



# DUBAI INTERNATIONAL AWARD

For best practices to improve the living  
Environment



جائزة دبي الدولية  
لأفضل الممارسات في مجال تحسين ظروف المعيشة

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL AWARD  
For Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment

Our Vision: Developing a happy and sustainable city

# Guidelines to the selection process in the Award



## Introduction

The Dubai Award was established in 1995 under the directive of late Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, during the United Nations International Conference that convened in Dubai between 19 – 22 November 1995 when 914 participants from 95 countries met in Dubai to recognize best practices with positive impact on improving the living environment. Since that time and up until today , H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the U.A.E. and the Ruler of Dubai and H.H. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance and Industry and Chairman of Dubai Municipality have continued to support this Award.

The Award reflects the policy and commitment of Dubai Government and the United Arab Emirates towards sustainable development of human settlements and protection of the environment on the basis of mutual international cooperation.

Over the years of recognizing excellence and supporting urban best practices , the Dubai Municipality and UN-Habitat presented the Dubai International Award for Best Practices as a mean to Improve the Living Environment.

The award this year comes at a critical time. with the New Urban Agenda being signed in October 2016 , this is a distinct opportunity to show case the most effective interventions for improving the lives of urban residents around the globe.

In line with Sustainable Development Goal 11 – from the New Urban Agenda which emphasis on making cities and communities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable – the Best Practice Award recognizes significant contributions which :

- Have a demonstrable and tangible impact on improving people’s quality of life.
- Are the result of effective partnerships between the public, private and civic sectors of society.
- Are socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable.



In addition, the award reflects the policy and commitment of the United Arab Emirates Government towards the sustainable development of human settlements and the protection of the environment.

Working closely with UN-Habitat, the award represents the importance of strong and coherent partnerships in implementing the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11 in this agenda, and delivering socially, economically and environmentally sustainable cities for all.

We recognize that the realization of the transformative commitments set out in the New Urban Agenda will require enabling policy frameworks at the national, subnational and local levels, integrated by participatory planning and management of urban spatial development, and effective means of implementation, complemented by international cooperation as well as efforts in

capacity development, including the sharing of best practices, policies and programmes among governments at all levels

The award is open to all sectors: national and regional governments, local authorities and their associations, non-governmental organizations, multilateral agencies, community based organizations, research and academic institutions, public and private foundations, media entities and individuals.

# THE OFFICIAL SCOPE DESCRIPTION & CRITERIA FOR EACH CATEGORY



There are 5 categories of entries available for submission in the award as per the following :

## 1) Best Practice Award

### General Scope & Criteria of the Category :

A Best Practice is an initiative that provides solutions to pressing issues, demonstrates success in its outcomes, and is recognized as a possible standard for widespread adoption. The United Nations General Assembly in 1995 defined Best Practices as “initiatives which have made outstanding contributions to improving the quality of life in cities and communities.” More specifically, the General Assembly defined Best Practices as successful initiatives which:

- Have a demonstrable and tangible impact on improving people's quality of life.
- Are the result of effective partnerships between the public, private and civic sectors of society.
- Are socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable.

This category is divided into two sub categories as follow :

- 1.1 Best Practice Award for National Urban Policies
- 1.2 Best Practice Award for Participatory Slum Upgrading

## 1.1 Best Practice Award for National Urban Policies

### Scope & Description :

This category aims to recognize national and sub-national governments that successfully adopt and implement National Urban Policies (NUP). Such Governments acknowledge that cities require priority high level attention in national development strategies, both in macro-economic and social policy terms.

A National Urban Policy is defined by UN-Habitat as a “coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate government led-process of coordinating and rallying various actors for a common vision and goal that promotes more transformative, productive, inclusive, and resilient urban development for the long term .

### The submission should have demonstrated the following conditions :

The submission should have demonstrated the effective adoption and implementation of NUPs that have brought:

- More harmonious regional and territorial urban development, balancing social, economic and environmental concerns.
- Stronger guidance on the future development of the national urban system and its regional spatial configuration, supported by specific plans, tools and means of implementation.
- Wider participation and higher levels of coordination of diverse stakeholders and partners in various development levels and areas, with more public and private investments and more effective allocation of resources.
- Better design and more effective implementation of transformative solutions in key regional and urban development areas such as infrastructure development, urban energy and urban mobility that have contributed to improve the quality of life and the prosperity of the country’s population

### The results obtained from the implementation should include :

The results obtained from the implementation of the National Urban Policies should have succeeded in:

- Defining the mandates and levels of responsibility for all tiers of government.
- Improving the financial model for government functions at various levels.
- Creating well-planned structures and plans for different regions of the country, including rural-urban linkages.
- Defining higher jurisdictional coherence to achieve better urban & regional governance, including urban plans with law enforcement capacity.

