## **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 2020, Malaysia selects ‘Biodiversity for a Prosperous Economy’ as the ASPIRE nominating theme. Biodiversity is foundational for human health as it underpins the functioning of our ecosystems and its study crosses many scientific disciplines. This theme focuses on scientists’ contributions to biodiversity for prosperous economies across the APEC region by driving research that contributes to local livelihoods, both traditional and modern medicines, and economic development.

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

## the role of the referee

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

## how the applicant has cooperated with 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 24 April 2020.

For further information on the ASPIRE Prize 2020 [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.