The ACFY Award

Instruction Guide

First version

2023

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Instruction Guide of the Arab Council Award for World Youth

Preface

Youth are the cornerstone of any civilizational development, as there are 1.2 billion young people aging between 15 to 24 years old, representing 16% of the world's population. It is expected that the number of world youth will increase by 7% by 2030 - the target date for achieving the sustainable development goals - to reach about 1.3 billion young men and women. One of the basic principles of the 2030 Agenda is the affirmation that "No one will be left behind while achieving the development goals". The universal format of the 2030 Agenda requires considering the role of youth in all goals and aims. Youth were specifically mentioned in four areas: youth employment, conditions of adolescent girls, and education and sport for peace. Furthermore, young people are addressed as agents of change charged with harnessing their potential to ensure a world commensurate with the aspirations of future generations. Hence the importance of presenting projects that target young people and work to enable them to face challenges related to sustainable development. Among the most prominent projects targeting young people are the awards, as the awards recognize the work and endeavors of young people, and endorse what they have done celebrating them in a ceremonial arrangement, so that it is a culmination of their efforts and endeavors.

The Arab Council Award for World Youth focused on the goals of sustainable development and its five main axes; The human being, Prosperity, Planet, Relationships and Partnerships on the one hand, and their reliance on 21st century kills; critical thinking, communication and teamwork, creativity and problem-solving, leadership and decision-making, local and global citizenship, leadership and initiative, technological culture, linguistic empowerment on the other hand.

This is done through the strategic partnership between the Arab Youth Council and the Arab Voluntary Union. In addition to cooperation with many major international organizations such as the Arab League and some United Nations organizations.

About the Award

Vision

Empowering youth by showing outstanding youth efforts aimed at serving the community and realizing sustainable development goals.

Objectives

- Highlighting products and projects aimed at empowering young people in the fields of technology, technological culture, information, communication and social communication.
- Highlighting youth products and projects that offer novel, practical and creative solutions in solving problems that young people suffer from, and overcoming social challenges.
- Highlighting youth products and projects that seek to strengthen the internal fabric of societies, promote tolerance, eliminate discrimination based on race or gender, and fight hatred.
- Highlighting products and projects aimed at empowering young people in the areas of linguistic excellence and caring for cognitive productions in the literary and linguistic fields, in addition to critical thinking.
- Spreading the culture of youth empowerment in the public and private sectors and civil society organizations.
- Celebrating personalities who made valuable contributions and works to young people in various fields.

Categories of Excellence

The award includes three main categories, namely, youth participations "the promising", youth enabling institutions and organizations "the empowering", and figures influencing the youth "the inspiring".

The promising   The empowering   The Inspiring   The Honouring
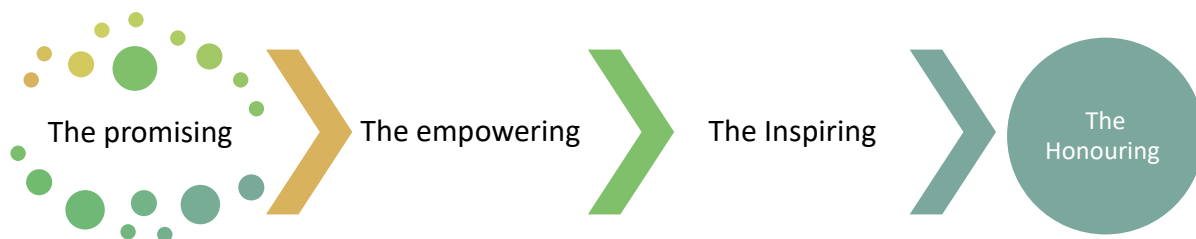
Award Categories

The award has three categories, one of youth projects, and another for institutions and organizations in various youth empowerment sectors, and the last categories is that of influential figures who have provided works and products of value to young people.

First: The "promising" youth

This category is concerned with youth products, programs, and projects that are compatible with the skills of the twenty-first century, and target the pillars of sustainable development, namely:

1. **Technological culture**: Youth products, programs and projects concerned with technology, information and communication technology, and social communication, which serve the pillars of the sustainable development goals.
2. **Creativity and Problem-Solving**: Products, projects and initiatives that provide novel and practical solutions to society's problems, overcome challenges, and are characterized by creativity, leadership and decision-making skills.
3. **Peaceful Societies:** products, projects, and initiatives that seek to strengthen societies, promote tolerance, eliminate discrimination combat hatred, establish just societies, and promote local and global citizenship.
4. **Language empowerment** :Products, projects, and initiatives that seek linguistic excellence, take care of their cognitive production in the literary and linguistic fields, and promote critical thinking, as language is the vessel of thinking.

