

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P.O. Box 3243 Telephone +251 11 5517700 Fax :+ 251 11 5517844 Web site: www.africa-union.org

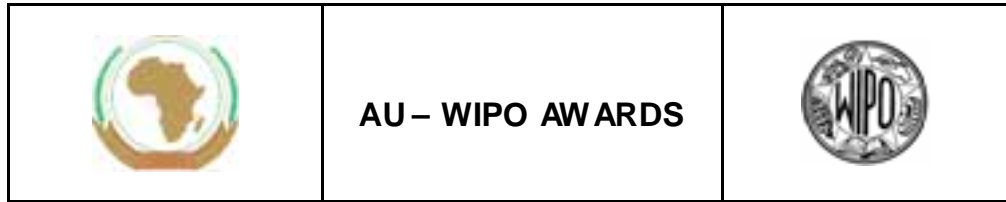
**AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AMCOST III)
THIRD ORDINARY SESSION
12 - 16 NOVEMBER 2007
MOMBASA, REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

AU/EXP/ST/14(III)

AFRICAN UNION SCIENTIFIC AWARD

DOCUMENT I

**CONCEPT NOTE FOR
AU-WIPO INVENTION AND INNOVATION AWARDS PROGRAMME**



1. INTRODUCTION

The AU-WIPO Awards Programme is an initiative of the Africa Union (AU) Commission and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). It is a leading continental award in Africa, honoring the scientists and technologists whose efforts are towards addressing critical problems in Africa using scientific solutions. The award was created by the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) Council of Ministers based on resolution CM/Res.1324 (LIII) as a biennial prize for the best African Inventor/Innovator in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

The objective is to reward inventions that address critical problems in Africa, such as those in the fields of food technology, health care, water supply/sanitation and energy. Inventions clearly identified as serving military purposes will not be eligible for the AU-WIPO Awards. The AU-WIPO Award competitions have been running since 1988 and the ceremony has been always taking place during the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government.

As a result of the transformation of the OAU to AU, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization in May 2006 re-launched the "AU-WIPO Invention and Innovation Awards Programme" to encourage the creative talent of African scientists, inventors, researchers and innovators and give them due recognition.

There are four categories of the awards as highlighted in section 2.3.

The Africa Union Commission and the World Intellectual Property Organization through the Ministers of Science and Technology hereby invite African scientists and technologists to participate in the award and be honored for the solutions of African problems they are developing.

This Award programme will help to identify the best technical solution proposed by African inventors and innovators and to draw attention of industrialist, planning and development authorities, and public at large, to original African Technology and Innovative solutions. It will play a critical role in sensitizing policy-makers, entrepreneurs, researcher and development organizations and the private sector

about the importance of inventions, innovations and the Intellectual property system as tools for economic and social development for the African Member States.

2. Rules and Regulations

2.1 Eligibility

Only nationals of the African Union (AU) Member States are eligible for the award and the Ministries responsible of Science and Technology should submit their nominations to the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology not later than 1st September for each odd year.

For the 2006/2007 editions Nominations should be submitted not later than 1st September 2007 to enable the Commission to prepare for the award ceremony during the 2008 January Summit of Heads of State and Government.

2.2 Fields of Award

- (a) Food Technology,
- (b) Health-care,
- (c) Water supply/sanitation and
- (d) Energy.

Inventions clearly identified as serving military purposes will not be eligible for the AU-WIPO Awards.

The fields of technology will be decided by the AU and WIPO Secretariats, based on the economic and technological development priorities of the African countries.

Significance or importance of the proposed invention should address problems, which are experienced not only locally but in Africa as whole.

2.3 Categories of the Awards

- ii. WIPO-AFRICAN UNION INVENTION AWARD OUTSTANDING INVENTION
- iii. WIPO-AFRICAN UNION INVENTION AWARD WOMAN INVENTOR
- iv. WIPO-AFRICAN UNION INVENTION AWARD YOUNG INVENTOR (UNDER 25 YEARS)
- v. WIPO-AFRICAN UNION INVENTION AWARD INDIGENOUS BASED TECHNOLOGY

2.4 Awards

The AU-WIPO Invention and Innovation Awards consist of a Medals and certificates
The following cash prize will accompany the awards:

- i. Best invention (over all)10,000 Euro;
- ii. Best invention by a woman inventor..... 5,000 Euro;
- iii. Best invention by a young inventor 5,000 Euro;
- iv. Best technology invention based on indigenous knowledge...5,000 Euro.

There will be a total of three AU-WIPO special medals for each category, please visit the AU Official Website for update. A certificate co-signed by the Chairperson of the African Union and the Director General of WIPO will accompany each medal. The form and contents of the certificate will be agreed upon by the secretariats of the AU and WIPO.

3. Award Ceremony

The international award ceremony will take place biennially, on a date and place to be determined by the AU.

