



Our ref.: 21964/2024/I/ONM/MQC/VAI-29&amp;10

24 January 2025

Annex: 1

Subject: Readvertisement of call for nominations  
for the "Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Awards" (2024)Action required: Nominations to be sent to the Secretary-General by **10 March 2025**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to refer to our letters with reference 20651/2023/I/ONM/MQC/VAI-29&10 dated 25 September 2023 and 03825/2024/I/ONM/MQC/VAI-29&10 dated 24 December 2024 regarding nominations for the "Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Awards" (2024).

I would also like to refer to the decision of the seventy-eighth session of the Executive Council (EC-78) not to award the prize in 2024, but requesting the Secretariat to readvertise both awards and to consider the new submissions (papers published in 2022 and 2023) at the occasion of the seventy-ninth session of the Executive Council (EC-79) in June of this year.

As indicated in our previous letter, the Executive Council, at its thirty-seventh session (**EC-XXXVII**), established the "Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award" for an Outstanding Research Paper on Instruments and Methods of Observation, and, at its fifty-sixth session (**EC-LVI**), established the "Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award" for the Development and Implementation of Instruments and Methods of Observation in Developing Countries. Both awards are granted on a biennial basis in connection with the *WMO Technical Conference on Meteorological and Environmental Instruments and Methods of Observation* that is being held in conjunction with an instrument exhibition, with a cash prize of US\$ 10,000 for each award.

The next selection of winner(s) will be undertaken at EC-79, according to the guidelines that specify, in particular, the criteria for granting the awards and the methods of submission of nominations. The guidelines are attached herewith for ease of reference. Please note that only papers **published in 2022 and 2023** will be eligible. The papers need to be in-line with the purpose of the awards, being focused on instruments and methods of observation. For those Members having already submitted nominations, please note that these have been considered and that additional nominations can only be made up to the amount stated in the guidelines.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

In this regard, I have the pleasure of informing you that deadline for nominations is extended and inviting you to submit separate nominations for:

- (a) The twenty-ninth "Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award for an Outstanding Research Paper on Instruments and Methods of Observation" (2024); and
- (b) The tenth "Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award for the Development and Implementation of the Instruments and Methods of Observation in Developing Countries" (2024).

Nominations are to be made at your earliest convenience, but preferably not later than **10 March 2025**.

Finally, I would like to highlight that EC-78 also noted the need for increased promotion and advocacy of the Awards, including at the regional and national levels. I look forward to your support in widely spreading this call for nominations.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Ko Barrett  
For the Secretary-General

**(ANNEX TO DECISION 14 (EC-72))****Guidelines for Granting the Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Awards**

Ref.: 21964/2024.15 IONIM

**1. The Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award for an Outstanding Research Paper on Instruments and Methods of Observation****Purpose**

The purpose of the Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award for an Outstanding Research Paper on Instruments and Methods of Observation is to encourage and stimulate interest in research in the field of instruments and methods of observation in support of WMO Programmes.

**Criteria for granting the award**

The award shall recognize an outstanding paper published in a scientific journal, or a summary of a successfully defended Ph.D. thesis for:

- (a) The significance of its topic;
- (b) The novelty of its ideas and methods;
- (c) The value of its results to WMO Programmes.

**2. The Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award for the Development and Implementation of Instruments and Methods of Observation in Developing Countries****Purpose**

The purpose of the Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award for the Development and Implementation of Instruments and Methods of Observation in Developing Countries is to encourage and stimulate capacity development in instruments and methods of observation for the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) in developing countries.

**Criteria for granting the award**

The award shall be granted for an outstanding paper published in a scientific journal, or a significant technical report, a project report or a summary of a successfully defended Ph.D. or MSc. thesis for:

- (a) The significance of its contribution to the long-term stability and reliability of meteorological and related environmental observations in developing countries;
- (b) The relevance to the observing systems in developing countries;
- (c) The value of its results to, and their impact on, WMO Programmes and key priority areas.

### 3. Submission of nominations for the awards

- (a) The Permanent Representatives of Members of WMO will be invited to submit to the Secretary-General not more than two nominations and the corresponding papers/reports for each award that were published during the 24 month period preceding the year in which the award is granted and that have not previously won an international prize, indicating the title of the award for which each submission is being made;
- (b) Papers/reports for each submission shall be provided in electronic format and in a WMO working language (original or translation). Submitters are strongly encouraged to provide these papers/reports in English. If that is not possible, they shall submit an extended *précis* in English to facilitate assessment of their merit.

### 4. Selection of candidatures

- (a) The Chair of the Standing Committee on Measurements, Instrumentation and Traceability (SC-MINT) of the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (INFCOM), in consultation with the president of INFCOM, invites three distinguished scientists in the field of instruments and methods of observation, who would serve as assessors for both awards;
- (b) For each award, each assessor should allot a mark to each paper, which should be in the range of 0 (lowest) to 5 (highest) and submit the evaluation to the Secretary-General. The evaluation should be based on the criteria defined above with equal weight being assigned to each of the three criteria mentioned under 1 and 2 above;
- (c) The final selection of the winner, or winners, for each award, is made by the Selection Committee established for this purpose by the Executive Council for a period of four years. The Committee consists of three members and, *ex officio*, the president of INFCOM;
- (d) The Executive Council Selection Committee may decide not to recommend an award if the papers/reports submitted are not of a sufficiently high standard.

### 5. Nature of the awards

Each award consists of a diploma, a medal and a sum of US\$ 10 000; the latter could be shared between co-authors. The award is granted on a biennial basis.

### 6. Award ceremony

The award ceremony shall normally take place during the conjoint WMO Technical Conference on Meteorological and Environmental Instruments and Methods of Observation and the exhibition of meteorological and environmental instruments, related equipment and services.

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