## **NOTES FOR REFEREES**

The ASPIRE Prize is an annual award which recognises young scientists from APEC economies who have demonstrated a commitment to both excellence in scientific research, as evidenced by scholarly publication, and cooperation with scientists from other APEC member economies.

The ASPIRE Prize supports APEC’s mission to:

* strengthen international science and technology networks
* enhance economic growth, trade and investment opportunities in harmony with sustainable development, through policies, innovative R&D and technologies, and knowledge sharing
* improve linkages and efficiency between research and innovation.

For its host year of 2021, New Zealand has selected ‘Diverse Knowledge for a Sustainable Future’ as the ASPIRE nominating theme. APEC economies operate in a rapidly changing era of uncertainties, and economic shocks have been laid bare by socio-environmental vulnerability and COVID-19. These global issues have heightened awareness of the need to capture a diversity of knowledge, offering opportunities to reorient policy solutions towards new conceptions of collective good.

The theme focuses on researcher insights from indigenous and ethnic minority cultures and communities to help inform new frontiers in science, technology and innovation. This may include research that explores interactions between traditional and contemporary approaches to knowledge and science, as well as applications such as better management of natural resources, healthcare and agricultural systems.

## The letter of recommendation should be on letterhead and address:

## the role of the referee

## whether the referee was involved in the applicant’s work

## how the applicant has cooperated with other APEC economies

## how the applicant has contributed to the topic

## the outcomes of the applicant’s research

## the scientific impact of the applicant’s research.

## How to send the referee report

The referee report should be sent as a pdf file directly to the applicant for inclusion in the completed application. The due date for providing the report to the applicant should be agreed with the applicant and will be prior to 27 April 2021, the application closing date.

For further information on the ASPIRE Prize 2021 [see the website](https://www.science.org.au/supporting-science/awards-and-opportunities/apec-science-prize-innovation-research-and-education-aspire-prize) or contact the Grants Officer at grants@science.org.au.