

# 2018 Thiess Asia-Pacific Riverprize Guidelines

## International RiverFoundation

International RiverFoundation is a not-for-profit organisation with a vision of a world in which all rivers and waterways are healthy and sustainably managed. RiverFoundation is committed to recognising and rewarding excellence in river management, to creating and supporting River Heroes through educational and mentoring opportunities and to enabling our River Heroes to share best-practice river management knowledge and expertise globally.

## Riverprize Overview

IRF's Riverprize awards recognise excellence in integrated river management. The 2018 Thiess Asia-Pacific Riverprize winner will receive a trophy and a cash prize and the finalists will receive a trophy.

The 2018 Asia-Pacific Riverprize finalists will have the opportunity to showcase their projects at the 21<sup>st</sup> International Riversymposium and the winner will be announced at the Riverprize Gala Dinner in Sydney, Australia (Tuesday 16 October, 2018). During the Gala Dinner, all finalists' projects will be showcased as short videos in front of a large audience of VIPs, dignitaries, government representatives, sponsors and conference delegates.

## Who should enter?

Organisations in the Asia-Pacific region involved in river management, restoration and/or protection should enter the Asia-Pacific Riverprize. The size of the river or budget is not a barrier to winning; it's the integration of programs, innovations used and achievements made towards maintained or improved river ecosystem health that the Riverprize recognises.

The application process itself allows you to reflect on achievements and progress made towards your goals.

If you have any questions, please contact the IRF Office [info@riverfoundation.org.au](mailto:info@riverfoundation.org.au), or an IRF ambassador to discuss the process.

## Eligibility

Applications are invited from organisations, or groups of organisations, engaged in integrated river basin management within any part of the Asia-Pacific region.

Eligible countries:

American Samoa  
Australia  
Bangladesh  
Bhutan  
Brunei  
Cambodia

China  
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands  
Cook Islands  
Fiji  
French Polynesia  
Guam  
Hong Kong  
India  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Kiribati  
Laos  
Macau  
Malaysia  
Maldives  
Marshall Islands  
Micronesia  
Mongolia  
Myanmar  
Nauru  
Nepal  
New Zealand  
New Caledonia  
Niue  
North Korea  
Pakistan  
Palau  
Papua New Guinea  
Philippines  
Samoa  
Singapore  
Solomon Islands  
South Korea  
Sri Lanka  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Tonga  
Tuvalu  
Vanuatu  
Vietnam

Rivers which have previously won the Thies International River *prize* are not eligible to be considered in any category for ten years. Finalists are welcome to re-apply at any time.

## **River *prize* application process**

Applications will **only** be accepted if they are completed via the online application portal available on the International RiverFoundation website. All supporting materials are also able to be attached to the application via the online portal. No paper applications will be accepted.

To enter River *prize*:

1. Go to the website and register your details for the Asia-Pacific River *prize* via the online portal at [www.riverfoundation.org.au](http://www.riverfoundation.org.au). Additionally, you can find FAQs, supporting links and materials from the River *prize* pages.
2. You will then be sent a unique link via email that will provide you with secure access to your application. You will be able to send this link to multiple people should you wish to do so. Access to your application is only available via this link. If you lose or misplace the link we can provide you with the link again but you will require a password.
3. Read and sign the Terms and Conditions, noting your responsibilities if you become a finalist or winner.
4. Complete the Asia-Pacific Stage 1 River *prize* Application Form (sections A – C) and submit online by **29 March 2018**
5. Shortlisted applications will be notified by mid-April and given access to the online Stage 2 River *prize* Application to complete.
6. Shortlisted applicants will be asked to complete the **Stage 2 River *prize* Application** (sections D – F) and submit online via the portal by **15 June, 2018**. Stage 2 also requires supporting documentation to be provided via the online portal - there will be a section allowing you to upload materials with your submission.

Supporting documentation should include:

- A table of contents of all supporting documentation, saved as a Microsoft Word document or PDF.
- Supporting documents as referenced in your application.
- 5 - 10 high resolution images (300+dpi) of your project, with captions, which can also be used in promotional activities if you become a finalist.