Technological culture   Creativity and Problem-Solving   Peaceful Societies   Linguistic empowerment
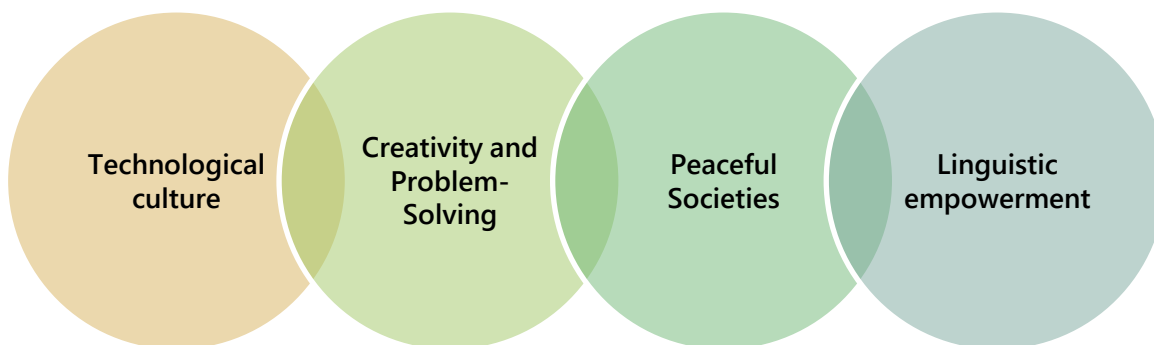
Second: Organizations and Institutions "The Empowering"

This category is specialized in one sub-category of government and public sectors, private sectors, non-governmental organizations, and professional and labor organizations that work to empower youth, through two things:

- Products, programs, projects and initiatives targeting the age group of 15 to 40 years.
- Policies and working mechanisms to provide support and assistance to young people in order to empower them within institutions and societies.

One project or entity is selected through direct participation and filling out a form, or nomination by the arbitration team.

Third: Influential figures "The inspirational"

This category is concerned with one group, they are the people who have made valuable contributions and works in various fields, targeting the youth segment, including:

- Empowering young people and overcoming the obstacles they face in order to realize the goals of sustainable development.
- Providing products, programs, projects and initiatives targeting the youth, including intellectual and cognitive products.
- One figure is selected by an external nomination and filling out of a special form, or selection by the arbitration team.

General Terms and Conditions

1. Youth volunteer teams, public and private sector institutions, and all forms of civil organizations have the right to participate in the competition.
2. The participating products, programs, projects and initiatives should be licensed by the competent authorities, be them local or international.
3. All products, programs, projects and initiatives should target community service and social responsibility within their objectives.
4. Each party is allowed to participate only once.
5. Prizes should be dedicated to activities and programs.
6. Materials submitted for participation should not be returned under all circumstances.
7. The arbitration committee has the right to exclude any project that violates the terms and conditions.
8. It is not allowed to change the information after submitting it through the official channels of the award, and the participating entity bears responsibility for any error and inaccuracy in filling out the form.
9. The arbitration committee can reconsider the classification of the sub-categories participating in the main youth category in the event that there is an overlap for more than sub- category.
10. The arbitration committee may ask for some additional information while evaluating.
11. No entries will be accepted after registration deadline.
12. Participations should not contain materials that contradict the values and principles on which Muslim and Arab societies are based.
13. The participating entity should provide an overview video of the project of no more than 4 minutes showing the following:
    o The goal and idea of the project or initiative, and highlighting the work carried out.
    o Highlighting the beneficiary segments, and any statistics on the achievements.
14. There is no fee for participation in the award.

Terms and Conditions for each Category

First: The Youth category "The Promising"

1. This category is concerned with youth volunteer teams licensed locally or internationally, or youth-led initiatives within non-governmental civil society organizations and institutions.
2. Youth age groups range from 15 to 40 years old.
3. The project must really exist and not just be an idea.
4. All information about the project must be confidentia.
5. Intellectual property rights must be maintained.
6. In this category, four winners will be selected, one for each sub-category of the followings; Technological Culture, Creativity and Problem Solving, Peaceful Societies, Language Empowerment.

