



APEC Science Prize for Innovation, Research and Education (ASPIRE Prize)

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 top three Australian ranked nominees from this competition will receive a prize of A\$2000 each. The highest-ranked nominee will become the Australian nominee for the ASPIRE Prize. Nominees from each APEC economy will be considered by the full APEC Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation working group for selection as the 2023 ASPIRE Prize winner, with prize money in the amount of US\$25,000 (equivalent to A\$37,000 – \$38,000).

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 2023, the United States has selected the ASPIRE Prize theme "Inclusive Science, Technology, and Innovation for a Resilient and Sustainable Environment."

The theme focuses on advancing environmental resiliency and sustainability through science, technology, and innovation that centers on diverse perspectives and promotes an inclusive scientific ecosystem. Unlocking the diversity of thought and experience can expand the boundaries of scientific knowledge, which is vital to fundamental research and underpins resilient and sustainable solutions to global environmental and societal challenges.

The theme highlights scientific research dedicated to inclusivity at all stages of career development. This goal additionally incorporates all facets of society in an effort to shape a more balanced world. This may include research that encourages the increased societal connectivity of underserved and marginalized populations, promotes self-sustaining ecosystems, or achieves solutions to mitigate public health risks. Action toward this end may take various forms: enhancing climate mitigation and resilience; reducing disaster risk; promoting food security, safety, and agriculture biotechnology; tackling environmental challenges; or fostering an enabling environment to accomplish these goals.

Nominees should demonstrate a commitment to excellence in scientific research and cooperation with scientists from other APEC member economies, including inclusive and interdisciplinary collaborations, in subjects such as: **biology, oceanography, chemistry, environmental science, public health, economics, data sciences, social sciences, and other relevant fields.**



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The letter of recommendation should be on letterhead and address:

1. the role of the referee
2. whether the referee was involved in the nominee's work
3. how the nominee has cooperated with other APEC economies
4. how the nominee has contributed to the topic
5. the outcomes of the nominee's research
6. the scientific impact of the nominee's research.

How to send the referee report

The referee report should be sent as a pdf file directly to the nominee for inclusion in the completed nomination. The due date for providing the report to the nominee should be agreed to with the nominee and allow sufficient time for the grants or research office to submit the nomination before the nomination deadline of 5pm AEST Wednesday 17 May 2023.

For further information on the ASPIRE Prize 2023 [see the website](#) or contact grants@science.org.au.