

CONCEPT NOTE – Asia-Pacific Housing Forum Innovation Awards

INTRODUCTION

Habitat for Humanity in collaboration with partner organizations and institutions, is organizing the second Innovation Awards within the framework of the eighth Asia-Pacific Housing Forum or APHF. This concept note provides an overview of the development and implementation of the APHF Innovation awards.

In line with the APHF theme, *“Building Forward Better for Inclusive Housing”*, the awards seek to promote and celebrate innovative approaches to improve the housing situation for low-income households at scale.

The Asia-Pacific region faces complex housing challenges in the context of rapid urbanization. Persisting poverty and inequality as well as lack of basic services and urban infrastructure are frequent, and require locally adapted, innovative solutions. Globally, adequate homes for 1.5 billion people are missing by 2025, the so-called “affordable housing deficit”.

Natural disasters and climate change-related impacts further exacerbate housing shortages and inadequacies in the region. The urban poor are disproportionately affected by flooding, extreme heat, tropical cyclones, storm surges, landslides, sea-level rise and coastal erosion. Insufficient urban infrastructure and lack of basic services has been further highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those living in slums and informal settlements are most vulnerable to health and economic consequences of countermeasures like lockdowns.

The Innovation Awards promotes practical and innovative solutions for adequate and affordable housing solutions in a multitude of sectors in order to improve the housing situation. The awards further seek to demonstrate the importance of strategic collaboration, specifically multi-sector people-public-private-partnerships that foster innovations. The focus of these awards will be on rewarding initiatives that address real need and provide affordable, disaster-resilient, inclusive and sustainable solutions with an added lens of COVID-19 pandemic considerations.

APHF INNOVATION AWARD CATEGORIES

The Awards will be structured in three categories:

Category 1: ShelterTech

In coordination with Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter, this category aims to seek and promote technology innovations (product & services) led by the private sector. Priority would be given to technologies that provide practical solutions to affordable housing challenges and can be commercially scaled, to increase impact on low-income households and communities.

The following sectors are included:

- Building materials: better quality, enhanced durability, reduced cost and time in new construction or repair.
- WASH: clean water and sewage treatment using efficient, cost-effective models.
- Energy: off-grid, smart homes and clean sources.
- Finance: credit products and assessments and alternatives to ownership, such as renting, rent-to-own, joint building ventures, cooperatives and co-ownership.
- Markets: improved transaction and supply chain practices.
- Labor: Training, standardization, techniques, safety and monitoring.

Category 2: Public Policies

This category promotes innovative public policies across all sectors and levels of government that help to reduce housing deficit and improve housing conditions while taking into considerations specific needs of minorities, vulnerable and marginalized populations. Special consideration will be given to new policies aimed at construction of decent housing and addressing impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable segments of the population.

This award is intended (but not restricted) for:

- Measures to coordinate and align horizontal (between local governments or public agencies from various sectors) and vertical (between national and subnational governments) intergovernmental public efforts that contribute to addressing housing and urban habitat challenges.
- Initiatives that promote the role of local governments in the development of their territories and response against COVID-19.
- Policies that promote participation and co-production of habitat, and that give voice to vulnerable groups (e.g., women, older adults, youth, people with disabilities) and the newly marginalized - migrants in communities - in the design and implementation of solutions.
- Experiences that enhance community and local initiatives, collaborating with multiple sectors.
- Government strategies or measures that rely on public-private partnerships to innovatively address housing and urban habitat issues.
- Innovative policies aimed at preventing and addressing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable sectors.
- Cross-sectoral collaboration initiatives between government agencies from different sectors (e.g., health, education, housing, urban development, water and sanitation, etc.)
- Innovative uses of information systems or digital/virtual tools that increase the capacity of low-income households and communities to gain greater access to improved housing conditions.

Category 3: Practices

Practices originated by public or public-private partnerships, which contribute to improved communities and settlements and increased access to affordable housing for the most disadvantaged segments of society. Innovative practices will be evaluated within the framework of SDG No. 11 “sustainable cities and communities”.

This award is intended (but not restricted) for

- Initiatives aimed at addressing and managing urbanization processes that mitigate the impact of city growth in the region, and contribute to building inclusive and equitable cities

in terms of access to housing and quality urban goods and services, aimed at addressing situations of vulnerability and urban poverty.

- Practices that have improved the conditions of slums/informal settlements and/or their population with sustainable improvements in their physical, social, economic, legal, organizational and environmental settings.
- Initiatives that provide solutions to cope with the effects of climate change and strengthen the resilience of the population to disasters.
- Initiatives that contribute to capacity enhancement for participatory, integrated and sustainable planning and management of human settlements.
- Initiatives intervening housing and settlements to prevent and generate better health and welfare conditions for the people.
- Financing models or strategies that promote equitable access to adequate and affordable housing.
- Innovative uses of information systems or digital/virtual tools that increase the capacity of low-income households and communities to gain greater access to improved housing conditions.