Please provide supporting documentation via the online portal. Do not send any hard copies of supporting documentation material. Supporting documentation must be received **by the submission deadline** – 15 June, 2018.

Note: Referees may be contacted at any stage of the judging process if you are selected as a Finalist. Please notify your nominated referees that they may be contacted by a judging panel representative via email or other means.

**Finalists will be notified mid-July and requested to provide a short video that illustrates their nominated project for use on the evening of the Gala dinner. This footage does not influence the judging decision.**

## Judging process

The Stage 1 River *prize* Application allows for a fast and efficient method to determine if your program meets the criteria and will be competitive in the River *prize* process. All entrants will be advised if they are shortlisted for the second stage of judging in **April 2018**. Unsuccessful entrants will be provided with feedback on request.

The shortlisted applicants will be provided access to the Stage 2 River *prize* Application via the online portal and the judging panel will select the finalists.

All entrants will be advised if they qualify as a finalist **mid July 2018**. After assessing the Stage 1 and 2 applications, along with the supporting material, a winner will be identified and subsequently announced during the 21<sup>st</sup> International Rivers*symposium*, to be held in Sydney, Australia on 14-18 October 2018.

If required, judges will consult referees and independent experts to verify the authenticity of your application at any stage of the judging process. The judges' decision will be final.

## Asia-Pacific River*prize* application guidelines

Applications must comply with the following format:

**Electronic:** All applications must be submitted via the online portal in the requested format and within the word limit (including supporting documentation - do not send books) and submitted using the online **River*prize* Application Forms**; Stage 1 can be accessed via the RiverFoundation website ([www.riverfoundation.org.au](http://www.riverfoundation.org.au)) shortlisted applicants only will be provided access to Stage 2.

**Language:** All applications (including supporting materials) must be in **English**.

**General:** Entrants must spell out acronyms and abbreviations in the first instance of it appearing in the submission.

**Length:** Each question sets out how much space should be assigned to answering that question (applications that exceed this limit may be penalised and judges may not read beyond set pages or word limits).

**Criteria:** All sections and questions must be addressed in the corresponding section of the online forms.

**Documentation:** As outlined in the application process, appendices can be attached to the online application form. They can be referred to in the text of your submission. Other scientific data referred to in your application (including 5 - 10 high resolution images of your project) and an electronic table of contents must be supplied via the online portal where a space will be made available for uploading this documents. File size is limited to 250MB in total. All supporting material will only be taken into account when assessing finalists' submissions. It is therefore essential that the content of your application answers the criteria.

## Finalists' commitments

Finalists in the Thies Asia-Pacific River*prize* are invited to be members of the River*prize* Alumni and are encouraged to develop a close working partnership with each other and the RiverFoundation network to exchange knowledge and skills.

Finalists are required to provide additional information to support promotional activities conducted by International RiverFoundation relating to the River*prize* and the River*prize* Gala Dinner. A two-minute video will be requested from all finalists for showing at the River*prize* Gala Dinner, and for sharing on other media platforms. This video material will not be viewed by the judges, and is used for promotional purposes only.

The winner will be announced at the River*prize* Gala Dinner awards ceremony held as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> International Rivers*symposium* and we therefore request that **all finalists attend Rivers*symposium***.

## Winner's commitments

The winner **agrees to attend the International Riversymposium in 2019** to host a feature session or workshop with the aim to share their knowledge, experiences and lessons learned. The winners are also expected to participate in RiverFoundation functions such as feature sessions and networking dinners held during *Riversymposium*.

## Judging panel

The Thies Asia-Pacific Riverprize judging panels consist of eminent scientists and water experts from the region who participate on a voluntary basis. The 2018 judging panel will be finalised before applications close and available on the International RiverFoundation website.

## Contact Details

For further information on the Thies Asia-Pacific Riverprize or to clarify eligibility or application processes, please contact:

### **International RiverFoundation**

Email: [info@riverfoundation.org.au](mailto:info@riverfoundation.org.au)

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