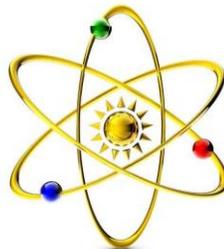




Republic of Namibia

NOMINATION GUIDE

2015



NCRST
NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON RESEARCH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

National Research, Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation Awards

Nomination Guide for National Research, Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation Awards

“Towards a People Centered Knowledge-based Industrialized Economy”



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Definitions of keywords

For the purpose of the National Research, Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation Awards, experts and disciplines are defined as follows:

1. Experts

- Scientist :** A person having expert knowledge in one of the following sciences:
- natural sciences (e.g. astronomy, chemistry, physics, geology etc.)
 - life sciences (e.g. biology, zoology, botany, genetics, biotechnology etc.)
 - applied and engineering sciences (applied mathematics, archeology, computing technology, electronics etc.)
- Natural Scientist:** A person who is an expert in one or more of the Natural sciences.
- Life Scientist:** A person who is an expert in one or more of the Life sciences.
- Physical Scientist:** A person who has expert knowledge in one or more of the Physical sciences.
- Mathematics and Science Teacher:** Person whose occupation is teaching mathematics and science at school level (Grade 1 – 12).
- Social Scientist:** A person who has expert knowledge in human society and its personal relationships. These contemporary fields of science comprise academic fields such as anthropology, communication studies, economics, human geography, history, political science, psychology, sociology, archaeology, cultural studies, demography, linguistics, media studies, social work etc.
- Engineer:** A person who is trained or professionally engaged in acquiring and applying technical, scientific and mathematical knowledge to design and implement materials, structures, machines, devices, systems, and processes that safely realize a desired objective or inventions.
- Researcher:** A scientist who devotes $\pm 70\%$ of his/her time to do research.

Health practitioner: A person who is a practitioner in one of the health professions, e.g. Acupuncture, Biokinetics, Chiropractic, Dietetics, Occupational therapy, Physiotherapy, Psychiatry, Psychology, Psychometry, Radiology, Speech Therapy, etc.

Medical practitioner: A person who practices or specializes in medicine or chemistry.

Geologist: A person who studies the solid and liquid matter that constitutes the Earth and terrestrial planets.

Environmentalist: A person concerned with or advocates the protection and preservation of the natural environment.

Conservationist: A person who advocates the conservation of natural resources of a country or region.

Research Organization: An organization that devotes itself to doing research.

2. Disciplines

Science: The intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment. A systematically organized body of the knowledge on any subject.

Natural sciences: The sciences concerned with the study of the physical world, e.g. Physics, Chemistry, Geology and Biology.

Life sciences: The science concerned with the study of living organisms, including Biology, Botany, Zoology, Molecular Biology and related subjects.

Physical sciences: The sciences concerned with the study of inanimate (non-living) natural objects, e.g. Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Geography and Astronomy.

- Social sciences:** The sciences concerned with the scientific study of human society and social relationships, including anthropology, communication studies, economics, human geography, history, political science, psychology, sociology, archaeology, cultural studies, demography, linguistics, media studies, social work etc.
- Engineering:** The branch of science and technology concerned with the design, building and use of engines, machines, structures, etc.; the science, discipline, art and profession of acquiring and applying technical, scientific and mathematical knowledge to design and implement materials, structures, machines, devices, systems, and processes that safely realize a desired objective or inventions.
- Research:** The systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.
- Geology:** The science concerned with the study of the physical structure and substance of the earth.
- Geography:** The science concerned with the study of the physical features of the earth and of human activity as it relates to these; the relative arrangement of places and physical features.
- Environmental science:** The science concerned with the study of the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plant lives or operate and the relations between organisms and their environment.
- Conservation:** The preservation or restoration of the natural environment and wildlife, preservation and repair of archaeological, historical and cultural sites and artifacts.

1. Eligibility

In order to be eligible for an award, candidates should meet the following criteria.

- ✦ Nominees must be citizens or permanent residents of the Republic of Namibia.
- ✦ Nominees should not be part of the screening, selection process and final approval process.
- ✦ Posthumous nominations are not accepted.
- ✦ An organization (GRN, NGO, private) that has made a major contribution to Science in Namibia in the past five years.
- ✦ An organizational programme or project dealing with awareness and popularization of science that has made a major contribution Science and Technology in Namibia.
- ✦ Be top achievers in the Science, Technology and Engineering subjects both at Secondary and Tertiary levels.
- ✦ Recipients of previous award ceremonies may be renominated for awards in other categories, but are ineligible for an award in the category they already received an award for. The premise is that a nomination is for work done for a specific period of time, only once.
- ✦ Unsuccessful nominees may be renominated in a subsequent year.