The initiatives to be applied in this category must be active or in the process of being implemented, and must have started on 01 January 2019, with the expected results already achieved and verifiable.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Category 1: ShelterTech

Organizations, startups to scaleups, entrepreneurs and innovation institutions and agencies are invited to submit technological solutions (products or services) which respond in an innovative way to problems, challenges or opportunities in the affordable housing market. Applied technology that reduces costs and favors the access of vulnerable and excluded groups to a sustainable and quality housing and habitat, allowing to make more efficient and intelligent the design, planning and management of the habitat for the development of healthier, greener, more inclusive and resilient dwellings and cities.

Priority will be given to technologies that can be commercially expanded, replicated and scaled to increase impact on affordable housing segment.

Category 2: Public Policies

This category is exclusively aimed at the public sector with its different levels of government (municipal, metropolitan, subnational, national, etc.) and public partnerships (associations, network of institutions, etc.), as well as public companies and public agencies at different levels and sectors.

Category 3: Inspirational Practices

This category is open to social and territorial organizations, municipalities, national and sub-national governments, foundations and corporations, consulting firms and private companies, academia, research centers, multilateral organizations and civil society representatives, as well as any other interested organizations.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSIBILITY

All the applications must be filled out on the Evalato platform, which can be accessed on the APHF website. It must comply with the following:

- The forms must be completed in full.
- **Category 1 – ShelterTech**
 - o The organization presenting the initiative must be a stakeholder as indicated in the point "who can apply".
 - o The technological innovation must have been implemented or be at the prototype level with already evaluated outcomes, and must have been launched, incorporated or operating in at least one of the countries in Asia-Pacific.
- **Category 2 – Public Policies**
 - o The organization presenting the initiative must be from the public sector, as indicated in the point "who can apply?"
 - o The initiative must have been started, modified or enhanced by 2019 or 2020.
 - o The initiative should clearly state how it contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 11 "to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".
 - o The initiative should clearly indicate how it contributes to the response and/or sustainable recovery from COVID-19.
 - o Application must include formal adoption or implementation verifier (decree, approval, regulation, program design or others).
- **Category 3 – Inspirational Practices**
 - o The organization presenting the initiative must be a stakeholder as indicated in the point "who can apply".
 - o The initiative must have been started, modified or enhanced by 2019 or 2020.
 - o The initiative should clearly state how it contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 11 "to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".
 - o - The initiative should clearly indicate how it contributes to the response and/or sustainable recovery from COVID-19.
 - o Application must include formal adoption or implementation verifier (decree, approval, regulation, program design or others).

Further information about the application content is provided in the online form (<https://app.evalato.com/program/3568/submission-forms>).

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Two sets of evaluation criteria are proposed for the awards, one for ShelterTech category 1 and other for evaluation of public policies and inspirational practices categories 2 and 3.

Category 1 will be evaluated according to the criteria:

1. Significance of Challenge:

- Is the challenge that the initiative is tackling critical, well understood and well communicated?
- Does the initiative address other relevant global and/or regional challenges (for example, climate change, health, etc)?

2. Impact and Systemic Effectiveness:

- Has the initiative achieved, or does it have the potential to achieve relevant results or impacts regarding its objectives and/or goals?
- Does it stand out for results that improve the well being of low-income households/vulnerable populations?
- Does the initiative seek to address systemic barriers to housing?

3. Innovations:

- Does the initiative offer elements of novelty (despite of potentially building off previous work)?
- Does the initiative bring elements of innovation that makes it stand out among other existing solutions or alternatives?

4. Market Potential:

- Is the solution proposed interesting for customers in the housing sector? Does it have the potential to receive further financing from investors?
- Is the innovation proposed resilient enough to navigate value chain and market risks?

5. Sustainability and Scalability:

- Does the initiative include elements in its concept and/or management that contribute to creating and maintaining a long-term positive impact over time?
- Does the initiative have the potential to be transferred and expanded to other geographies or realities, or expanded to multiple offerings with little modification?

Categories 2 & 3 will be evaluated according to the criteria:

1. Significance and Impact

- Does the initiative address a real need in the affordable housing segment and is the challenge considered significant?
- Does the solution yield significant benefits (which may be in terms of lower cost of construction, saving construction time, improved resilience to natural disasters, improved access to housing for vulnerable population groups etc.). Is there relevant data to support its impact?

2. Innovation

- Does the initiative show novelty in its approach to solving affordable housing challenges in the Asia Pacific region (despite of potentially building off previous work)?
- Does it clearly demonstrate how it is different from exiting market solutions?

3. People, Private, Public Partnerships

- Does the proposal clearly describes how it fosters People, public, private partnerships (P4)?
- Dose the initiative highlight how it creates synergies through engagement or addressing of local SMEs and / or improving value chains?

4. SDGs

- Does the initiative show the link in its approach to SDGs especially SDG11 and other global issues such as climate change?

5. Scale-up and Replicability

- Does the initiative show strong potential for expansion that can lead to reduction in affordable housing deficit in the long-run?
- Dose it demonstrate potential of transferability across Asia Pacific region?

