Everything you need to know about making a Yidan Prize nomination

9 February 2021
Yidan Prize
and our laureates
We inspire progress and change in education for a better world

By bringing people who believe in the power of education together, and championing innovative ideas in educational research and practice.
Yidan Prize is a global inclusive education award

Since 2017, we have awarded the Yidan Prize annually to individuals and teams in two areas:

**Yidan Prize for Education Research**

The theory of learning – science, psychology, statistics – that can help educators understand different approaches with a methodical lens.

**Yidan Prize for Education Development**

The practice of learning – new methods, ways to make education more widespread – so we can champion techniques that work.
Recognizing and funding people making an outstanding contribution to the future of education

• Each laureate receives a gold medal
• Each prize comprises HK$30 million (around US$3.9 million)
  o Half is a cash prize
  o Half funds the laureates’ work to expand the impact of their initiatives

Remember, we award these prizes to individual or teams of up to 3
Yidan Prize for Education Research Laureates

2017

**Professor**

**Carol S. Dweck**

Lewis and Virginia Eaton Professor of Psychology, Stanford University

2018

**Professor**

**Larry Hedges**

Chairman of the Department of Statistics, Northwestern University

2019

**Professor**

**Usha Goswami**

Professor of Cognitive Developmental Neuroscience, University of Cambridge

2020

**Professor**

**Carl Wieman**

Professor of Physics & Graduate School of Education, Stanford University
Yidan Prize for Education Development Laureates

2017
Ms Vicky Colbert
Founder and Director, Fundación Escuela Nueva (FEN)

2018
Professor Anant Agarwal
Founder and CEO, edX

2019
Sir Fazle Hasan Abed
(27 April 1936 – 20 December 2019)
Founder and Chair Emeritus, BRAC

2020
Ms Lucy Lake (left)
Chief Executive Officer, CAMFED
Ms Angeline Murimirwa (right)
Executive Director – Africa, CAMFED
Yidan Prize Laureates are invited to speak at our events

2020 virtual events:

**Awards Presentation Ceremony & Yidan Prize Summit 2020**

**Yidan Prize Conference Series: Asia-Pacific 2020** (in partnership with CAPS)

**Growth Mindset Online Workshop** (in partnership with OECD)

Learn more about our past and upcoming events at yidanprize.org/events/
What do we need for a nomination?
Who will be involved in the nomination process?
What’s the role of nominator?

Anyone can register as a nominator

• A “credible witness” to nominee(s)’ impact with a thorough understanding of nominee(s)’ work
• Register for an account at nomination.yidanprize.org
• Upload information collected from nominee(s) & supporters
• In 500 words, summarize the work of the nominee(s) and the achievements or outcomes of their projects/researches
• Tell the judges how your nominee(s) meet our four criteria (@1000 words)
What do we need from nominees?

Nominees can be an individual or a team of up to 3 persons

• A 200 words biography
• A 2-min video presenting how you’d use the HK$15 million project fund if selected as laureates
• For Education Research, share your most relevant publications (minimum 1 and maximum 5 publications)
• Countries/ regions that your project/ research is covering
• Your area of expertise
• Any other additional information you wish the Judging Committee to know (e.g. external assessment of your projects or programs is helpful)
What do we need from supporters?

**We need 2 - 5 supporters.** Each of them will need to:

- Write a recommendation letter to explain the impact of nominee(s)' work
  - You might have felt that impact personally, or observed it in action
- Take this as a time to share with judges:
  - How has the nominee(s) changed lives, or
  - How could they change lives

* If you are nominating yourself, make sure you have at least 3 recommendation letters
What are the Judges looking for?
Judging criteria

Nomination is judged by our independent Judging Committee according to a set of judging criteria.

A list of guiding questions can be found at yidanprize.org/the-prize/judging-criteria/
## Future-oriented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Development</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does this research address one or more critical issues in education, with results that have (or look likely to have) a wide global impact?</td>
<td>Does this idea or project address one or more critical issues in education, with results that have (or look likely to have) a wide global impact?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does the research (and nominee/s) have the potential to shape the future and spread inclusive and fair education for all?</td>
<td>Does this idea or project have the potential to shape the future of education, address new challenges and spread inclusive and fair education to all?</td>
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<td>To what extent does the idea or project anticipate problems and opportunities in education?</td>
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<td>To what extent is the idea or project creating an education system that addresses new global challenges? Will it make a positive contribution to the future?</td>
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## Innovative

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<td>Is this research original? In fact, is it groundbreaking in its field?</td>
<td>Is the idea or project groundbreaking?</td>
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<td>Is it a model for research of the highest scientific quality?</td>
<td>Is it disruptive?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does this research (and nominee/s) share new, creative approaches to</td>
<td>Does this project (and nominee/s) share new, creative approaches</td>
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<td>education?</td>
<td>to education?</td>
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<td>Could this approach cultivate skills, knowledge and self-awareness</td>
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<td>that will shape society for the better?</td>
<td>awareness that will shape society for the better?</td>
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Transformative

Research

Has this research had a demonstrable effect on the thinking of leading educators?