### Number of Winners in this category:

One Winner , he will receive 30,000 U.S. Dollars (( Thirty Thousand )) plus a Trophy especially designed for the award.





## 1.2 ) Best Practice Award for Participatory Slum Upgrading

### **Scope & Description :**

This category aims to recognize impactful initiatives by national and sub national governments, local authorities and organizations including those at community level that significantly transformed the living standards of slum dwellers. Taking into account the estimated one billion slum dwellers living in the world today, this award seeks to promote initiatives that demonstrate positive change in slums achieved at community, city and national levels.

### **The submission should have demonstrated the following conditions :**

The submission should have demonstrated the effective adoption and implementation of policies, strategies and plans aimed at:

- Reducing urban poverty and applying slum upgrading solutions to social, economic and environmental problems.
- Harnessing the power of partnerships and communities for inclusive urban transformation by establishing broad partnerships and platforms that include slum dwellers as well as key decision makers.
- Building consensus between all urban stakeholders on the programmes undertaken.
- Protecting and expanding the livelihood opportunities of slum dwellers.
- Promoting social mix and diversity. including measures to counter gentrification.
- Reducing inequalities in the urban context by integrating the people living in slums into the broader urban fabric for more prosperous and sustainable cities.
- Empowering women and youth.



**The results obtained from the implementation should include :**

The results from the implementation of participatory slum upgrading initiatives should demonstrate success in :

- Targeting the five slum deprivations by providing slum dwellers with access to portable water, improved sanitation, durable housing, adequate living space and security of residential tenure.
- Promoting multilevel governance frameworks through multi stakeholder participation including that of youth, women and all vulnerable communities living in slums.
- Aligning all policies, plans and strategies for slum upgrading, to existing public policies and strategies at city and national levels.
- Financing slum upgrading through diverse financing options including public and private finances.
- Upholding the human rights of slum dwellers including preventing forced evictions.
- Providing a sustainable framework for ending poverty through slum upgrading.

**Number of Winners in this category:**

One Winner , he will receive 30,000 U.S. Dollars (( Thirty Thousand )) plus a Trophy especially designed for the award.



## 2) Best Practices Transfer Awards

### General Scope , Description & Criteria of the Category :

A Best Practice transfer is defined as a process whereby two or more parties engage in a mutual and structured exchange to learn from one another in view of improving processes, skills, knowledge, expertise or technology for the purpose of improving the urban living environment.

Best Practices Transfer award will be given to policies and programmes that have demonstrable results and tangible impact in improving the quality of urban life and contributed to the sustainable urban development agenda and that have also been replicated in part or in whole, through structured learning and/or exchange mechanisms, described above this .

**This category is divided into two sub categories as follow:**

- 2.1 Best Practice Transfer Award in Local Implementation – Urban redevelopment, and redesign of urban spaces
- 2.2 Best Practice Transfer Award in Monitoring Mechanisms for the New Urban Agenda and the Urban Sustainable Development Goals

Details is as follow :





## 2.1 ) Best Practice Transfer Award in Local Implementation – Urban redevelopment, and redesign of urban spaces

### **Scope & Description :**

This Award category aims to recognize local governments, private sector, NGOs and other organizations and institutions for designing and implementing local physical actions that have driven transformative change in the city.

### **The submission should have demonstrated the following conditions :**

To be considered for the Award, the submission should demonstrate that physical city interventions have resulted in:

- More extensions of the city that are well-planned and commensurate with population growth needs, for example through Planned City Extensions.
- More areas within the city that are redeveloped to accommodate growth without expanding the urban edge, for example through planned city in-fills and brownfield developments.
- More properly urbanized areas of the city through land readjustment interventions.
- Larger slum areas of the city that have been upgraded through integrated in-situ improvements and the delivery of urban basic services and housing.
- Better provision of accessible public space throughout the city.



