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World Teachers' Day 2023

The teachers we need for the education we want:
The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage

OCTOBER 2023

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World
Teachers'
Day



Recognition and appreciation:
the role of teacher prizes in enhancing the status of the profession
5 October 2023

Date: 5 October 11:00 – 13:00 CET

Format: in-person conference held in Room IX at UNESCO Headquarters (7, place Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France)

Sign-up form to participate in person: <https://bit.ly/3PyxMuY>

Languages: Simultaneous interpretation will be available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish

Zoom link for remote participation: https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_djIBONQVTgijfB9GNGyfpq#/registration

Background

Teacher recognition and appreciation are important drivers for teacher well-being and motivation. There are multiple indications of a crisis of motivation among teachers globally, which substantially contributes to the issue of teacher shortages. It is therefore important to explore factors that can improve both teacher recognition and appreciation as well as teacher motivation. Whereas there are multiple ways to recognize and express appreciation towards educators, this panel will focus on how teacher prizes help achieve these goals.

A wide diversity of prizes aim at rewarding outstanding practices in the teaching profession at national, regional, and global levels. These prizes represent a form of recognition and appreciation of the work carried out by our educators. Through the prestige and visibility granted by the awards, laureates and their practices are showcased as inspiring and positive teaching examples. The awards aim to celebrate their achievements and encourage the sharing of good practices.

This panel discussion aims to explore the ways in which such prizes may contribute to solving the pressing issue of global teacher shortages by improving the status and in turn the attractiveness of the teaching profession. It will address the symbolic meaning of prizes to celebrate, motivate, and

empower educators. Moreover, the panel will also provide examples of the impact of these prizes in raising the status of teaching profession through direct accounts from educators who benefited from them. The panel will be a unique opportunity to hear from teachers and learn more about their experiences in their own words.

The panel will bring together winners and beneficiaries from different prizes available worldwide, such as the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development, the Global Teacher Prize, the African Union Continental Teacher Prize, the European Innovative Teaching Award, and the Malaysia Teacher Prize. They range, not only in scope, but also in educational and geographical levels, periodicity and rewarding format, allowing for a rich and complementary discussion. The testimonies of participants' experience will provide numerous examples of ways to honour and reward teachers, and they will also allow the exploration of prizes' potential to replicate outstanding best practices.

About the event

This panel discussion has two main objectives:

- To discuss the way in which teacher prizes improve the attractiveness of the teaching profession by raising its status through teacher recognition and appreciation;
- To explore how teacher prizes encourage the implementation of best practices at national, regional, and global levels.

Main questions to be discussed:

- To what extent do teacher prizes contribute to raising the status of the teaching profession?
- What kind of practices do prizes recognise and encourage? What are the channels of their impact (i.e., inspiring action, emulating practice)?
- What potential do teacher prizes hold for replication of the best teaching practices?
- Going beyond teacher prizes, what are the best ways to reward, appreciate, and recognize the work of our educators?

Agenda and list of speakers

5 October 2023 11h00 – 13h00 CET		Venue: Room IX, UNESCO Headquarters, 7, place Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France
11h00 – 11h15 15 minutes	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks by Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO 	
11h15 – 12h30 75 minutes	Panel Discussion Moderated by Mr Carlos Vargas , Chief of UNESCO Section for Teacher Development and Head of the Secretariat of the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030 Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Wisnaud Occius (Haiti), teacher of the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize 2022 laureated project of P4H Global “Training Teachers to Transform Haiti” • Ms Maggie MacDonnell (Canada), winner of the Global Teacher Prize 2017 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Agnes Rasesemola (South Africa), winner of the African Union Continental Teacher Award 2021 • Ms Cikgu Anuthra Sirisena (Malaysia), winner of the Malaysia Teacher Prize 2022 • Ms Daniela Speranta Robota (Romania), teacher of the European Innovative Teaching Award 2022 project on TVET and digital skills (<i>Flip your classes</i>)
12h30 – 12h50 20 minutes	Q&A Mr Carlos Vargas (moderator) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A from the audience (online and offline)
12h50 – 13h00 10 minutes	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing remarks by Mr Borhene Chakroun, Director of UNESCO's Division for Policy and Lifelong Learning Systems