



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD
104th Session
Provisional agenda item 7

EB104/8
12 May 1999

Administration and award of foundation prizes and fellowships

Report by the Secretariat

BACKGROUND

1. The Director-General is the administrator of 12 foundation prizes and fellowships (the main features and characteristics of the various awards are given in the Annex). These foundations have generally been founded by, or set up in memory of, eminent health personalities. The Darling Foundation Prize and the Léon Bernard Foundation Prize are both a legacy of the League of Nations, whereas the others have been created since the establishment of WHO. Although the Darling Foundation and the Jacques Parisot Foundation are administered by the Director-General, they were both established under the laws of Switzerland. With the exception of the Francesco Pocchiari Fellowship, the procedure for the award of prizes is similar. Any national health authority or a previous laureate can nominate a candidate for a prize.

2. As part of the effort to reflect priorities in the expenditure related to the governing bodies, the procedure for the administration of the prizes is kept under continuous review. In addition, at the 103rd session of the Executive Board, a member of the Board expressed concern at the cost of managing the prizes in general. It was recalled that options had been reviewed at previous sessions of the Board and that the Board had adopted decisions EB95(9) and EB100(10), both of which called for rationalizing the administration of awards. Clarification was requested as to the status of implementation of the Board's decisions.

3. Decision EB95(9) in effect reduced the periodicity of one of the awards (Léon Bernard Foundation Prize), transferred administrative responsibility for one award to a regional office (Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize), and recommended that 13% for programme support costs should be assessed on the amount of two of the awards (Sasakawa Health Prize and United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize). The decision also requested the Director-General to revise administrative procedures where possible and to continue to study the modalities for administration and award of foundation prizes and fellowships with a view to eliminating direct costs to the Organization.

4. In accordance with decision EB95(9), the Director-General decided to modify certain administrative procedures and reported these modifications to the Board at its 100th session.¹ In addition, the Director-General proposed to the Board revision of the statutes or regulations of the foundations with respect to the composition of the foundation committees in order to reduce administrative costs related to numerous formal meetings held during the January session of the Executive Board. At that time, each foundation committee

¹ Document EB100/11.

had five to seven members, who differed according to the foundation. The Board accepted the Director-General's proposals and in decision EB100(10) recommended a change in the statutes or regulations of the foundations to replace the foundation committees by a "selection panel" comprising two members, or, in one case, four members.

5. The Jacques Parisot Foundation Committee, Sasakawa Health Prize Committee, and United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Committee have subsequently revised their statutes or regulations to establish selection panels composed of two or three members. The Darling Foundation Committee and Léon Bernard Foundation Committee decided not to revise their statutes or regulations and thus maintain committees composed of five members. The Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Committee decided to change their statutes to replace the Committee with a selection panel and to reduce the number of members from seven to five.

6. The statutes or regulations of the foundations specify that the presentation of the awards should be made during the Health Assembly. In decision EB100(10), the Board recommended that the awards which are the administrative responsibility of the regions should be presented at regional committees. The Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize and Fellowship are now presented at a meeting at the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean. The Board's recommendation that the Dr Comlan A.A. Quenum Prize for Public Health in Africa should be presented at a meeting at the Regional Committee for Africa has not yet been acted upon by the prize committee.

ISSUES

7. Organization of foundation selection panel and committee meetings during the January session of the Board continues to be a burden which is lessened considerably when the numbers of members of each selection panel or committee is reduced. It is therefore proposed that the Board should request the foundation committees or selection panels which decided not to accept the Board's earlier recommendations, in full or in part, to reconsider reducing, or further reducing the number of members.

8. Despite reduction in the size of the selection panels or committees there is still significant administrative cost attached to soliciting and reviewing candidatures for the awards, assessing technically the candidatures, organizing meetings of the selection panels or committees, and making arrangements for the ceremony at the Health Assembly. These costs are not relative to the size of the award. Therefore, it is proposed that the Board should consider recommending the committees to agree that 13% for programme support costs should be assessed on the amounts awarded by all foundations, even those granting small amounts. Only the Sasakawa Health Prize and the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize are currently being assessed for support costs.

9. A summary of the above proposals is given in the Annex.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

10. Subject to any additional action that may be required under Swiss law for the Darling Foundation and the Jacques Parisot Foundation, the regulations or statutes of the other awards may be modified by a decision of their respective committees. Therefore, the Board may wish to recommend to the respective committees that they should take such steps as are necessary to amend their respective regulations so as to:

- (1) replace the foundation committees by selection panels composed of up to three members (the membership of which is indicated in the Annex);
- (2) recommend that 13% for programme support costs should be assessed on the amounts awarded by the Darling Foundation Prize, the Léon Bernard Foundation Prize, Jacques Parisot Foundation Fellowship, Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation and Francesco Pocchiari Fellowship to help cover the cost of administering the prizes.