**The results obtained from the implementation should include :**

The results obtained from transformative city physical interventions should have succeeded in:

- Achieving more efficient and sustainable urban development with a considerable increase of densities.
- Optimizing the land use and minimizing the social, economic and environmental cost of urban sprawl.
- Improving street life, economic viability, proximity and walkability in the city.
- Reviving abandoned or poorly developed urban areas within the city.
- Reducing the proportion and number of slum and informal areas within the city.
- Creating and maintaining adequate public spaces and open areas in the city.

**Number of Winners in this category :**

One Winner , he will receive 30,000 U.S. Dollars (( Thirty Thousand )) plus a Trophy especially designed for the award.



## 2.2 Best Practice Transfer Award in Monitoring Mechanisms for the New Urban Agenda and the Urban SDGs

### **Scope & Description :**

This Award category aims to recognize local governments, academia, private sector, civil society and any other organizations and institutions that are putting in place effective local monitoring systems for the follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda and the urban SDGs. The Award recognizes that data, metrics and sound monitoring mechanisms are essential for achieving the sustainable urban development agenda. The monitoring mechanism enables local and national governments to make correct decisions on the best policies to adopt, and assist in tracking changes, whilst systematically documenting performance of the city at the outcome level. This will increase the possibilities for the cities to address the environmental, social and economic components of urbanization.

### **The submission should have demonstrated the following conditions :**

To be considered for the Award, the submissions should demonstrate the effective creation and implementation of sound local monitoring mechanisms that have resulted in the following :

- Development and refinement of non-conventional means of data collection, such as community-based surveys, ICT, video footage .
- Refinement in the approaches and techniques for the data collection, analysis and compilation of information for new themes of the New Urban Agenda and the urban SDGs indicators.
- Incorporation of new analytical tools based on spatial indicators, including the development of new techniques and conditions.
- Adoption of metrics and methodologies with a unified monitoring framework such as UN-Habitat City Prosperity Initiative.



**The results obtained from the implementation should include :**

The results obtained from the operationalization of the local monitoring mechanism should have succeeded in:

- Integrating a city-wide approach to the measurement of the city.
- Producing more sensitive city data including intra-city variations
- Adopting a more holistic and integrated approach to policy development.
- Incorporating into one single mechanism the follow-up and review of both the New Urban Agenda and the urban SDGs.
- Improving the quality of decision-making and promoting evidence-based bottom-up-top down dialogue.
- Enhancing the participation of partners bringing more legitimacy & wider ownership to the monitoring & review process of the urban agendas.
- Achieving higher accountability for delivering and reporting.

**Number of Winners in this category :**

One Winner , he will receive 30,000 U.S. Dollars (( Thirty Thousand )) plus a Trophy especially designed for the award.



### 3) Private Sector Award for contribution to territorial planning, urban planning and design

#### **General Scope , Description & Criteria of the Category :**

The award is given to a private sector organization that has successfully given technical assistance and advice to local government for the development and implementation of effective territorial and urban design plans to act on the form, character and functionality of the city, increasing prosperity and sustainability.

#### **The submission should have demonstrated the following conditions :**

The submission should demonstrate the effective adoption and implementation of a reinvigorated notion of territorial planning and design that has brought:

- More urban spaces that facilitate the development of economies of agglomeration.

- More well-designed urban areas that have increased densities and mixed land uses.
- Better and more resilient plans and strategies that address climate change related risks.
- More public space that is accessible, affordable and safe for all inhabitants.
- Better urban plans that articulate different scales of intervention from regions, to the metropolis, the city and the neighborhood .
- More places that encourage social diversity .



**The results obtained from the implementation should include :**

The results obtained from the effective implementation of urban planning and design should have succeeded in:

- Transforming the city or parts of it in more compact, integrated, connected and sustainable areas.
- Ensuring higher protection of the 'commons' and the urban and natural environment through appropriated design.
- Increasing city resilience mechanisms, adaptation and mitigation capacities and the possibilities of the city to deal with climate change risks through adequate plans.
- Achieving higher levels of sustainable mobility that contribute to reduce energy consumption, improve accessibility social inclusion.
- Creating effective public-private partnerships

The private sector entity should also demonstrate social and environmental sustainability principles and values in its core business.

**Number of Winners in this category :**

Two Winners , each will receive 30,000 US. Dollars (( Thirty Thousand )) plus a Trophy especially designed for the award.



