

**IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE – JUNE 1, 2023, New York**

**Organization: LMGlobal.Org**

**Email: JUCAwards@lightmillennium.org**

**Website: www.lmglobal.org**

## **LMGLOBAL.ORG PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE 2023 J.U.C. MEDIA, RESEARCH & WRITING AWARDS**

**With the addition of two special categories this year dedicated to:  
The 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye and the United Nations' Water Action  
Decade (2018-2028) Resolution (71/222).**

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**The Virtual Award Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2023**

**Time Zones: 11:00 a.m. EST (USA/Canada) | 16:00 Cameroon**

**17:00 Chad | 18:00 Türkiye | 20:30 India & Sri Lanka | 20:45 Nepal**

Please **REGISTER** in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/92121827309>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting

[LMGlobal.Org, June 1, 2023, New York] The Light Millennium, Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization proudly announces the Winners of the 2023 J.U.C. Awards in Media, Research, and Writing Categories. This is the second time this bi-annual international competition was held.

In the 2023 J.U.C. Awards' CALL to the international high school students, received applications from the following countries (*alphabetic order*):

Cameron, Chad, India (Bokara, Chennai, Tamul Nadi), Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Türkiye (Adana, Ankara, Istanbul).

The high schools that encouraged and supported their students' participation are: Whyteleafe Performing Arts Academy (Kohuwala, Sri Lanka); Darüşşafaka Society "Equal Opportunity in Education since 1863" Istanbul, Türkiye; St. Paul's Modern School, Bokara Thermal, India.

Further, in order to get the word out to a diverse audience of participants, the LMGlobal.Org collaborated with civil society organizations, in particular, in India, Nepal, and Chad such as: Smile4Millions (India), The Institution of Green Engineers | IGEN (India), Forlamy Dreams Association | FDA (Chad); and also Atatürk Society of America (USA), in connection with the *Writing/Türkiye100 Category*.

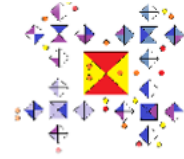
Although the 2023 J.U.C. Awards aimed to reach out to both the U.S.-based and international high schools, there was no entry from the US. This created a pool of applicants whose native languages are not English. As a result, this year, all participating essays as well as research, and media-based projects are written and produced by students who use English as a second language.

This year, while the majority of submissions were for the Writing/General Category, the Media Category received the least number of submissions.

**The 2023 J.U.C. Media, Research & Writing Awards – Immediate Media Release – June 1, 2023**

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The 2023 J.U.C. Awards Evaluation Committee (E.C.) consists of (9) members. The E.C. agreed on an “Evaluation Criteria” form, which has been used in the evaluation of all submissions.

Further, there are two new categories added to this year’s competition: the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye entitled #Türkiye100, along with a category entitled #WaterAction, in support of the United Nations’ Water Action Decade (2018-2028) Agenda. Additionally, during the evaluation process, two new awards were added to the ones already announced, all of which are to be presented during the upcoming Virtual Award Ceremony on June 17, 2023. One of these additional awards will be given by the Atatürk Society of America for the Writing-General/Türkiye100 Category; and the second one by the LMGlobal.Org to the best submission received from Nepal. With these additions, a total seventeen awards will be presented at the awards ceremony. The LMGlobal.Org posted all the eligible submissions with a submission code under each related submitted category on May 7, 2023. This list will be updated with the results, following the Award Ceremony on June 17, 2023.

As a bi-annual international program of the LMGlobal.Org, the J.U.C. Awards firstly aims at encouraging student learning, research and creativity. It also encourages student engagement with the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals and projects working toward those goals. Finally, it works toward fostering international collaborations and partnerships, for which the collaborations of 2023 are a good example. The 2023 Awards were particularly targeted to soliciting submissions from international high school students who study English as a second language. This goal was added to the Guidelines at an informative feedback meeting, hosted by Ms. Sude Capoğlu on May 20, 2022. Ms. Capoğlu is the First Place recipient in the Writing Category, announced on June 4, 2021.

Four volunteer student coordinators contributed to the outreach efforts of the 2023 J.U.C. Awards. They are **Sude Capoğlu**, Türkiye; Student Coordinator, 2021 First Place Recipient in **Writing** category; **Deepak Kumar**, India Coordinator, LMGlobal.Org’s Representative in India (2021, Third Place recipient in **Media** category); **Manoj Ram**, India Coordinator with Deepak Kumar; and **Lyonga Jewis**, Cameroon, LMGlobal.Org’s Representative in Cameroon & Outreach Coordinator.