Do the research and nominee/s both look likely to create a better world through education? Can both influence and inspire a global community of learning leaders?

Development

What are the project’s goals for systemic change? What systemic impacts have been achieved so far – quantitatively and qualitatively?

How does this idea or project involve and influence a wider community or peers? Is it likely to inspire collaborative action?

How will the idea or project change the current system – either totally or incrementally? To what extent is it creating a new, better system?
### Sustainable

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<td>Has the research already stimulated change in educational practices in some settings?</td>
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<td>Is there potential for the research to spread change to many settings?</td>
<td>To what extent has this idea or project grown and scaled so far – in its own country and across borders? And to what extent could it be scaled and replicated further?</td>
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<td>Does the research and nominee/s have the potential to create a long-lasting change that enlightens humanity?</td>
<td>Does the idea or project have a governance model to make sure there’s transparency and accountability?</td>
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<td>Is there a business model? Has that model ensured financial stability so far?</td>
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<td>Are there any legal or regulatory threats to the organization or project?</td>
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How to prepare a strong nomination
Making the most of the 2-minute video

This is the nominee’s moment to speak straight to the judges.

• They should talk through their plan for the HK$15 million project fund
• It’s an opportunity to show their enthusiasm
• Don’t worry about the production quality. The judges are interested in the video’s content, not style.
• The nominee is welcome to record in their native language – in fact, sometimes that can make it easier to show passion – we just ask you to remember subtitles, too.
• We only use this video for judging. We won’t circulate it or publish it without permission.
Impact is as important as future plans

- **We encourage nominations for teams of up to three.** They could be:
  - Leaders of the same organization
  - A research group working on a project together
  - Several people contributing to the same idea from separate organizations

- List out all the countries/regions where the nominees’ research/project is having an impact.

- Submit any supporting documents that you think would be helpful for judges to know more about the nominee(s)’ work.

- **Make sure the future plan is clear with substantial details.** Details may include scope and scale, potential partners, expected impact, etc.
We want to know your plans for the future

In other words, we want to know how the Yidan Prize can help.

“The Yidan Prize is future-oriented. While the Judging Committee evaluates applications on their past achievement, what’s more important is what the nominees would do with the Prize project funding, if successful.”

Dr Koichiro Matsuura
Former Director-General, UNESCO
Chairman, Judging Committee, Yidan Prize
For Education Research

We hope to receive nominations that align with our 4 criteria, no matter the nominees’ career stage or the profile of their organization.

“The Yidan Prize is really for transformative and innovative ideas, and even for divergent thinking in a way. There’s so much innovation and research happening in education, in schools, in classrooms and in different environments, not only through universities. We encourage young researchers to put forward their applications.”

Mr Andreas Schleicher
Director for the Directorate of Education and Skills, OECD
Head, Judging Panel, Yidan Prize for Education Research
We encourage you to include any independent evaluation reports on your nominee(s)' work here.

“If you have an innovative idea that is transforming lives that touches on any area of education and making impact, we are very happy to receive your application. Please be as comprehensive as possible in your application, including relevant links and resources aligned to the key prize criteria.”

**Ms Dorothy K. Gordon**  
Chair, UNESCO Information for All Programme  
Head, Judging Panel, Yidan Prize for Education Development
Final tips

• **Apply sooner rather than later**
  If you apply by the end of February, we’ll let you know if there are any gaps so you can update and re-submit your nomination before the deadline.

• **We welcome re-submission**
  If unsuccessful, your form will be kept for the following year. You may make updates and apply again if you wish to do so.

• Find out more in our **nomination guide**, available in English, French, and Simplified Chinese. Download at yidanprize.org/the-prize/nominations/
Submit your nomination on or before 31 March 2021 at 12 noon (UTC +8 HKT)

Timeline

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<th>2020</th>
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<td>Yidan Prize Awards Presentation Ceremony &amp; Yidan Prize Summit (December 2021)</td>
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Remember

- **Save** your online nomination form as you go
- Everything needs to be submitted in **English**
- We ensure our judging process is impartial and independent. Please **do not approach any of our independent Judging Committee members** during the judging process
Nomination deadline: 31 March 2021 at 12 noon (UTC +8 HKT)

If you’re still unsure about something, reach out to our Secretariat
nomination@yidanprize.org

Useful links:
Submit a nomination nomination.yidanprize.org/
Nomination guide yidanprize.org/the-prize/nominations/
Judging Criteria yidanprize.org/the-prize/judging-criteria/
FAQ yidanprize.org/the-prize/nominations/frequently-asked-questions/