Prizes and awards administered by the Director-General

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About the Public Health Prizes and Awards: history and founders*

- **1980**: Sasakawa Health Prize
  - Founded by Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa, Chairman of the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation and President of the Sasakawa Health Foundation
  - Japan

- **1984**: Ihsan Doğramaci Family Health Foundation Prize
  - Founded by Professor Ihsan Doğramaci
  - Türkiye

- **1993**: United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize
  - Founded by the Government of the United Arab Emirates

- **2004**: The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation’s His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion
  - Founded by the Government of the State of Kuwait

- **2008**: Dr. LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health
  - Founded by the Government of the Republic of Korea through the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (Dr. LEE Jong-wook Memorial Fund)

- **2019**: Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion
  - Founded by the Ministers of Health of Member States of the African Region

* List of active prizes and awards. For further information, please consult WHO Public health prizes and awards.
† The State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion until 2015.
About the Public Health Prizes and Awards: focus and statutes

**Sasakawa Health Prize**
- Selection Panel, including the Chair of the Executive Board (EB) of WHO, a representative of the Founder and an EB Member
- Statutes and Guidelines, including additional information about the selection criteria

**Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion**
- Selection Panel, including the Chair of the Executive Board (EB) of WHO, the First Vice-Chair of the EB and an EB member from a Member State of the African Region. The representative of the Nelson Mandela Foundation is an observer
- Statutes

**United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize**
- Selection Panel, including the EB Chair, a representative of the Founder and an EB Member from the Founder’s region
- Statutes and Guidelines, including additional information about the selection criteria

**The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation’s His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion**
- Selection Panel, including the EB Chair, a representative of the Founder and an EB Member from the Founder’s region
- Statutes and Guidelines, including additional information about the selection criteria

**İhsan Doğramaci Family Health Foundation Prize**
- Selection Panel, including the Chair of the Executive Board of WHO, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Bilkent University, Turkey, and a representative of the International Children’s Center (Ankara)
- Statutes

**Dr. LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health**
- Selection Panel, including the EB Chair, a representative of the Founder and an EB Member
- Statutes

*Only awarded every 2 years.*
Prizes awarded in 2022

**Professor Mehmet Haberal (Türkiye)**
A pioneer in the field of general surgery, organ transplantation and burn treatment in Türkiye and in the world.
Laureate of the 2022 İhsan Doğramaci Family Health Foundation Prize

**Professor Prakit Vathesatogkit (Thailand)**
Who has devoted his career to tobacco control and reducing the prevalence of lung cancer in Thailand

**The Severe Hypothermia Treatment Centre (Poland)**
Which has developed an innovative and holistic approach to improve the survival of extreme hypothermia cases.
Laureates of the 2022 Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health

**The National Malaria Component of the Ministry for Citizen’s Power for Health of Nicaragua, with support from the community network of voluntary collaborators (CoVol) (Nicaragua)**
Whose impact on the burden of disease of malaria has been significant in the communities it serves.
Laureate of the 2022 United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize

**Dr Hanadi Khamis Mubarak Al Hamad (Qatar)**
Who has achieved remarkable results in improving the care of older patients in Qatar.
Laureate of the 2022 The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation’s His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion

**Dr Wu Zunyou (China)**
A pioneer in designing innovative evidence-based policies targeting population groups that are most vulnerable to HIV and drastically reducing the number of infections among them.
Laureate of the 2022 Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion

**Dr Paisan Ruamviboonsuk (Thailand)**
An ophthalmologist whose innovations have led to a dramatic reduction of blindness due to diabetic retinopathy.
Laureate of the 2022 Sasakawa Health Prize
About the candidatures: regional and annual distribution 2017-2022

**NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY REGION***

- **WPPO**: 42 / 22%
- **AFRO**: 23 / 12%
- **SEARO**: 37 / 20%
- **AMRO**: 23 / 12%
- **EURO**: 34 / 18%
- **EMRO**: 30 / 16%

31% of WHO Member States have submitted candidatures for any award since 2017

**NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY YEAR***

- **2017**: 38
- **2018**: 39
- **2020**: 52
- **2021**: 32
- **2022**: 28

35% decrease in the number of applications per award in 2021-2022 as compared to 2017-2020

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*This corresponds to the full set of applications received every year. Applications are screened for compliance, and a small number of applications may not be deemed compliant.*
The awards ceremony

The laureates’ public health achievements are recognized at an awards ceremony held as part of the Plenary meeting of the World Health Assembly every year in May. Laureates receive the following recognitions:

- **Sasakawa Health Prize**: a statuette and an amount up to US$ 40,000*
- **The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation’s His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion**: a certificate of award, a plaque and an amount up to US$ 40,000*
- **Ihsan Doğramaci Family Health Foundation Prize**: a gold-plated silver medal, a certificate and an honorarium*
- **Dr. LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health**: a plaque from the Founder and an amount up to US$ 100,000*

* To be determined by the relevant Selection Panel.
The awards ceremony

The laureates’ public health achievements are recognized at an awards ceremony held as part of the Plenary meeting of the World Health Assembly every year in May, in the presence of a representative of the Founder of the award, the WHO Director-General, and the President of the World Health Assembly.

During this ceremony, their contribution is recognized by the representative of the Founder of the award, and they have the opportunity to pronounce a speech.

Laureates receive recognitions, including a certificate of award, a plaque and/or an honorarium of an amount to be confirmed by the relevant entity.

WHO issues a web story on this opportunity, and national health administrations may further amplify the news story.
The awards: showcasing WHO Member States successes

“These awardees embody lifelong dedication, relentless advocacy, a commitment to equity, and selfless service of humanity”.
- WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, May 2019, World Health Assembly.

The awards are administered by the Director-General of WHO on behalf of their prestigious founders.

They showcase the excellence and expertise of many Member States in different areas of public health and the diversity of approaches and achievements in every region of the world.

They recognize the lifelong career achievements of some of the most senior national experts, but also those that are pioneering new initiatives.

They will inspire the newer generations.

They may include seed funding to encourage experts to continue their successful work and possibly scale it up at regional or global level.

They recognize a diversity of profiles, ranging from scientists and medical doctors, institutions, and community workers, in very different areas of work, and how they succeed in their own unique regional context.
Timeline for Prizes and Awards administered by the WHO Director-General

- **MARCH-MAY**: Finalization of the composition of the Selection Panels
- **JULY-AUGUST**: Dispatch of Circular Letter inviting national health administrations of WHO Member States’ governments to propose candidatures
- **EARLY NOVEMBER**: Deadline for submitting candidatures
- **NOVEMBER-DECEMBER**: Screening of candidatures for compliance
- **JANUARY-FEBRUARY**: Selection panels proposals and decision by the Executive Board on the laureates
- **MAY**: Presentation of the Prizes and Awards to the laureates during the World Health Assembly

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Confirmation of the Selection Panels → The application process → The selection process → The awards ceremony