6. Response to COVID-19

- Does initiative demonstrates how it can contribute to response/ recovery from COVID – 19?

BENEFITS TO FINALISTS/ WINNERS

- 3 Big Winners (1 per category) get a cash prize of USD 5,000.00/-
- 1 Special Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Award sponsored by the EU SWITCH-Asia to be given to one of the Top 12 innovators scoring highest in the sustainability criteria.
- Top 12 innovators (4 per category) will:
 - o Pitch their initiatives at the Grand Premiere on December 1, 2021.
 - o Get their promotional videos displayed during the Asia-Pacific Housing Forum events
 - o Be featured on the APHF website

Special Award on Sustainable Consumption and Production Award or SCP Award

Special Award on Sustainable Consumption and Production by SWITCH-Asia to be given to the finalist (from top 12) scoring highest in the sustainability criteria.

Evaluation criteria for the SCP Award:

1. Providing an innovative, scalable solution on sustainable housing regarding technology, policies and practices that including building emissions reduction / energy solutions, circularity, and creating sustainable cities.
2. Relevant to the SWITCH-Asia programme through engagement or addressing of local SMEs and / or improving value chains.
3. Either located in a SWITCH-Asia country or replicable in SWITCH-Asia countries.

JURY PANELS

A Selection Committee will be appointed, with the participation of renowned individuals with knowledge and experience. Jury panels will also include representatives from sponsors - Hilti Foundation, Whirlpool, SWITCH-Asia and Habitat for Humanity. This Jury will be responsible for pre-selecting the top 12 finalists.

The pre-selected 12 innovations will be announced on **October 15, 2021** and will be invited to pitch their initiatives at the **Grand Premiere** to be held on **December 1, 2021**. During the Grand Premiere, the top 12 applicant organizations will present their innovations at a public hearing attended by a relevant audience.

Pre-selected initiatives will be asked for additional information for its dissemination and communication.

CONTEST TIMELINE

	Start	End
Call for Application (live on website)	August 1 2021	
Deadline for submission	August 31, 2021	
Internal Review & Shortlisting (2weeks)	September 1, 2021	September 14, 2021
Jury deliberation (2 weeks)	September 15, 2021	September 30, 2021
Finalist announcement (Top 12)	October 15, 2021	
Video & Presentation Submission by Top 12 (2 weeks)	October 16, 2021	October 31, 2021
Videos posted on APHF website (2 weeks)	November 1, 2021	November 15, 2021
Grand Premiere (virtual)	December 1, 2021	
Announcement of Winners at Award Ceremony at APHF	December 9, 2021	

COMPETITION STAGES

The Evalato awards platform will be used to submit and evaluate all applications. Submissions must be made by **August 31, 2021**.

Stage 1 – Internal Review & Short-listing (1 September – 15 September)

Contest organizing team will go through admissibility review of all submitted applications. All applications that have been declared admissible will continue to the evaluation process. Based on agreed scoring criteria, applications will be given points. The top 10 in each of the three awards category will be shortlisted and will move to the second stage of the competition.

Stage 2 – Finalists selection by Jury

A total of 30 shortlisted submissions will be forwarded to the Jury panels for deliberations. Jury panels will rate entries as per the agreed criteria and will announce Top 12 highest scoring innovators (4 from each criteria).

The top 12 innovators will be invited to submit their videos to be showcased on the APHF website and will also be invited to pitch their initiatives at the Grand Premiere, on December 1, 2021.

Stage 3 – Innovation Awards Grand Premiere

At the Grand Premiere on December 1, 2021, the top 12 innovations (4 from each of the 3 categories) will pitch their initiatives. One winner from each category will be selected by the jury and the audience poll.

Stage 4 – Awarding Ceremony

The winners in each category will receive a cash price of US \$ 5,000.00, to be awarded on December 9, 2021 during the virtual Innovation Awards ceremony at the Asia-Pacific Housing Forum.

PARTICIPATION TERMS

By filling out the application form on the platform, the participants accept the terms of commitment of this public invitation.

Submissions will be made on behalf of the organization and awards will be given in an institutional rather than in a personal capacity. Final results will be unappealable. In case of false identity or report of plagiarism of any information in the registration process or in the registered projects and works, the project will be immediately disqualified.

APHF organizers are relieved of any legal responsibility regarding authorial violation of content submitted by applicant organizations.

RIGHTS GRANTED

It is understood that for all initiatives submitted for the contest, the organizations or institutions grant Habitat for Humanity and its partners the right of reproduction, distribution, public communication and elaboration of systematized information for non-commercial uses. Any text or product derived by Habitat for Humanity from the awarded initiative will be previously validated with the organization or institution.

QUESTIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

For any questions or concerns regarding at the Innovation Awards, please contact awards@aphousingforum.org. The contest organizers will reach out to you as soon as possible.

[Asia-Pacific Housing Forum 8 | Innovation Awards \(aphousingforum.org\)](https://aphousingforum.org)