



## ASEAN-U.S. SCIENCE PRIZE FOR WOMEN

Increasing women's representation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields in Southeast Asia requires concerted regional efforts and cooperation. The United States, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), partners with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Underwriters Laboratories to sponsor the annual ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women. The prize showcases the work of exceptionally talented female scientists in ASEAN and inspires women to pursue STEM careers.

In partnership with Underwriters Laboratories, a U. S.-based global safety certification company whose mission is to create a better world through science to solve safety, security and sustainability challenges, and the ASEAN Committee of Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI), USAID promotes the participation of women in STEM fields and strengthens ASEAN science and technical capacity through the annual ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women. In addition to inspiring young women to pursue STEM careers, the competition is expected to create a broader, more varied pool of researchers who can accelerate the pace of innovation while ensuring that the perspective and needs of women are better addressed. Bolstering rapid and diverse innovation will accelerate the region's growth and improve the wellbeing of all ASEAN citizens.

PHOTO: DR. DO THI PHUC/ U.S. MISSION TO ASEAN

## KEY FACTS

- The competition emphasizes the role of women scientists who work to improve society in sustainable ways and serve as role models for women working in and pursuing careers in STEM.
- The applicants must clearly demonstrate strong academic expertise, identify specifically how the presented research and technology has a profound, positive impact in the community, and promote greater female engagement in STEM activities.
- The winner and the recipient of honorable mention are eligible to receive combined cash awards totaling \$25,000.

## THEMES

First launched in 2014 as a pilot program, the Women's Science Prize competition has featured themes ranging from Water Quality in 2014; Sustainable Energy Research in 2016; Rapid Urbanization in 2017; Precision Agriculture in 2018, Circular Economy in 2019, and Preventive Healthcare in 2020. In upcoming 2021, the competition will highlight the theme of Clean Air & Clean Water.

## WINNERS

The Science Prize for Women winner and recipient of honorable mention are announced and recognized during the annual ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI). In 2020 the two finalists are Dr. Shefaly Shorey from the National University of Singapore, whose research focuses on promoting health and the well-being of new mothers, and Dr. Yoke Fun Chan from University of Malaya, whose research seeks to prevent children from catching Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD). The winner will be selected at the ASEAN-U.S. Consultation on Science, Technology and Innovation (AUSCSTI) at the COSTI Meeting in late 2020. Previous winners have come from Thailand, Viet Nam, the Philippines, and Singapore.

## PARTICIPATION

Since 2014, the Science Prize for Women has attracted more than 184 participants hailing from all ASEAN member states. In 2019, USAID, through the ASEAN-USAID Inclusive Growth in ASEAN through Innovation, Trade and E-Commerce (IGNITE) project, launched the 'Science Prize 4 Women' website to promote the prize and keep the region informed about the progress of the prize. To learn more, visit: [scienceprize4women.asean.org](https://scienceprize4women.asean.org).

## CONTACT

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