## 4) Personal Award – for contribution to urban economy and municipal finance

### General Scope , Description & Criteria of the Category :

This Award category aims to recognize an individual person that has made outstanding contributions to the development of urban economy and municipal finance, working for local authorities, and other related organizations. The individual's work has contributed to enhancing fiscal devolution, increasing the productivity of cities, improving revenue generation and collection, providing decent jobs and equal opportunities.

### The submission should have demonstrated the following conditions :

The submission should demonstrate the effective adoption and implementation of strategies for reinvigorated urban economy and employment generation that have brought:

- More effective business plan that increases municipal income.
- Sound economic regeneration and urban renewal programmes.

- More effective strategies that promote economic cluster development and economic diversification plans for job generation.
- Sound contractual and legal frameworks that allow for more transparent and effective public-private partnerships and other financial strategies.
- Better targeted programmes for human capital formation and the development of knowledge sharing platforms.
- Mechanisms and tools for fostering inclusive local economic development (job creation, entrepreneurship, microfinance, etc.), more adequate and affordable lending mechanisms that target the urban poor and other vulnerable populations.
- Income-growth and generation programmes in favor of minorities, including immigrants.
- Design and implement tools for fostering inclusive local economic development (e.g. job creation, entrepreneurship, microfinance, etc)



**The results obtained from the implementation should include :**

The results obtained from a reinvigorated urban economy and employment generation should have succeeded in:

- Achieving higher municipal revenue generation.
- Reducing unemployment and underemployment rates in the city.
- Improving city competitiveness and better value generation to achieve a more productive urban economy.
- More efficient supply chain factors that increase affordability of goods and services.
- Higher land and property values linked to value capture mechanisms to increase the revenue base of the government.

**Number of Winners in this category :**

Two Winners , each will receive Dollars (( Thirty Thousand )) plus a Trophy especially designed for the award.





## 5) University Research Award on Legislation, Rules, Regulations & Governance Systems

### General Scope , Description & Criteria of the Category :

This award aims to recognize outstanding research on this thematic area. The research will be judged based on breaking new ground, introducing new thinking, having high impact and/or inspiring others in this thematic area. The research should have provided significant information, perspectives and analysis on the areas listed below. and /or highlighted national and local government/s that have adopted and implemented laws and regulatory mechanisms to support the process of well-planned urbanization, including transparent legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms.

### The submission should have demonstrated the following conditions :

The research should demonstrate the effective adoption and implementation of an urban legislation framework that brings some or all of the following:

- Higher accountability and rule of law.
- Stronger forms of supervision and responsibility at different levels of government that are complementary.
- Clearer implementation mechanisms that are continuously enforced.
- More effective legal instruments that promote 'positive' urbanization.
- Better regulations related to the creation and protection of public spaces and the establishment of development rights and building codes for the adequate design of streets and plot layouts.
- Better mechanisms for municipal income generation, including laws and regulations for land value capture and sharing.



- Better regulation to protect the ‘commons’ and ensure environmental sustainability.
- Sounder urban governance mechanisms and decentralization laws that expand citizen participation and empowerment.
- More suitable mechanisms and regulations that ensure an equitable access to public goods and the protection of the public domain.
- Increased city capacities to regulate the form of the city and reorient its vocation and comparative advantages.
- New or Adjusted urban plans that offer useful guidance and predictable outcomes, balancing public and private interests.
- Improved capacity of the local government to guide and harness the transformative forces of urbanization.
- Better rules and regulation for environmental sustainability.
- Increased stability and security through enhanced social and economic inclusion

**The results obtained from the implementation should include :**

Included and clarified in the Criteria and adaptation conditions of the category.

**Number of Winners in this category :**

Two Winners , each will receive 15,000 U.S. Dollars (( Fifteen Thousand )) plus a Trophy especially designed for the award.



## The selection process and judging stages

The award was designed to have the maximum level of transparency and provide the submitters with the a fair chance to compete in an equivalent and fair opportunities.

Therefore , six filtration process was applied to grant the objectives and grant the true and fair evaluation of each submission.

- **First Stage : Online Submission by the Submitters**
- **Second Stage : Sort & Review by the Award Administration team**
- **Third Stage : Technical Advisory Committee (( TAC ))**
- **Fourth Stage : Jury Committee (( Jury ))**
- **Fifth Stage : Preparations for the Awarding Ceremony**
- **Sixth Stage : Awarding Ceremony**



## First Stage : Online Submission by the Submitters

The submission process in the award must be completed in order to grant that the submission was successfully accepted as one of the competing submissions in the selected category .