ANNEX

**SUMMARY OF MODALITIES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF AWARDS
AND PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS**

Award	Membership of committee/ selection panel and secretary	Selection made by	Amount, frequency and method of award	Proposed modification
<p>Darling Foundation Prize for outstanding achievements in the pathology, etiology, epidemiology, therapy, prophylaxis or control of malaria</p> <p>Established: 1948 in WHO, but earlier in the League of Nations</p> <p>Capital: Sw.fr. 10 000</p>	<p>Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Executive Board; Chairman of the Expert Committee on Malaria</p> <p>Secretary: Director-General</p>	Executive Board	<p>Sw.fr. 1000 and a bronze medal, awarded when the interest amounts to a sufficient sum</p> <p>Ceremony at Health Assembly</p> <p>The Executive Board, at its previous session, approved the increase of the amount of the Prize from Sw.fr. 1000 to Sw.fr. 2500. This revision, however, is subject to approval and any other action required under Swiss law.</p>	<p>Replace Committee by selection panel: Chairman of the Executive Board; one Vice-Chairman; Chairman of the Expert Committee on Malaria</p> <p>Assess support costs (13% of award) to help cover cost of administration</p>
<p>Léon Bernard Foundation Prize for outstanding service in the field of social medicine</p> <p>Established: 1948</p> <p>Capital: Sw.fr. 19 000</p>	<p>Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Executive Board; member of the Board</p> <p>Secretary: Director-General</p>	Executive Board	<p>Sw.fr. 2500 and a bronze medal, awarded when the interest amounts to a sufficient sum (in practice biennially, in odd years)</p> <p>Ceremony at Health Assembly</p>	<p>Replace Committee by selection panel: Chairman of the Executive Board; one Vice-Chairman; member of the Board</p> <p>Assess support costs (13% of award) to help cover cost of administration</p>

Award	Membership of committee/ selection panel and secretary	Selection made by	Amount, frequency and method of award	Proposed modification
<p>Dr A. T. Shousha Foundation Prize for the most significant contribution to any health problem in the geographical area in which Dr A. T. Shousha served the World Health Organization</p> <p>Established: 1966</p> <p>Capital: US\$ 60 816 Prize and Fellowship</p>	<p>Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean; Chairman of the Regional Committee Technical Discussions</p> <p>Secretary: Regional Director</p>	Executive Board	<p>Sw.fr. 2500 and a bronze medal, awarded when the interest amounts to a sufficient sum (in practice every year)</p> <p>Ceremony at Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean</p>	
<p>Dr A. T. Shousha Foundation Fellowship to enable the fellow to obtain a postgraduate diploma or a master's degree in public health</p> <p>Established: 1966</p>	As for Prize	Executive Board	<p>US\$ 15 000, awarded whenever accumulated interest in excess of that required for the award of the Prize is sufficient (in principle approximately every six years)</p> <p>Letter to laureate</p>	

Award	Membership of committee/ selection panel and secretary	Selection made by	Amount, frequency and method of award	Proposed modification
<p>Jacques Parisot Foundation Fellowship for research in social medicine or public health</p> <p>Established: 1969</p> <p>Capital: Sw.fr. 100 000</p>	<p>Committee: Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Executive Board; member of the Board</p> <p>Selection panel: Chairman of the Executive Board; member of the Foundation Committee</p> <p>Secretary: Director-General</p> <p>The Foundation Committee decided that a selection panel be established, not in replacement of the Foundation Committee, but in addition to it. The role of the selection panel is to make a recommendation to the Executive Board regarding the choice of a candidate for the Fellowship. The Foundation Committee retains its other functions not relating to the selection of a candidate for the Fellowship. This decision was made in the light of the strict conditions imposed by the Swiss Civil Code - by which the Jacques Parisot Foundation</p>	<p>Executive Board</p>	<p>US\$ 5000 and a bronze medal, awarded every two years (even years) (regional offices are invited in turn to submit candidatures)</p> <p>Letter to laureate. The following year the laureate is invited to present the results of his/her research before the Health Assembly and to receive the medal</p>	<p>Assess support costs (13% of award) to help cover cost of administration</p>