4. Submissions

- a) National Selection committees of the Member States will submit nominations for the AU-WIPO Invention and Innovation Awards, 1st September of each odd year. A Technical meeting will be organized by the AU in cooperation with WIPO and interested countries and partners to build capacity of a core of members of the National Selection Committees, including representatives of the Associations of Inventors if it is needed.
- b) Each country's National selection Committee shall submit up to **eight** nominations in one or more fields of technology specified in 2.2 above, including up to **four** nominations for the different categories specified in 2.3 above.
- (c) Address for submissions:

The Commission of the African Union
Department of Human Resources Science and Technology
The Secretariat of the AU-WIPO Award
P.O. Box 3243
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Fax: (251-11) 5505928 or (251-11) 5517844
Email: hamdya@africa-union.org, hambanim@africa-union.org

- (d) Each nomination should be submitted with a nomination form that is available on the AU website, duly completed and with all the necessary attachments, including an abstract in one of the AU official languages.
- (e) Deadline for submission of nominations: 1st September of each odd year.

5. Selection

- (a) The AU Commission- HRST Department will form a pre-selection Committee to examine the submitted proposals subject to their formal compliance with the objectives and criteria of the Award scheme (e.g. completeness of information provided, subject matter, etc.) and select the proposals to be sent to the International Jury. The pre-selection will be completed by the end of September (each odd year).
- (b) To facilitate the work of the Jury and to expedite the selection process, the secretariat shall summarize each of the pre-selected submissions and send the information by e-mail or fax to the members of the Jury, by October (each odd year).
- (c) The summary information shall comprise the following:
- The country of origin of the inventor;
 - The title of the invention;
 - Abstract of the description;
 - Copy of the first page of the patent document(s);
 - Copy of the state-of-the-art search report
 - Conclusions and recommendations of the National selection committee.

6. Jury

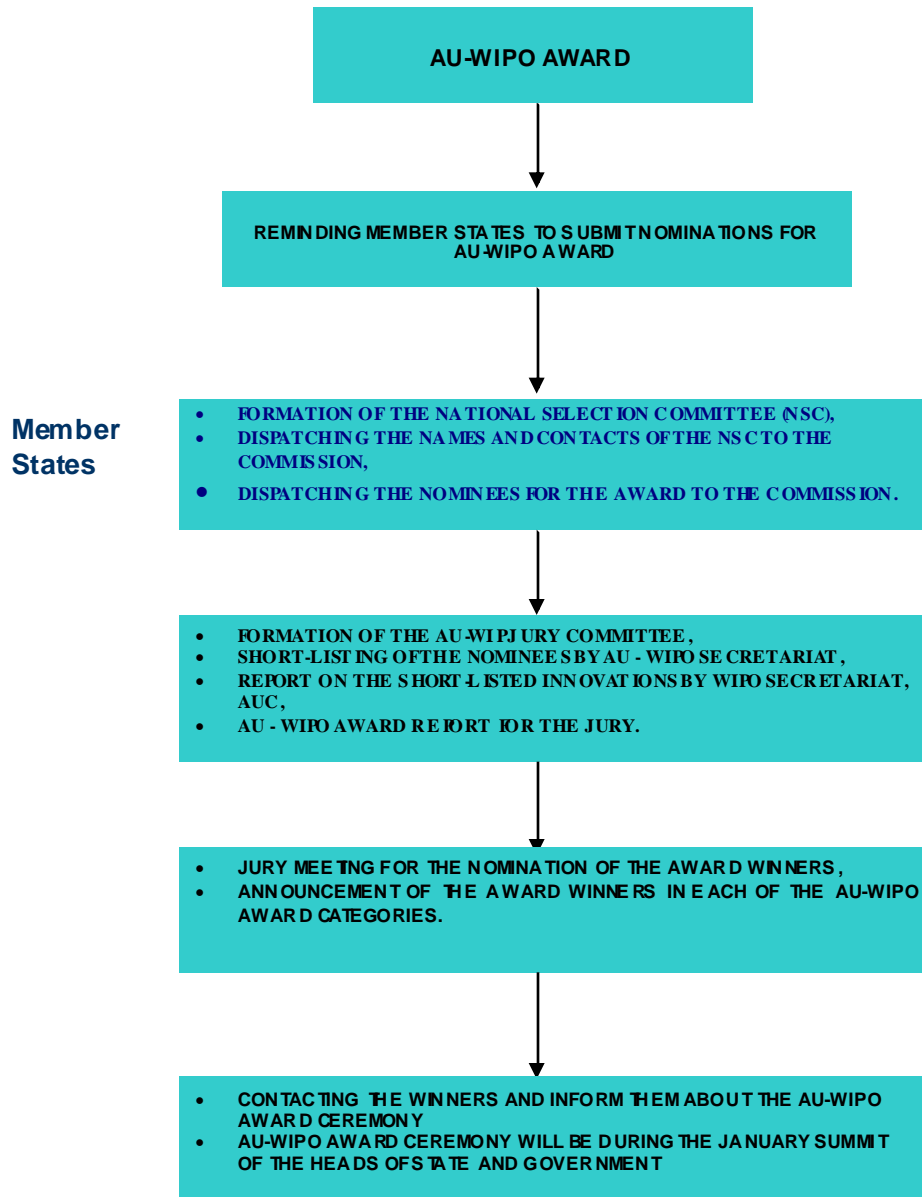
- (a) The Jury will be headed by the Commissioner of Human Resources Sciences & Technology of the African Union commission and will be composed of five to seven personalities agreed upon by the AU and WIPO, who are knowledgeable about intellectual property and are well known experts in various domains such as agriculture, energy, industry, health care.