Before the start you need to make sure of the following :

- ✓ Prepare a small description about your submission summarizing its objectives and the achieved objectives to copy it when needed during the registration process (( not more that 300 words )) .
- ✓ Prepare a paragraph listing the story of your submission which will formulate the main body of the registration process .
- ✓ Collect & Scan all the supporting documents related to your submission (( in PDF format )) including the main submission abstract in order to upload it when requested during the registration process (( make sure the total size does not exceed 5 Megabyte )) .

The words count or the size of each required paragraph in the registration Form:

- ✓ Situation before the Initiative began [ 50 words ]
- ✓ Stablishment of priorities [ 100 words]
- ✓ Formulations of priorities and strategies [100 words]
- ✓ Mobilization of resources [ 200 words]
- ✓ Process [ 400 words]
- ✓ Results achieved [ 250 words]
- ✓ Sustainability [ 300 words]
- ✓ Lessened learned [ 300 words]
- ✓ Transfers [ 400 words]
- ✓ Related policies or legislations [ 200 words]



### **Second Stage : Sort & Review by the Award Administration team**

This process will determine whether any given submission should be forwarded to the TAC based on validity of the practice and compliance with DIABP criteria and reporting requirements. Usually this starts after the end of the deadline of the submission dates in the award , and usually the award administration team will review the incomplete submissions and eliminate all the incomplete ones after trying to contact the submitters to remind them with the importunacy of completing their submission if they want to avoid the cancellation or elimination from the judging process .

### **Third Stage : Sort by the Technical Advisory Committee (( TAC ))**

The objective of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is to undertake an independent technical appraisal of validated submissions and to propose a short-list together with recommendations to the Jury committee members .

The outputs of the TAC include:

- ✓ A classification of submissions into three categories :
  - best practices (( not more the 20% of the total applied in the particular category ))
  - good practices (( 50% of the selected Best practices in each category ))
  - non-qualifying submissions.
- ✓ A report on methods used, results and recommendations to the jury.



#### **Fourth Stage : Jury Committee (( Jury ))**

The Jury is an independent body that decides on the award-winning practices. The members of the Jury will be charged with selecting the Award-Winning Practices from the shortlisted practices provided to them from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on equal merit.

#### **Fifth Stage : Preparations for the Awarding Ceremony**

At this stage the officially confirmed winners must start preparing a 3-5 minutes presentation about their organization and their winning submission in addition to a documentary film to used in the awarding ceremony as a mean of publicity about the winning submission .

#### **Sixth Stage : The Awarding Ceremony**

Two delegates are usually hosted by the Dubai Government for each winning submission to attend this prestigious ceremony .  
The event is usually organized under the patronage of the royal family in Dubai and attended by a Nemours number of VIP International characters from different parts of the worlds and the International Bodies .



## General Rules & Conditions

### GENERAL CONDITION RELATED TO THE SUBMISSION :

1. The TAC or Jury committee has the right to change the submission category applied or registered by the submitter if they felt that it was to the best interest of the submission or not related to the registered category .
2. The organizing team holds the right to reject or cancel any submission if it is not fully completed as per the set information on the registration & submission Form .
3. The organizing team holds the right to reject or cancel any submission if they failed to contact the submitter or he did not respond to their emails or communication efforts .



## **WINNING SUBMISSIONS MUST COMPLY TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITION :**

1. The Dubai Government will be hosting the awarding ceremony in a location of their choice after the official winners declared by the Jury committee and the date will announced in due time .
2. All the winners will be notified through their registered emails and might also be contacted through their mobile telephone numbers officially registered in the submission .
3. The Dubai Government will also provide a return Air Ticket (( Economy Class )) for the official winner and cover his Hotel expenses in Dubai during the awarding ceremony .
4. The winner must prepare and provide the organizing team with a short video on the winning practice (( about 3 minutes long ))
5. The winner must also prepare and provide the organizing team with a power point presentation ((not more than 15 minutes long)) about the winning practice to be presented in front of the audience during the awarding ceremony.
6. A workshop will be held one day prior to the awarding ceremony to enable winners to present their winning initiatives. (( about 10 – 15 minutes each)) .