Second: Organizations and Institutions "The empowering"

1. Government and public sectors, private sectors, non-governmental organizations, professional and labor organizations working to empower youth can all participate in this category.
2. Only one winner will be selected.

Third: The Figures "The Inspirational"

1. This category pertains to figures who have made valuable contributions and works in various fields, targeting the youth segment.
2. Anyone of any age can participate in this category.
3. The candidate should have projects, products or initiatives targeting the youth segment.
4. To be distinguished and serve as a role model.
5. To have exceptional works and achievements.
6. To have broad influence and include large youth segments.
7. One winner will be selected.

Mechanisms for participation in the award

Participation scope

1. Youth volunteer teams licensed locally or internationally, or youth-led initiatives within non-governmental civil society organizations and institutions from all countries of the world. Those who meet the conditions of participation and the criteria of the award.
2. Governmental and public sectors, private sectors, non-governmental organizations, professional and labor organizations, from all over the world who meet the terms of participation and the ability to meet the requirements and criteria of the award.
3. Persons who have made contributions and works of value in various fields, targeting the youth segment, from all over the world, who meet the terms of participation and the ability to fulfill the requirements and criteria of the award.

Participation

- In the youth category: participation is by applying on the award's website, and filling out the special form according to the category.

Requirements to attach:

1. Local or international registration documents.
2. A video about the project.
3. Any attachments that support the project.

- In the categories of organizations and institutions, and figures participation is by applying on the award's website, and filling out the special form. An explanatory video is preferred.

Prizes Money

First: The Youth category "The Promising"

1. Technological culture
One winner, and the prize is $20,000
2. Creativity and problem solving
One winner, and the prize is $20,000
3. Peaceful societies
One winner, and the prize is $20,000
4. linguistic empowerment
One winner, and the prize is $20,000

Second: Organizations and institutions Category "The Empowering"

- One winner and the prize is $10,000.

Third: The personalities Category "The Inspiring"

- One winner and the prize is $10,000.

Honoring Ceremony Date

On Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at the Arab League.

Awards criteria

First: The youth "The promising" Category

Criteria for youth Category (The Promising)			
Technological culture	Creativity and problem-solving	peaceful societies	Linguistic empowerment
Main criteria	Sub-criteria		
(1) Operations management and sustainability	1. The problem addressed in the program and its importance. Clarity of goals, defining outputs, and the contribution to achieving goals		
	A detailed description of the problem/ well-defined goals, related to sustainable development and compatible with the needs of its own society/ Statistics and information about the current situation		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	2. Action plans and methods used/ Implementation, follow-up and review mechanism		
	Clear and direct work mechanisms that are effective to achieve the objectives/ The plan is detailed and elaborate so that it is compatible with the human resources necessary to the stages of the initiative.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	3. Time Dimension		
	Is the project permanent, seasonal, or time-bound?		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	4. Continuity and future development, the ability to expand/ type of development requirements, and the stages of crystallizing the idea		
	To have a plan with a specific data and a clear vision. Flexible and ready to expand and develop in terms of tools and objectives.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		

Criteria for youth category (The Promising)			
Technological culture	Creativity and problem-solving	peaceful societies	Linguistic empowerment
Main criteria	Sub-criteria		
(2) Planning and innovation	1. Elements of innovation and excellence		
	Clear innovation elements, efficient enough to achieve the goals of the initiative even if simple		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	2. Setting the necessary resources, skills and human capabilities		
	A clear plan for utilizing human resources, compatible with the phases of the project and with the beneficiaries of the initiative		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	3. Usability, easy navigation, and multilingualism (in apps and websites)		
	Usability for all categories, providing rating mechanisms, getting high ratings, high downloads, and great user interactions.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	4. Multiple services, technical support (for applications and websites)		
	Providing support services in many ways, and having statistics on support operations.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		

Criteria for youth Category (The promising)			
Technological culture	Creativity and problem-solving	Peaceful societies	Linguistic empowerment
Main criteria	Sub-criteria		
(3) Finance management	1. Finance mechanisms and support		
	Sustainable and self-financing mechanisms.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	2. Future plans for finance sustainability and efficiency of spending operations		
	The initiative depends on a plan for investment, finance recycling, or sustainable sources of income. There are also clear policies for spending operations.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	3. Analyzing potential risks when applying and how to overcome them		
	A ready and realistic risk analysis based on risk analysis matrix, depending on appropriate responses.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		