If no suitable candidate is found for a particular award then this award will not be conferred for that particular period.

2. Nominations

Applicants can nominate themselves or be nominated. Nominees must provide contact details of two referees (this should include at least one endorsement from nominee's professional organization and/or tertiary institution). In the case of an organization/unit the endorsement should be from the Head of the organization/unit) who has to endorse their statements. In addition to the latter, if nominated by himself/herself or direct family, then the referees

should not be related.

2.1 Renomination

Recipients of previous award ceremonies may be renominated for awards in other categories, but are ineligible for an award in the category they already received an award for. The premise is that a nomination is for work done for a specific period of time, only once. Unsuccessful nominees may be renominated in a subsequent year. In all cases, complete and updated nomination packages must be submitted.

2.2 Submission

Once the nominee has been identified the nominator must submit a nomination package based on the guidelines and format/checklist provided.

2.2.1 Nomination package guidelines

- ✚ The nomination form (annexed A) must be completed.
- ✚ The nomination criteria for the particular award should be followed and adequate details and evidence for each must be provided.
- ✚ Supporting documents accompanying the nominations include the following:
 - ❖ Curriculum Vitae (CV)
 - ❖ Letter of motivation
 - ❖ 2 letters of recommendation
 - ❖ A booklet, or a manuscript (optional)
- ✚ Institutions should complete the nomination in the Performance Category. (In this category the academic performance of the individual is very important therefore the institution should fill in the nomination because it is easy for them to determine the top performer in each of these categories.)
- ✚ The nomination form should be signed by the nominee, the nominator and two referees who have to endorse the statements of the nominee.
- ✚ Before the nomination is submitted, the checklist provided should be completed

and signed.

A nomination form can be found in annex A.

3. Categories and Criteria for each category

The awards are grouped under the following three categories:

1. Overall Categories
2. Functional Categories
3. Performance Categories

3.1 Overall Categories

The Awards in this Category recognizes individuals or an institution that has made outstanding contributions to Research, Science, Technology and Engineering in Namibia.

3.1.1 Scientist of the year:

This is a nominee to have made a major contribution to Research, Science, Technology and Engineering in Namibia. The person will have contributed a combination of the following:

- ❖ Produced a significant number of high quality internationally recognized and referenced research papers, books and/or articles.
- ❖ Developed an outstanding scientific capacity of Namibia.
- ❖ Brought scientific recognition to Namibia through international prize, awards or achievements.
- ❖ Recognized internationally for an invention or innovation in science.
- ❖ Made an individual contribution to the improvement of the livelihood of the Namibian people, through patents or through projects solving major community development challenges.

- ❖ Promoted Science and Technology through talks and presentations.
- ❖ Recognized for innovations or inventions or patents both nationally and internationally.

3.1.2 Upcoming Young Scientist of the year:

This award will be given to a person under the age of 30 years, working in the field of research, science, technology and engineering. They will be assessed on their outputs that could include:

- ❖ Produced a significant number of high quality internationally recognized and referenced research papers, books and/or articles.
- ❖ Developed an outstanding scientific capacity of Namibia.
- ❖ Brought scientific recognition to Namibia through international prizes, awards or achievements.
- ❖ Recognized internationally for an invention or innovation in science.
- ❖ Made an individual contribution to the improvement of the livelihood of the Namibian people, through patents or through projects solving major community development challenges.
- ❖ Promoted Science and Technology through talks and presentations.
- ❖ Recognized for innovations or inventions or patents both nationally and internationally.

3.1.3 Research Organization/ Unit of the year:

(Unit refers to a division, department or directorate within an institution.)

This will be an organization/unit (GRN, NGO, private) recognized to have made a major contribution to Science in Namibia, by achieving the following:

- ❖ Produced a significant number of high quality internationally recognized and referenced research papers, books and/or articles.
- ❖ Registered patents and/or spin offs from their research outputs.
- ❖ Developed an outstanding scientific capacity of Namibia, through developing

strong internship or staff development or educational programmes.

- ❖ Brought scientific recognition to Namibia through international prizes, awards or achievements.

3.1.4 Best awareness and popularization initiative of the year:

This will be an organizational programme or project dealing with awareness and popularization of science, recognized to have made a major contribution to Science in Namibia:

- ❖ National relevance and educational significance of programme.
- ❖ Recognizable impact or possible impact of programme on target audience.
- ❖ Good/ Large number of reached populace, including coverage of political regions.
- ❖ Wide national visibility and coverage of the programme.
- ❖ International recognition of the programme through awards and prizes.