Award	Membership of committee/ selection panel and secretary	Selection made by	Amount, frequency and method of award	Proposed modification
<p>Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Prize for service in the field of family health (formerly Child Health Foundation)</p> <p>Established: 1980</p> <p>Capital: US\$ 400 000 for the Prize and Fellowship</p>	<p>Chairman of the Executive Board; one Vice-Chairman; a representative of the International Pediatric Association; a representative of the Turkish and International Children's Centre, Ankara; President of Bilkent University or his/her appointee</p> <p>(Technical assessment by the Secretariat)</p> <p>Secretary: Director-General</p>	Executive Board	<p>US\$ 20 000 and a bronze medal, awarded every two years (odd years)</p> <p>Ceremony at Health Assembly</p>	<p>Reduce membership of selection panel to three (e.g. Chairman of the Executive Board, a representative of the International Pediatric Association, a representative appointed by the Founder)</p> <p>Assess support costs (13% of award) to help cover cost of administration</p>
<p>Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Fellowship for research in family health (formerly Child Health Foundation)</p> <p>Established: 1980</p>	As for Prize	Executive Board	<p>US\$ 10 000 awarded every two years (odd years)</p> <p>Letter to laureate</p>	As for Prize

Award	Membership of committee/ selection panel and secretary	Selection made by	Amount, frequency and method of award	Proposed modification
<p>Sasakawa Health Prize for innovative work in health development, in order to encourage the further development of such work</p> <p>Established: 1984</p> <p>Capital: US\$ 1 million (invested by Sasakawa Health Foundation)</p>	<p>Chairman of the Executive Board; a member of the Board; a representative appointed by the Founder</p> <p>(Technical assessment by the Secretariat)</p> <p>Secretary: Director-General</p>	<p>Executive Board</p>	<p>US\$ 100 000, awarded annually in principle (generally shared between two or three individuals and/or institutions) and a crystal statuette. The exact sum of money for each laureate is determined by the Prize Committee</p> <p>Support costs assessed (13% of award) to help cover cost of administration</p> <p>Ceremony at Health Assembly</p>	
<p>Dr Comlan A. A. Quenum Prize for Public Health in Africa for the most significant contribution to any health problem in the geographical area in which Dr Comlan A. A. Quenum served the World Health Organization</p> <p>Established: 1987</p> <p>Capital: CFA 1 400 000</p>	<p>Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Programme Sub-Committee of the Regional Committee for Africa; two representatives of the African Advisory Committee for Health Development</p>	<p>Programme Sub-Committee of the Regional Committee for Africa. In case of non-agreement on the choice of candidate, the matter is referred to the Regional Committee for Africa for decision</p>	<p>US\$ 2000 (which may be adjusted upwards from time to time by the Prize Committee) and a medal, awarded every two years (odd years)</p> <p>Ceremony at Health Assembly</p>	<p>Decision EB100(10) recommended to the Foundation Committee that the Prize should be presented at a ceremony at the Regional Committee for Africa</p>

Award	Membership of committee/ selection panel and secretary	Selection made by	Amount, frequency and method of award	Proposed modification
<p>Francesco Pocchiari Fellowship to enable researchers from developing countries to visit other countries in order to obtain new experience relevant to their own research</p> <p>Established: 1991</p> <p>Capital: US\$ 104 960</p>	<p>Director of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome; four members of the WHO Global ACHR¹</p>	<p>Executive Board</p>	<p>US\$ 10 000, awarded every two years (odd years)</p> <p>Letter to laureate. Name announced at a public meeting of Health Assembly</p>	<p>Decision EB100(10) recommended that Committee be replaced by selection panel: Director of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome; Chairman of the Global ACHR</p> <p>Assess support costs (13% of award) to help cover cost of administration</p>
<p>United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize for outstanding contribution to health development</p> <p>Established: 1994</p> <p>Capital: US\$ 1 million</p>	<p>Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Executive Board; a member of the Board from a Member State of the Eastern Mediterranean Region; a representative appointed by the Founder</p> <p>(Technical assessment by the Secretariat)</p> <p>Secretary: Director-General</p>	<p>Executive Board</p>	<p>US\$ 40 000 and a certificate, awarded when the interest amounts to a sufficient sum (in practice every year)</p> <p>Support costs assessed (13% of award) to help cover cost of administration</p> <p>Ceremony at Health Assembly</p>	

¹ The meeting of the Committee for the Francesco Pocchiari Fellowship takes place during the ACHR session.

Award	Membership of committee/ selection panel and secretary	Selection made by	Amount, frequency and method of award	Proposed modification
<p>Down Syndrome Research Prize Foundation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region for outstanding contribution in the field of research related to Down Syndrome</p> <p>Established: 1998</p> <p>Capital: US\$ 25 000</p>	<p>Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, the Chairman of the Regional Committee Technical Discussions and a representative of the Founder</p> <p>Secretary: Regional Director, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office</p>	<p>Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean</p>	<p>Cash sum and bronze medal, awarded when interest amounts to a sufficient sum (every two years, funds permitting)</p> <p>Ceremony at Regional Committee for Eastern Mediterranean</p>	