Criteria for youth categories (The promising)			
Technological culture	Creativity and problem-solving	peaceful societies	Linguistic empowerment
Main criteria	**Sub-criteria**		
(4) Customer and beneficiary services	1. The type of the segment (s) targeted (main society- special groups)		
	A definite and justified beneficiary sub-category with a special significance in the concept of the initiative and its operations /clear marketing mechanisms to reach the target segments		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	2. The size of target segments		
	The sub-category is clearly defined, and depends on growth mechanisms that are compatible with the stages of the initiative, and can be expanded in time and place.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	3. Reducing inequality based on: gender, race, religion or marital status		
	The project's policies and procedures are clear towards non-discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion or marital status.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	4. Enhancing self-reliance among the target segments		
	The initiative adopts clear, specific and sustainable mechanisms to enable the beneficiary group and constantly recycle the benefits to new groups.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	5. User's impressions on efficiency and effectiveness		
	Clear and specific mechanisms and means for evaluating opinions of customers and beneficiaries in order to improve the quality of work.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		

Criteria for youth Category (The promising)			
Technological culture	Creativity and problem-solving	Peaceful societies	Linguistic empowerment
Main criteria	**Sub-criteria**		
(5) Community Partners / Internal Partners "The Team"	1. Community Partners (Local, regional, international organizations)		
	The initiative contains categories of local and regional partners that are compatible with the concept, stages and specialization of the initiative, and are subject to expansion and sustainability.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	2. Volunteers, their size and characteristics		
	The initiative includes integration mechanism for the local community into voluntary operations within the concept of the initiative, and it can be expanded.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	3. Mechanisms for the participating and influential parties in addition to creating organizational conditions and joint action to ensure continuity.		
	The initiative includes clear partnership mechanisms (or mechanisms for joining volunteers or influencers), and mechanisms for mobilization and support.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		

Criteria for Youth Categories (The Promising)			
Technological culture	Creativity and problem-solving	The Domain of peaceful societies	Linguistic empowerment
Main criteria	**Sub-criteria**		
(6) Impact measurement	1. Determining performance indicators and the method used in evaluation.		
	Objectives are logically linked to measurable indicators, and tools that are logically used in accordance with objectives and indicators		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		
	2. Stating the attained results and the positive effects on all stakeholders and on the level of performance as well.		
	The results are logically linked to the goals and means, and they positively affect members of the initiative and the beneficiary sub-group as well.		
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		

Awards criteria

Second: Organizations and institutions Category (The Empowering)

Organizations and institutions Category (The Empowering)										
Main criteria	**Sub-criteria**									
(1) Operations management and sustainability	1. Goals of the program and their importance to youth/clear objectives, definite outputs.									
	Specific and elaborate description of the problem /Clear and direct goals related to sustainable development and compatible with the needs of their own society/ statistics or information on the current situation.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	2. Action mechanisms and methods used/ Implementation, follow-up and review mechanism.									
	Clear and specific work mechanisms that are effective and objective oriented/ The plan is clear and detailed according to the necessary human resources.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	3. Time Dimension									
	Is the project permanent, seasonal, or time-bound?									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Organizations and institutions Category (The Empowering)										
Main criteria	**Sub-criteria**									
(2) Planning and innovation	1. Elements of innovation and excellence in the program.									
	Clear elements of innovation, ones that are efficient and objective – oriented even if simple.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	2. Setting the necessary resources, skills and human capabilities									
	A clear plan for utilizing human resources, compatible with the phases of the project and with the beneficiaries of the initiative									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	3. Usability, easy navigation, and multilingualism (in apps and websites)									
	Usability for all categories, providing rating mechanisms, getting high ratings, high downloads, and great user interactions.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	4. Multiple services and technical support (for applications and websites)									
	Providing support services in many ways, and having statistics on support operations.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Organizations and institutions Category (The Empowering)										
Main criteria	**Sub-criteria**									
(3) Customer and beneficiary services	1. The type of the segment (s) targeted (general society- special groups)									
	A definite and justified beneficiary sub-category with a special significance in the concept of the initiative and its operations /clear marketing mechanisms to reach the target segments									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	2. The size of target segments									
	The sub-category is clearly defined, and depends on growth mechanisms that are compatible with the stages of the initiative, and can be expanded in time and place.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	3. Reducing inequality based on: gender, race, religion or marital status									
	The project's policies and procedures are clear towards non-discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion or marital status.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	4. Enhancing self-reliance among the target segments									
	The initiative adopts clear, specific and sustainable mechanisms to enable the beneficiary group and constantly recycle the benefits to new groups.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	5. User's impressions on efficiency and effectiveness									
	Clear and specific mechanisms and means for evaluating opinions of customers and beneficiaries in order to improve the quality of work.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Organizations and institutions Category (The Empowering)										
Main criteria	Sub-criteria									
(4) Community Partners / Internal Partners "The Team"	1. Community Partners (Local, regional, international organizations)									
	The program contains categories of local and regional partners that are compatible with the concept, stages and specialization of the initiative, and are subject to expansion and sustainability.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	2. Volunteers, their size and characteristics									
	The program includes integration mechanism for the local community into voluntary operations within the concept of the initiative, and it can be expanded.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Organizations and institutions Category (The Empowering)										
Main criteria	Sub-criteria									
(5) Impact measurement	1. Determining performance indicators and the method used in evaluation.									
	Objectives are logically linked to measurable indicators, and tools that are logically used in accordance with objectives and indicators									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	2. Stating the attained results and the positive effects on all stakeholders and on the level of performance									
	The results are logically linked to the goals and means, and they positively affect members of the initiative and the beneficiary sub-group as well.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Awards criteria

