

Insights into VinFuture Prize

Feb 2023 | Issue No.3

Dear Distinguished Guests,

We are delighted to present to you the inaugural 2023 VinFuture Prize newsletter, which provides updates on the nomination progress and insights into VinFuture's forthcoming activities.

As we approach the two-month mark since the call for nominations for the 2023 season, we are pleased to share some positive news. As of now nearly 3,200 prominent individuals and organizations from across the globe have accepted our invitation to serve as nominators for the Prizes.

Over the past few weeks, we have actively engaged with the nominators via various mediums, including a mid-February information webinar with the representatives of the Prize Council, Pre-Screening Committee, and Laureates, one-on-one calls with nominators, and emails. The enthusiasm and attention shown for the Prize from the community are both inspiring and motivating.

We are also thrilled to announce that VinFuture Prize has welcomed three new members. For further information, please see page 10 of this newsletter.

We would like to express our gratitude for your unwavering support and engagement with VinFuture. If you have any comments or feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and thank you for your continued support in the development of the VinFuture Foundation and its Prize.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thai-Ha Le
Managing Director
of VinFuture Prize

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2022 VinFuture Prize Laureates



**Prof. Sir Tim
Berners-Lee**



**Dr. Vinton
Gray Cerf**



**Dr. Emmanuel
Desurvire**



**Dr. Robert Elliot
Kahn**



**Prof. Sir David
Neil Payne**

Breakthroughs in making global network technology a reality, forever changing the way we live, communicate, and work and laying the foundation for modern socio-economic progress and future technological innovations.



**Prof. Pamela
Christine Ronald**

- Breakthroughs in isolating the Sub1A gene which facilitated the development of submergence tolerant rice varieties



**Dr. Demis Hassabis &
Dr. John Jumper**

- The pioneering work on AlphaFold 2 - an artificial intelligence program that has revolutionized the modeling of protein structures, accelerating advances in biomedicine, health, and agriculture.



Prof. Thalappil Pradeep

- The development of a low-cost filtration system to remove arsenic and other heavy metals from groundwater

- At the VinFuture Prize, nominations for the Grand Prize should have a proven impact while for the three Special Prizes, the impact could be potential, i.e. in a few years.

- Besides the VinFuture Prize, which is the core activity of the VinFuture Foundation, innovations would be considered for academic and entrepreneurial partnership opportunities, to make science become applicable for life, helpful to people, thus building a very strong support to the VinFuture Prize's mission of "Science for Humanity."



Dr. Vinton Gray Cerf: Unless you dare to try, you won't know if you were right



“ I can't remember how many times I failed. When we designed the Internet, we couldn't know what it would become in the future. Our calculations said that 2 networks were enough for each country, and 16 million computers were a very big number. But as you can see, we kept calculating wrong. The latest addressing system for the Internet will actually allow up to 340 trillion trillion trillion computers or devices to be on the Internet. None of my bosses believed that the Internet could grow this much. The more mistakes you make, the more knowledge you gain,” said Dr. Vinton Gray Cerf.

Technode Global, December 23rd, 2022

About the Nomination Process

2023 Key Milestones



GIẢI THƯỞNG CHÍNH VINFUTURE VINFUTURE GRAND PRIZE



Prize Categories



A Grand Prize of

US\$3,000,000

is awarded annually to proven breakthrough research and technological innovations that positively improve the quality of human life



**Innovators from
Developing Countries**



**Female
Innovators**



**Innovators with
Outstanding
Achievements in
Emerging Fields**

Three additional special
VinFuture Prizes valued at

US\$500,000 each

Role of Nominators

Nominators are invited to nominate researchers, inventors, innovators in science, engineering, technology, or multi-disciplinary approaches to the VinFuture Prize.

Nominators contribute voluntarily to the development of science by nominating inventors to the Prize.

One nominator can make more than one nomination for each of the four prize categories, including the Grand Prize and three Special Prizes for Female Innovators, Innovators from Developing Countries, and Innovators with Outstanding Achievements in Emerging Fields.

