

PRESS RELEASE

**Public service awards honour initiatives in 11 countries
that are advancing SDG progress**

United Nations Rewards Public Service Innovation Worldwide

The Hague, 23 June – 12 institutions from 11 countries were recognized by the United Nations on UN Public Service Day for their innovation and excellence in providing public services. The Day highlights the pivotal role of public services in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UN Public Service Day is celebrated every year to recognize public service innovations and excellence that have led to more effective and inclusive public service delivery contributing to the achievement of the SDGs in countries worldwide.

The 2017 Public Service Awards winners were announced during the UN Public Service Forum “The Future is Now – Accelerating Public Service Innovation for Agenda 2030” held from 22 to 23 June in The Hague, Netherland.

Rewarding a wide range of projects worldwide

The Awards ceremony featured various initiatives that are helping to improve people’s lives. In Argentina, an initiative has provided quality early childhood education to neighbourhoods in extreme needs. An initiative in Australia was recognised that promotes transparency and inclusiveness in use of public fund and resources. In Thailand, a project has provided quality care to elders. In Botswana, the effective waste management system has been implemented to improve communities.

Other award winners include projects to provide inclusive access to quality health care in Ecuador, a scholarship for adolescent girls to combat child marriage in India, and productive water management system in France. The winners were awarded on 23 June, which is UN Public Service Day.

Sharing innovative initiatives by public institutions:

Also on the occasion of UN Public Service day, a two-day Forum was held in the Hague in the Netherlands to allow ministers, senior public servants, civil society representatives, young people and experts to share innovations and lessons learned on mobilizing public servants and public services to realize the SDGs.

“We need to mobilize the best expertise of public servants to transform institutions and put people at the centre of public service. We need to mobilize their creativity and



empower them to take risks and try new ways of doing things. In brief, we need innovation so that no one is left behind”, said Thomas Gass, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs.

The Forum bolstered the capacities of governments to respond in innovative ways to the challenges posed by implementation of the SDGs, in a range of areas, from energy and employment to children’s well being and improving the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable people.

The Forum was organized by the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Division for Public Administration and Development Management.

List of countries awarded

The 2017 Public Service Awards winners are from the following countries:

1st place winners: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Mongolia, United Kingdom

2nd place winners: Botswana, Colombia, France, Thailand

More information on the winners is available at:

bit.ly/UNPSA2017Winners

Additional information on the Public Service Forum is available at:

<https://publicadministration.un.org/en/unps2017>

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