- (b) The African Union staff will provide the Secretariat of the Selection Committee.
- (c) International Jury will meet for a period of four days at **a date and venue to be determined** and will establish its operational rules on the basis of "Selection Criteria for the AU-WIPO Invention and Innovation Awards".
- (d) Within two weeks of its meeting, the International Jury will submit its final decision to the Chairperson of the AU and the Director General of WIPO.

7. Communication

- The AU will remind the Member States to submit their nominations to the Commission no later than 1st September of each odd year. (The Commission has sent about 3 note verbales requesting for nominations and only six out of fifty-three Member States responded).
- Member States should send the full contact details of National Selection Committee to enable communication between the Communication and the NSC.

6. PROCEDURE



Document II

**CONCEPT NOTE FOR
AFRICAN UNION BEST SCIENTIST AWARDS PROGRAMME**

1. INTRODUCTION

The importance of science and technology in addressing socio-economic problems in Africa such as diseases, water sanitation, infrastructure development etc has long been recognized, even at the inception of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1964. The transformation of the OAU into the African Union (AU) was accompanied by the setting up of a Commission with specific departments charged with responsibilities for driving development in particular sectors.

The Department of Human Resources Science and Technology, which works with a specialized technical committee of Ministers Conference of Science and Technology (AMCOST) is mandated to facilitate and support the development and harmonization of science and technology policies for Africa's socio-economic development.

The Department has initiated several programmes to raise community awareness of the central role that science and technology play in the pursuit of national economic and social goals. These programmes include science and technology day that is observed and celebrated in AU Member States on 30 June every year, the AU-WIPO Award and African Union Best Scientist Award.

The First African Congress of Scientists and Policymaker in 2006, called upon Africa to "grow and sustain its human capital" in science and technology. They proposed a variety of campaigns and activities that are important in building a technologically literate society. Such activities include science and technology olympiads and awards, popularisation through print and electronic media and national science and technology weeks. African Union Best Scientist Awards Programme is aimed at raising the profile of science and technology sector in AU Member States, promote public awareness of the importance of science and technology and build a scientific culture amongst our citizens.

The January 2007 Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government took a decision to declare 2007 as the launching year for building constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa, Assembly/AU/Dec. 161 (VIII). Member States therefore need to quickly mobilize their scientific resources to initiate programmes that will promote access to science and technology by all, strengthen research capacities and increase the use and generation of scientific knowledge for the development of the continent.

The African Best Scientist Award (ABSA) is designed to honor Africa's scientists in order to encourage the science community and the public to participate in scientific engagements towards addressing critical problems in Africa and raise awareness in science and technology.

2. Rules and Regulations

2.1 Eligibility

Only pioneer African scientists whose nations are Member States of the African Union are eligible to apply for the African Best Scientist Award.

2.2 Fields of Award

The African Best Scientist Award will be awarded to one African scientist who has remarkable achievements as demonstrated by number of publications, number of research graduate students, applicability of the scientific work to Africa's challenges, and its patentability. The following scientific fields will be considered:

- Agriculture,
- Astronomy,
- Chemical Engineering,
- Civil Engineering,
- Communication Technology,
- Medical Sciences,
- Physical Engineering and Material Sciences,
- Traditional and Renewable Energies, etc.

The Award committee will choose one of the above-mentioned fields and will announce this field to the AU Member States six months ahead of the nomination date.

For the 2007 Edition: Field to be decided by the Steering Committee.

2.3 Award

The African Best scientific Award will consist of a Medal, Certificate and forty thousand dollars (USD40, 000), cash prize.

2.4 Nomination for the Award

The nominations for the award should be submitted to the African Union Commission through a National Selection Committee, which is composed of professionals from the academies of science, universities, and the Ministry of Science, and Technology of the Member State. Each Member State is requested to submit only one nomination (the country's best scientist)

Applications, not supported by their National Selection Committees, will not be considered. The nomination forms are annexed.

2.5 Procedure for the Award

An Award Committee proposed to be headed by the Commissioner of Human Resources Science and Technology, a professional in the award-selected field, and five other members representing the five AU regions.

The Division of Science & Technology and ICT of the Human Resource Science and Technology Department will short-list the nominations.

The Awards Committee will nominate the awarded scientist one-month after receiving the shortlist. The Awarded scientist will be informed one-month prior to the Award ceremony.

The National Selection Committees should submit their nominations in English and/or French.

3. Award Ceremony

The African Best Scientists Award ceremony will take place annually, on a date and place to be determined by the AU.

4. PROCEDURE

