

Proposal for GEO Individual Excellence Awards

This document is submitted by the Recognition Subgroup to the Programme Board for decision.

1 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Recognition subgroup was formed at 13th Programme Board meeting.
- Subgroup members are ESIP, the European Commission, Ghana, GRSS, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Original task was to develop a detailed proposal for a comprehensive multi-category award program for GEO.
- With broad support of the Programme Board, the scope of the task was revised impromptu, influenced by EO4SDG award announcement and desire to enable clear communication of various new awards processes. In light of EO4SDG award recognizing teams, groups, and organizations, Programme Board agreed to roll out an award to recognize individual achievements.
- The following is the proposal for the GEO Individual Excellence Award.

2 DECISIONS REQUESTED FROM THE PROGRAMME BOARD

1. Select an option for administering the award from options A and B presented below;
2. Approve the proposed process (selection criteria, nomination guidelines, timeline and nomination form);
3. Designate members of the Programme Board to the Awards Committee; and
4. Decide on the nature of the award.

3 GEO INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

3.1 Description of the Award

The GEO Programme Board is pleased to announce the launch of GEO Individual Excellence Award. This award will be presented to individuals to be nominated by the GEO community, who have demonstrated exceptional personal commitment to the GEO Mission, and whose work has had tangible impact. The accomplishments for the nominations must have occurred in the period of 2016-present. Up to five individual excellence awards will be awarded in 2019.

3.2 Options

Option A

No prescriptive categories would be established. Nominating persons would be asked to provide a description of the nominees' outstanding and extraordinary contribution or achievement, demonstrated by tangible results or impact. Any of the categories in Option B can be listed as examples of disciplines for nomination.

Option B

Establish a number of categories in which individual contributions can be recognized. For this approach, consider any of the following categories:

- **Energy generator:** for being instrumental in generating energy within a community that has led to significant progress or achievements by that community;
- **Outstanding contributor:** for working effectively behind the scenes;
- **Global ambassador:** for promoting the value of Earth Observations (or GEO) globally;
- **Advancing inclusion:** for demonstrated inclusion of underrepresented groups in GEO efforts;
- **Innovation in collaboration:** for applying creative and innovative approaches to achieve collaboration where collaboration is a challenge;
- **Breaking down barriers:** for having overcome administrative, political, institutional or structural barriers to advance goals of the community; and/or
- **Mentoring/coaching youth:** for cultivating interest and participation in EO domain among the youth.

3.3 Selection Criteria

The Award Committee will use the following criteria (presented in no particular order) to select finalists:

- Accomplishment demonstrated by a concrete impact, such as: a new sustained community organized; EO-related discussions or language taken up and sustained in new fora; youth involvement in EO-related initiatives; persistently working on day-to-day tasks to enable progress by a community/Flagship/Initiative;
- Innovation in style and/or approach to tackling challenge; and
- Consistency of the nominee's efforts with GEO's core values and principles.

4 NOMINATION GUIDELINES

- Nominations will be made using a nomination form (Annex A). The main element of the nomination is a maximum 2-page write-up detailing why the candidate deserves this recognition, the importance of the nominee's effort described in terms of impact observed, and a brief CV of the nominated person. The nomination should address as many selection criteria as possible, as substantively as possible.
- The primary sponsor of the nomination will secure support from at least two additional co-sponsors. These sponsors may be contacted by the Awards Committee during the review process to seek clarification and other necessary auxiliary information related to the nomination.
- Nominations for GEO awards are not automatically renewed for the subsequent year. Nominees who do not get selected can be re-nominated in the next round.
- To increase diversity in the group of GEO awardees, we encourage sponsors to consider gender, geographical and cultural representation when nominating candidates for individual excellence.
- Nominations must be submitted electronically to awards@geosec.org

4.1 Who may sponsor nominations?

Any member of the GEO community writ large.

To avoid conflict of interest, members of the Award Committee cannot sponsor or co-sponsor nominations.

4.2 Who may be nominated?

Individuals involved in the GEO Work Programme activity currently, or past contributors who do not have any other conflict of interest may be nominated.

To avoid conflict of interest, active members of the following groups cannot be nominated for this award:

- Awards Committee members;
- GEO Secretariat staff;
- GEO Executive Committee members; and
- Programme Board members.

4.3 Frequency of awards

Recipients may only win an award in a given category once every 3 years.

4.4 Timeline

- Call for nominations will be published on GEO website – 20 June 2019.
- Nominations Submission Deadline – 31 July.
- Finalists selected and notified – September.
- Award Ceremony – 4-9 November, 2019 [GEO Week & Ministerial Summit 2019].

4.5 Nature of the Award

- Certificate of Recognition;
- PB World Gift Basket; and/or
- Featured Profile on GEO website.

ANNEX A – INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

<i>Nominee's Name:</i>
<i>Nominee's Member/Participating Organization:</i>
<i>Nominee's association with GEO (e.g. FL/IN/CA/FT or WG/Team):</i>
<i>Category for which Individual is Recognized (select from the list)</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Energy Generator</i> 2. <i>Outstanding Contributor</i> 3. <i>Global Ambassador</i> 4. <i>Advancing Inclusion</i> 5. <i>Breaking Down Barriers</i> 6. <i>Mentoring and Coaching Youth</i>
<i>Basis of Recommendation (brief 2-3 sentence summary):</i>

<i>Sponsor:</i>
<i>Sponsor's Organization:</i>
<i>Relationship to the Nominee:</i>
<i>Date of Nomination:</i>

<i>Co-Sponsor:</i>
<i>Co-Sponsor's Organization:</i>
<i>Relationship to the Nominee:</i>

<i>Co-Sponsor:</i>
<i>Co-Sponsor's Organization:</i>
<i>Relationship to the Nominee:</i>

<i>Please fully describe the nominee's accomplishment demonstrated by a concrete impact. Maximum length 2 pages.</i>
--