For more information, please refer to our FAQs section at <https://vinfutureprize.org/faqs/>

Updates from the VinFuture Prize

VinFuture has continued to reach out to prominent scientists, professors, and recognized institutions and organizations around the world to invite them to identify the most deserving nominees and nominations. As of February 25th, 2023, nearly 3,200 prominent individuals and organizations from more than 100 countries around the world have accepted our invitation to become the official nominators for the Prize. Please find below some information on the accepted nominators so far:

Nominators by Continent



Nominators by Institution & Researcher Impact



Top 500 Universities & Institutes in all continents & majors:

36.3%



Top 2% Highly cited Researchers

23%

Nominators by Economic Development Level



Developing countries
40%



Developed countries
60%

A look back at the first 2023 VinFuture Prize Information webinar: Call for nominations

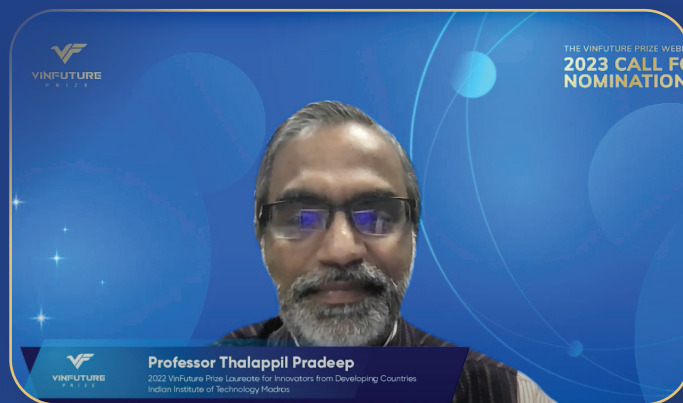


The VinFuture Foundation recently brought to a close its inaugural webinar, which attracted a great number of experts from across the globe. The event, which was held to encourage potential nominators to put forward suitable entries for the third year of the VinFuture Prize, featured speeches and discussions with the Prize's Managing Director and Secretariat. Professor Thuc-Quyen Nguyen (Co-chair of the VinFuture Prize Pre-screening Committee) and Professor Daniel Kammen (Member of the VinFuture Prize Council) were both present at the webinar.



The webinar also featured a special guest appearance from Professor Thalappil Pradeep, the 2022 VinFuture Prize Laureate for Innovators from Developing Countries, who remarked, "The VinFuture Prize celebrates the future - a future transformed by science that has a positive impact on society. In the grand saga of humanity, we have reached where we are today because of transformative science".

Several prospective nominators and respected scientists sought to understand the nomination criteria for the Grand Prize, valued at US\$3 million, to which Professor Thuc-Quyen Nguyen explained, "The Grand Prize should have already demonstrated an impact that has benefited millions of people over the past 10 years and has the potential for even greater and more pervasive impact, leading to meaningful change in the future. We also want to see the continuous and



growing impact that will benefit millions of people in the next 10 years.”

In a constantly changing world, it is more important than ever to recognize and celebrate the potential of innovation. Professor Daniel Kammen recently expressed his enthusiasm for the third season of the VinFuture Prize, emphasizing the importance of recognizing even the most overlooked discoveries or inventions that have a positive impact on people’s lives.

He stated, “When we look at our cellphones, the technology we use, we see that some of the innovations in agriculture, for example, don’t receive recognition from many prizes until the VinFuture Prize said, ‘we’re going to look for things that will shape our society forward, not just wonderful things we’ve done in the past.’” These words highlight the importance of acknowledging the potential of innovations around us and how they can help create a better world.

For those seeking inspiration and guidance in their pursuit of the VinFuture Prize, Professor Thalappil Pradeep is an excellent example. His award-winning water filtration system which removes arsenic from groundwater and provides clean water to those in need has earned him international recognition and admiration.

There were several questions about the competitiveness of nominees from developing countries. Professor Pradeep provided a thoughtful answer to these concerns, emphasizing the importance of innovation in developing countries: “The developing world faces a multitude of problems, and all of them are critical for a sustainable world. These problems can only be solved by innovating within the developing world. Imported solutions do not work here. Therefore, it is essential to innovate in this place, even though it may be challenging. This needs to be celebrated so that the world can become a better place.”

Professor Thuc-Quyen Nguyen provided additional comments from her perspective, stating that if someone has to solve challenges with limited resources, then they have to be creative. “I have seen many labs with very limited resources, but they made things work and it was very impressive to me,” said Professor Nguyen.

Professor Pradeep echoed this opinion by citing an old saying: “If the only thing you have is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail. And I keep discovering newer and newer things with all the tools.”

To wrap up the webinar, the webinar’s chair and co-chair proceeded to answer viewers’ questions about the nomination process. “Anyone can be a nominator,” confirmed Professor Daniel Kammen. “This allows the Pre-screening Committee, as well as the Prize Council, to think about the people in their institutions or just working alone who have really made a difference both today and going forward. That is how the VinFuture Prize is unique. We can see potential based on your nominations and we go to assess what it might do to society, and try to help those innovators in their careers along.”