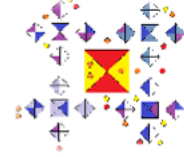
The 2023 Evaluation Committee consisted of nine (9) members who are predominantly U.S.-based professors and academicians. The Committee is chaired by Ambassador Rodrigo A. Carazo of Costa Rica to the United Nations (2018-2022), and member of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva (2023).

**The Members of the 2023 Evaluation Committee are Prof. Olcay Ünver**, Professor of Practice, Polytechnic Sch ERM Prgm., Senior Global Futures Scientist, and Scholars Affiliate, Melikian Center at Arizona State University; **Prof. Sibel Erol**, Clinical Professor, Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies New York University; **Prof. Edward Foster**, Professor of History and Associate Dean for Administration in the College of Arts and Letters at the Stevens Institute of Technology (Retired); **Prof. Günay Smith**, Professor of Biological and Chemical Sciences at Southside Virginia Community College (Retired); **Prof. Gary M. Grossman**, Arizona State University (Retired); **Hande Subaşilar**, Ph.D., Adj. Assistant Professor, Caldwell University; **Mildred VanBergen**, Ph.D., Director of Academic Support Services for the Long Island location of Empire State University; and **Bircan Ünver**, M.A., Author of the project and Director, LMGlobal.Org.

**Contributors to the Committee:** Demet Demirkaya, Board Member, LMGlobal.Org (Outreach); Mustafa Alp Can (Certificates)

The Virtual Award Ceremony is scheduled for **Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 11:00 EST** (United States & Canada). Link to **REGISTER:**

[https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtdOCqrDwuHdCGUgob\\_nydy8SoK5oP9oJ-](https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtdOCqrDwuHdCGUgob_nydy8SoK5oP9oJ-)



**BACKGROUND:** Initially, the J.U.C. Media, Research, and Writing Awards Project was introduced in New York City on January 29, 2020. The very first 2021 J.U.C. Awards were presented through a virtual award ceremony on June 4, 2021. This project has been introduced, developed and undertaken by Bircan Ünver, the founder of the LMGlobal.Org, in loving memory of her late son *John Ünver Culkin* (J.U.C., 1997 – 2019): in order to keep John Ünver's love of learning alive by encouraging student writing and creativity in the US and internationally.

## THE WINNERS OF THE 2023 J.U.C. AWARDS ARE...

*Definition of the Awards:* **Overall Excellence** is for \$500.-

**The First Place** for each category is \$300.-

**The Second Place** for each category is \$200.-

**The Third Place** for each category is \$100.-

This year's two **Special Awards** are:

The first one for **the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye** to be presented by the

Atatürk Society of America is \$300.-

The second **Special Award for Nepal** by LMGlobal.Org is \$100.-

### OVERALL EXCELLENCE

**Overall Excellence: Mr. MUHAMMET ALİ TURAN**

**Writing#7/Türkiye100** - "Same Mindset in Different Centuries"

Şehit Velit Bekdaş Anatolian High School, Ankara, Türkiye

### Category: WRITING / GENERAL Y – SHORT STORY

**First Place: Mr. EREN KORUYAN**

**WG#4:** "Dedicated To All Those Striving For Freedom" (*Short Story*)

Theme: *Ancient Civilizations*

Darıüşsafaka High School, Istanbul, Türkiye

**Second Place: Ms. RANEESHA JAYARATNE**

**WG#9 - Theme:** "If you became the President of the World..."

Whyteleaf Performing Arts Academy, Sri Lanka

**Third Place: Ms. ZEYNEP ÖZDEMİR**

**W15/G:** "A Boarding School in Space" (*Short Story*)

Darıüşsafaka High School, Istanbul, Türkiye

### • SPECIAL AWARD FOR NEPAL (Writing/General)

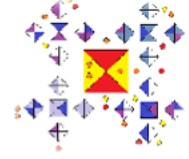
**Special Award: Mr. MANDIP RAM KUMAR**

**W5/G:** "Equality"

Shree Nepal Rastriya National School, Mahuwan, Parsa, Nepal



**The LIGHT MILLENNIUM**  
Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization  
Associated with the United Nations Department of  
Global Communications



**Category: WRITING/Türkiye100**

**Dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of Republic of Türkiye (29 October 1923 – 29 October 2023)**

**First Place: Ms. DURU BÜYÜKBAŞARAN**

**W1/TR100:** “Peace at Home, Peace in the World”

Ankara University Developmental Foundation Private Anatolian High School (ANKÜ), Ankara, Türkiye

