

Late Mijbil Almutawa, former Vice-Chairman and CEO of The Scientific Center of Kuwait (TSCK), founding member of the North Africa and Middle East Science centers network (NAMES), and its second President (2010-14), contributed significantly to the establishment and development of NAMES, as well as to the Science Center field as a whole during his decades-long tenure with TSCK.

Mr. Almutawa was an unequivocal source of inspiration and a tremendous support to both his TSCK Team, even before the Center opened to the public in 2000, as well as to NAMES Executive Team throughout its first ten years of existence. His presence in NAMES will be forever profoundly missed; yet, his legacy will persevere.

One significant aspect of Mr. Almutawa's legacy was the support of youth; as such, it would be fitting to honor his achievements and contributions to the Science Center field, through an Award Program that supports Young Science Center Professionals.

Award Information

The Mijbil Almutawa Award is granted on annual basis. It **covers** the expenses of one individual to attend NAMES Biennial Conference, the EMME Summer School, or any other relevant in-person event approved by NAMES Board of Directors.

The winner of the Annual Award receives the following:

- **USD 1000** (in the form of participation fees, roundtrip air ticket, and accommodation expenses); stipend is disbursed upon timely submission of all original receipts.
 - ❖ Depending on the event, host, location, and budget, NAMES Board of Directors may choose to increase the award amount.
- **Certificate and Souvenir.**

Eligibility

Individuals who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply to the program:

- **Non-managerial** staff members of science centers/museums and other entities working in the science communication field in the NAMES region, with at least one year of documented experience at a science communication institution;
- **Younger** than 35 years old;
- **Not** a previous winner of the award.

Selection

A 3-member panel of reviewers elected by NAMES Board of Directors on annual basis reviews received applications to select a winner. The Reviewing Panel votes to select the winner based on the applicant's long-term vision of himself/herself in the science center field, and is at a place career-wise where he/she will benefit from this experience.

- Once elected, the Reviewing Panel decides in advance on the evaluation/scoring mechanism they will use for selection—points counting or assessment rubric.
- All decisions in regards to winners are final, including the decision not to choose an award recipient in any given year.
- Ties are not acceptable; the Reviewing Panel has to agree on a clear winner or none at all, noting that staff of NAMES Member Institutions have priority in case of a tie.

Jury

The MAAP Reviewing Panel comprises three members elected by NAMES Board of Directors on annual basis—once the Call for Applications is closed—as follows:

- 1) From among Full Member institutions with no applicants in said year.
- 2) If there are no or not enough eligible and available Full Member jurists, other membership tiers to be approached (Associate, Allied, Sustaining, Contributing, Individual).
- 3) If the Panel is still not completed, external parties are to be approached based on Board nominations.

Timeline

- The Call for Applications opens at least 3 months, preferably 4-5 months, before the date of the event.
- The Application Deadline is at least a month from announcement.
- The Winner Announcement is within a month from the applications deadline at the very latest.

How to Apply

Science Centers/Museums and other science communication entities within the NAMES region may submit a nomination for one of its employees. Each nominating institution is limited to one application per year. Applicants are required to:

- a) Complete the Application Form posted on NAMES website;
- b) Include CV and a 300-500 words Nomination Letter signed by the institution's Chief Executive Officer, Board Chairperson, or equivalent.

Terms and Conditions

- The award cannot be transferred to cash if the winner cannot attend and benefit from the award;
- The award cannot be transferred to another person or entity without the approval of the reviewing panel;
- The winner commits to attending to full term of the awarded Summer School or Conference and will submit a full report based on the template provided within 30 days of attendance;
- The winner signs a commitment letter and so does the institution he/she represents that, in case of default, they will reimburse NAMES for accrued costs;
- The winner commits to submitting receipts, boarding passes, and evidence of travel in due time;
- In case the winner is unable to attend the Conference or EMME and notifies NAMES Secretariat Office in advance, the Reviewing Panel may approach the runner-up to benefit from the award instead.