The VinFuture Prize has quickly become a symbol of progress, hope, and recognition for scientists, innovators, and visionaries all around the world. Since its inception, the Prize has sought to create a platform for individuals to share their life-changing stories while providing an opportunity to be recognized and rewarded for their hard work. With its upcoming webinar in April, the VinFuture Prize continues to honor its mission to encourage scientists around the world to make use of the opportunities available to them and make their voices heard through a submission to the Prize.

The 2023 VinFuture Prize nomination portal will close at 14:00 (GMT+7) on May 15th, 2023. Nominators can submit their nominations at <https://online.vinfutureprize.org/nomination>.

QUICK READ

Two Members of VinFuture Prize Council and Pre-Screening Committee Elected to The US National Academy of Engineering



Professor Thuc-Quyen Nguyen, Co-chair of the VinFuture Prize Pre-screening Committee, and Director of the Center for Polymers and Organic Solids at the University of California, Santa Barbara, said, “Being elected as a member of the US National Academy of Engineering is an immense honor, and it carries with it a sense of responsibility to contribute to the betterment of society. As members of the scientific community, we are not only tasked with conducting research and teaching, but also with helping to create a more equitable future. I am particularly passionate about supporting and advancing more female scientists, and I am eager to utilize my position to help make this a reality.”

Dr. Xuedong Huang (Member of the VinFuture Prize Council, and Microsoft Technical Fellow and Azure AI Chief Technology Officer) shared, “I am humbled to be elected as a new member of the National Academy of Engineering. Being a part of this prestigious community of engineers is both a recognition of my contributions and a motivation for my future endeavors. I have always been passionate about advancing the frontiers of engineering and innovation to address the grand challenges of our society. I look forward to collaborating with the other members of the Academy and the broader engineering community, to foster excellence, leadership, and service in engineering.”



Welcome On-board



Dr. Van-Luan Pham - Executive Secretary

Meet Dr. Van-Luan Pham, the new Executive Secretary at the VinFuture Prize! With over 9 years of experience in both academic and industrial environments, Dr. Pham is a senior R&D professional in water and wastewater treatment processes. He's also an expert in overseas business development for environmental projects. Dr. Pham holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from one of the top 10 best universities in South Korea, Kyung Hee University. During his 6-year research career, he has been involved in numerous government and Korean enterprise environmental projects. Dr. Pham is particularly proud of his work on Vietnam's first public-private partnership (PPP) project in the wastewater treatment field. We're thrilled to have Dr. Pham on board at VinFuture Foundation.



Mr. Canh-Toan Quach, M.A - Head of Marketing & Communications

Mr. Toan Quach leads the Marketing and Communications department of the VinFuture Prize, VinFuture Foundation. He obtained a Master of Arts in Journalism from the University of Missouri, USA, where he was a Fulbright scholar from 2018 to 2020. Mr. Quach has been instrumental in fostering and sustaining friendly ties between Zing News and international missions and organizations in Vietnam, acting as the newsroom's representative in international competitions and inquiries.



Ms. Thanh-Thao Tran - Marketing Specialist

Ms. Tran graduated Cum Laude from Texas Tech University in the United States with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Image Management, which she has effectively utilized in her roles as Content Specialist at the True North School and Vinschool. As a PR Executive at Vinschool, she was accountable for creating educational and engaging content in tandem with the faculty, with a focus on creativity, accuracy and quality. Furthermore, at True North School, she developed and implemented public relations strategies with the school's leadership team to form media relationships, grow awareness and generate public interest in the school's vision, mission and brand.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The VinFuture Prize is committed to bridging the gap between scientific research and the public, and to educating and engaging the public. We have a whole host of webinars in the near future which will cover the following topics:

InnovaTalk **Smart and precise agriculture**

2023 VinFuture Prize Webinar: **Call for Nominations**

InnovaTalk **Green energy**

InnovaTalk **Precision medicine - Digital health**

InnovaTalk **Sustainable environment**

InnovaTalk **Digital transformation**

InnovaTalk **New, progressive materials**

InnovaTalk **Sustainable biomaterials**

InnovaTalk **Hi-tech agriculture**

VINFUTURE



■ Please help spread the call for nominations to your network and let us know if you have any question by emailing us at secretariat@vinfutureprize.org



SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION AT:

<https://online.vinfutureprize.org/nomination>

NOMINATION DEADLINE:

14:00 – May 15th, 2023 (Vietnam Time, GMT +7)

■ **Contact**
Website: <https://vinfutureprize.org/>
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Thank you very much for your support!
From the VinFuture Foundation