Third: The Category of personalities "The Inspiring"

Main criteria	Sub-criteria				
(1) **A main commitment to youth** The figure should have a track record of continuous efforts to inspire and support young people, whether through their work, volunteer or personal initiatives.	Duration and continuity of participation in youth support				
	1	2	3	4	5
	Passion for working with young people.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	Experience in working with young people of different ages and backgrounds				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to adapt and adjust to meet the needs of young people.				
	1	2	3	4	5
Main criteria	**Sub-criteria**				
(2) **Positive impact on young people** The figure should have a significant impact on the lives of young people, helping them fulfill their potential and develop their skills and talents, or overcome challenges.	1	2	3	4	5
	A work that leads to positive results on youth				
	1	2	3	4	5
	Testimonials or reviews from young people who have benefited from the figure's work.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	Data or statistics that show the figure's impact on young people.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to inspire and motivate young people				
	1	2	3	4	5
Main criteria	**Sub-criteria**				
(3) **Innovative approach** The figure should be creative and innovative in their efforts to support and inspire young people, whether through new programs, initiatives or new methods.	Creativity and the ability to think outside the box.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	Ability to develop and implement new ideas and programs.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to adapt existing programs to meet the needs of specific groups of youth.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to use technology or other innovative tools to support youth.				
	1	2	3	4	5

Main criteria	Sub-criteria				
(4) Cooperation and teamwork The figure should have worked collaboratively in teams to support and inspire young people, whether within their organization, the community or the wider network.	The ability to work collaboratively with others, including peers, colleagues and young people.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to build and maintain partnership with organizations and stakeholders				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to work effectively in a team and support the development of others.				
	1	2	3	4	5
Main criteria	Sub-criteria				
(5) Positive Model The figure should be a positive role model for young people, with qualities of integrity, empathy, resilience and determination.	The ability to be ideal and a positive role model				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to build positive relations with young people				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to show empathy integrity, resilience and determination				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to inspire and support young people to be the best role models of themselves				
	1	2	3	4	5

Main criteria	Sub-criteria				
(6) **Defense and leadership** The figure should advocate for youth causes and demonstrate leadership in promoting positive change for youth, whether at the local, national or international level.	Ability to advocate for youth-related issues at the local, national or international level.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to stimulate others to work on youth issues.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to lead or support youth initiatives.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to influence policies or practices that support youth.				
	1	2	3	4	5
Main criteria	**Sub-criteria**				
(7) **Long Term Effect** The figure should have a lasting impact on young people, creating them opportunities to succeed and thrive in the long term.	The ability to create sustainable programs or initiatives that support youth in the long term.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to build networks and partnerships that support youth development in the long term.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to create opportunities for youth to succeed and thrive beyond their direct involvement with the individual.				
	1	2	3	4	5
	The ability to measure and evaluate the long-term impact of one's work on young people.				
	1	2	3	4	5