3.2 Functional Categories

This category is targeting scientific disciplines/functional areas that are viewed to be of strategic development interest to Namibia, and is attempting to promote excellence in that particular field. The categories are:

3.2.1 Best Engineer of the year

3.2.2 Best Researcher of the year

3.2.3 Best Geologist of the year

3.2.4 Best Environmentalist/Conservationist of the year

3.2.5 Best Medical/Health Practitioner of the year

3.2.6 Best Physical Scientist (Assessing the strategic areas concerned with the social development of Namibia and include the following; Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy, etc.)

3.2.7 Best Life Scientist (Assessing the strategic areas concerned with the social development of Namibia and include the following; Biology,

Biochemistry, Microbiology, etc)

3.2.8 Best Science Lecture of the year

3.2.9 Best Mathematics and Science Teacher of the year

3.2.10 Best Science Journalist of the year

Factors including the level of development of a particular category and significance of development, etc. will be used to add or remove categories. Candidates for these categories (excluding Best Mathematics and Science Teacher of the year and Best Science Journalist of the Year) must fulfill the following selection criteria in the specific field:

- ❖ Produced a significant number of high quality internationally recognized designs, technological processes, field reports or referenced research papers, books and/or articles.
- ❖ Developed an outstanding scientific capacity of Namibia.
- ❖ Brought scientific recognition to Namibia through international prizes, awards or achievements.
- ❖ Recognized internationally for an invention or innovation in science.
- ❖ Made an individual contribution to the improvement of the livelihood of the Namibian people, through patents or through projects solving major community development challenges.
- ❖ Promoted Science and Technology through talks and presentations.
- ❖ Recognized for innovations or inventions or patents both nationally and internationally.

Best Mathematics & Science Teacher of the year

A teacher recognized as bringing dedication, enthusiasm, and good communication of science to students resulting in an increase of interest in mathematics and science and improvement of performance in mathematics and science. Outputs used to help select winners will include:

- ❖ Must teach mathematics or science at grade 1 – 12 level at a public or private

school.

- ❖ Demonstrate how your teaching has engaged and inspired
 - learners,
 - colleagues,
 - and the wider learning community.
- ❖ Examples of materials and papers produced by the teacher.
- ❖ Innovation of teacher and resulting in innovation of learners.
- ❖ Overall Performance of learners over a period of 3 years in a specific phase e.g. primary.
- ❖ Performance assessment report by the Principal and/ or Head of Department.
- ❖ Other extra-curricular activities that stimulates the interest in science.
- ❖ Examples of impact made to the development of mathematics or science education.
- ❖ Progress made by teacher in his/her own learning and development in the field of mathematics or science.

Best Science Journalist of the year

The award seeks to recognize creative and excellent science journalism by an individual. Outputs used to help select winners will include:

- ❖ Examples of scripts, photos and articles produced by the journalist.
- ❖ Details of how the content was used in the media.
- ❖ Performance assessment report by the Editor.
- ❖ Other material and media used which stimulated interest in science in the community.
- ❖ Resources used by the journalist.

3.3 Performance Categories

The Awards in this Category recognizes individuals that have outstanding academic performance in Research, Science, Technology and Engineering in Namibia.

3.3.1 Top performer vocational training

Top performer in the final year at Vocational Training level.

3.3.2 Top student performer/achiever at tertiary level (Science and Engineering/ Technology)

Top performer in the final year in 1. Science and 2. Engineering/ Technology at Tertiary Education Level (University and Polytechnic). Only science, engineering and technology courses will be considered.

3.3.3 Top science student teacher

Top science student teacher at College level in his/her final year.

The selection criteria for above-mentioned awards will be:

- ❖ Performance and commitment.
- ❖ Academic performance.
- ❖ Talks and/or presentations given.

3.3.4 Top performer in Grade 10 per region

Learners with the highest average in all the science subjects. The selection criteria will be:

- ❖ Academic performance in Grade 10 Junior Secondary Certificate Examination.
- ❖ The science average is obtained from the following subjects: Mathematics, Life Science and Physical Science.

3.3.5 National Young Scientist Competition

The 10 top gold prize winners from the National Young Scientist Competition will be awarded under this category.

4. Communication

Once the Selection Committee and the Commission through Cabinet has chosen the different awardees, the Secretariat will inform the awardees and make the necessary arrangements with them to attend the Ceremony.