**Second Place: Mr. BATALALP ASLAN**

**WTR#2:** “Naiveté of Vision”

TED Ankara College Foundation Private High School, Ankara, Türkiye

**Third Place: Ms. HAMIDE BEGUM YILDIZ**

**WTR#5:** “A Look at the Treatment of Turkish Women Throughout the Years”

Darüşşafaka High School, Istanbul, Türkiye

**• SPECIAL AWARD BY ATATURK SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

**For the 100th Anniversary of Republic of Türkiye**

**Special Award: Ms. ELIF YILMAZ**

**W#3/TR100 - The 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Turkey**

Darüşşafaka High School, Istanbul, Türkiye

**Category: RESEARCH**

**First Place: Ms. SİMAY YÜKSEL**

**R#5 Title:** “Stem Cells: A Promising Hope for the Future”

**Research Theme:** What are your visions and expectations for the next wave of scientific achievements? (STEM Cell)

TED College, Ankara, Türkiye

**Second Place: Ms. JYOTI KUMARI**

**R#2:** “COVID -19, A Disastrous Invention of 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

ST. Paul’s Modern School, Bokaro Thermal, Bokaro, Jharkhand, India

**Third Place: Mr. S. PERINBA ATHIBAN**

**R#4 - Research Theme:** Is Artificial Intelligence Angel or Demon

**Research Title:** “Artificial Intelligence: The Shining Star of Modern Technology”

XII Standard in Velammal Vidyalaya, Ayanambakkam, Chennai, India

**Category: WATER ACTION AWARDS**

**First Place: Ms. EMINE KARAMAN**

**WAA3 (W3/G):** “Water as a Source of Life” (*Shorty Story*)

Darussafaka High School, Istanbul, Türkiye

**Second Place - Total Score:**

**Ms. FATIME ABAKAR OUSMANE**

**WAA1:** “Water For All”

Féminin High School level 1<sup>ere</sup> Scientific from Ndjamen, Chad

**Third Place: Mr. NJIKENG TEBONG-JUNIOR**

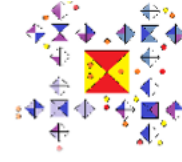
**WAA#2:** Age: 15: “Stop Deforestation in connection with Groundwater”

St. Theresa collages Molyko Buea, Cameroon

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## Category#5: MEDIA

### First Place: Ms. KAVISHA AMANDI JAYARATHNE

**M1:** “See the Human” (Gender Equality)  
Whyteleafe Performing Arts Academy, Sri Lanka

### Second Place: Ms. R.A. RUKHSHANA

**M2:** “My Favorite SDG#7”  
Velammal Vidyalaya, CBSE, Chennai, India

# # #

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### Related Link:

Save the Date for the 2023 Virtual Award Ceremony:

<https://www.lmglobal.org/2023/05/14/save-the-date-the-2023-j-u-c-awards-ceremony-for-june-17-virtual/>

The List of the Eligible Submissions (May 7, 2023):

<https://www.lmglobal.org/2023/05/07/the-list-of-the-received-submissions-to-the-2023-j-u-c-awards/>

Water Action Decade: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/water-and-sanitation/wateractiondecade#:~:text=In%20its%20resolution%2071%2F222,response%20to%20the%20ambitious%202030>

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Informative Session on the Guideline with Bircan Ünver, hosted by Sude Çapoğlu (Video). Dated: May 22, 2022

<https://vimeo.com/746768861>

Guidelines of the 2023: <https://www.lmglobal.org/2022/04/24/the-2023-j-u-c-media-research-and-writing-awards-concept-definition-timeline-and-guideline/>

2021: The Winners Are... The 2021 J.U.C. Award Are Presented...

<https://www.lmglobal.org/2021/06/12/the-winners-are-the-2021-juc-awards-presented/>

2020 Initial Introductory Booklet of the J.U.C. Awards:

<https://www.lightmillennium.org/juc-awards/concept-definition-timeline-guideline-and-potential-scholarship.pdf>

Story of the “J.U.C. M-R-W-A” Awards

<https://lightmillennium.org/juc-awards/juc-media-research-writing-awards-story.pdf>

Hashtags:

**#JUCAwards2023 | #JUCMRWA | #JUCAwards | #LMGlobalOrg | #Media | #Research | #Writing | #TR100 | #WaterAction | #UNWithCivilSociety**

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