriculture14) E-science15) Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content16) Media17) Ethical dimension of the information society18) International and regional cooperation | The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhereGoal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agricultureGoal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all agesGoal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for allGoal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girlsGoal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for allGoal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for allGoal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for allGoal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovationGoal 10.Reduce inequality within and among countriesGoal 11.Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainableGoal 12.Ensure sustainable consumption and production patternsGoal 13.Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impactsGoal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable developmentGoal 15.Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity lossGoal 16.Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levelsGoal 17.Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development |

**Schedule for the WSIS Prizes 2018 contest will soon be announced**

The contest of WSIS Prize 2018 is organized in five phases with Submission phase starting in August 2017 and with Online Voting phase ending in February 2018. Final schedule timeline will soon be announced. The eighteen winners and seventy-two champions of the WSIS Prizes will be presented with an award at the **WSIS Forum 2018**. Submitted activities will be reflected in the **WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2018**.

We look forward to receiving your responses in the upcoming period of 2017. Should you have any questions or need for assistance with WSIS Prizes 2018 contest, please do not hesitate to contact the WSIS Team at wsis-prizes@itu.int.

Attached: Annex 1 – list of WSIS Prizes 2017 Winners

**Annex 1**

In line with the inclusive, multi-stakeholder character of the WSIS Process, the WSIS Prizes 2017 recognize the outstanding achievements of a wide range of organizations. This year's 18 Winners, by WSIS Action Line, are:

* Action Line C1 *The role of government and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development*
**Winner**: Adqar's e-safe school online safety, Kalifa Empowerment Program for Students, United Arab Emirates
* Action Line C2 *Information and communication infrastructure*
**Winner**: South-to North water diversion (Eastern route) communication optical cable project for the water resources dispatch and management system, China Communications Technology Co., Ltd., People's Republic of China
* Action Line C3 *Access to information and knowledge*
**Winner**: DAISY-standard accessible reading materials for students with visual and print disabilities, Access to Information (a2i) Programme, Prime Minister's Office, People's Republic of Bangladesh
* Action Line C4 *Capacity building*
**Winner**: Puntos México Conectado Programme, Ministry of Communications and Transportation, Mexico
* Action Line C5 *Building confidence & security in the use of ICTs*
**Winner**: Multimedia distance-learning course on the safe use of Internet resources, A.S. Popov Odessa National Academy of Telecommunications, Ukraine
* Action Line C6 *Enabling environment*
**Winner**:  Egypt's National Program for ICT Accessibility in Education for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Arab Republic of Egypt
* Action Line C7 *E-government*
**Winner**: Rendering of state and municipal services in electronic format, Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation
* Action Line C7 *E-business*
**Winner**: National Trade Platform, Singapore Customs, Republic of Singapore
* Action Line C7 *E-learning*
**Winner**: E-learning and Virtual Classroom System, Kuwait University, State of Kuwait
* Action Line C7 *E-health*
**Winner**: Informed: an innovation, socializing project at the service of Cuban public health; National Information Center for the Medical Sciences, Cuba
* Action Line C7 *E-employment*
**Winner**: Social Network for Health Promoting Hospital, Advanced Info Services, Thailand
* Action Line C7 E-environment
**Winner**: Greenmap Belarus, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Republic of Belarus
* Action Line C7 *E-agriculture*
**Winner**: Electronic Application System, Rural Support Service, Republic of Latvia
* Action Line C7 *E-science*
**Winner**: Communication Technology and Networking for Development, World Science Project, Ghana
* Action Line C8 *Cultural diversity & identity, linguistic diversity*
**Winner**:  Turkcell "Hello, Hello" Mobile App for Integration of Syrian Refugees, Turkcell, Turkey
* Action Line C9 *Media*
**Winner**: Agribusiness TV, MediaProd, Burkina Faso
* Action Line C10 *Ethical dimensions of the Information Society*
**Winner**: Internet Sehat (Internet Healthy) Towards Indonesian Information Society, ICT Watch – Indonesia, Republic of Indonesia
* Action Line C11 *International & regional cooperation*
**Winner**: African School on Internet Governance, Association for Progressive Communications, Republic of South Africa

Detailed descriptions of all WSIS Prizes 2017 winning projects are available at: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/prizes/2017/>