

# 2006 ROLEX AWARDS

**Entries for the next series of the Rolex Awards are now arriving at the Geneva Secretariat, and Rolex has invited 10 leaders in professions as diverse as education, exploration and engineering to choose the next Laureates early in 2006.**

The judges for the 2006 Rolex Awards – the 12th series – represent a wide range of countries, disciplines and activities. The selection of the winners for this respected philanthropic programme is often described by previous judges as highly stimulating, but it is also a challenging process as the Selection Committee must narrow down a wide field of innovative and praiseworthy projects to five Laureates and five Associate Laureates.

The Selection Committee, chaired by Rolex CEO Patrick Heiniger, will meet in Geneva in spring 2006 to choose the winners. The Laureates' names will be announced at an international ceremony in Singapore in October the same year. Each Laureate will receive US\$100,000 and a gold Rolex chronometer, plus the benefits of international publicity.

Rolex pays great attention to the process of selecting the judges. Since the Rolex Awards were launched in 1976, many prominent individuals have served on the Selection Committee. This group of renowned, multi-disciplinary experts, who participate on a voluntary basis, is required to evaluate outstanding projects in many disciplines from many countries. The panel changes for every new series, and all judges are high-achievers in their professions, in most cases reaching international prominence. They also have a wide range of interests beyond their work and have demonstrated a spirit of enterprise in their own lives.

The members of the 2006 panel are no exception. They include specialists in education, the environment, lighting design and medicine. Also on the panel are an explorer, a psychiatrist and a diplomat.

Anyone who is considering applying for a Rolex Award in the 2006 series is urged to submit his or her entry as soon as possible. Rolex welcomes innovative projects in science and medicine, technology, exploration and discovery, the environment and cultural heritage. However, any project that advances human knowledge or well-being will be considered.

The deadlines for the receipt of applications are determined on a regional basis. Applications from Asia, the Pacific and North, Central and South America must reach the Secretariat in Geneva by 31 May 2005; for Africa, Europe and the Middle East, the deadline is 30 September 2005.

“The Rolex Awards are unique in financing new or on-going work, rather than rewarding achievement,” according to Rebecca Irvin, head of the Rolex Awards Secretariat. “In contrast to other award programmes, we do not allow nominations by third parties: applicants must put forward their own proposals and ideas. The Rolex Awards are open to anyone from any nationality and from any walk of life. So for all these reasons, we have a very large number of applicants, working in a wide variety of fields, from all over the world.”



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Rolex receives between 1,500 and 2,500 submissions for every series of the Awards. Before the Selection Committee meets to choose the winners, a research team based in Geneva undertakes rigorous research of the entries. Well over 20,000 entries have been received and evaluated in the 11 series of the Rolex Awards since 1976. A total of 55 Laureates have been chosen in that time, with the youngest aged 28 and the oldest 74 years old.

Application forms, information about previous Award-winners, previous Selection Committee members and the selection process are available on the website [www.rolexawards.com](http://www.rolexawards.com). Entries can be submitted online. Application forms can also be obtained from the Rolex Awards Secretariat in Geneva (P.O. Box 1311, 1211 Geneva 26, Switzerland).

## 2006 SELECTION COMMITTEE

**Mr Patrick Heiniger – Switzerland**

Chairman of the Selection Committee of the Rolex Awards for Enterprise  
Chief Executive Officer of Rolex SA

**Prof. Denise Bradley – Australia**

Educator, vice chancellor of the University of South Australia

**Ms Motoko Ishii – Japan**

Lighting designer, president of Motoko Ishii Lighting Design Inc.

**Mr Erling Kagge – Norway**

Polar explorer, mountaineer and president of Kagge Forlag Publishing

**Prof. Tommy Koh – Singapore**

Diplomat and patron of the arts

**Dr Laretna T. Adishakti – Indonesia**

Architect and engineer, founder of the Center for Heritage Conservation

**Mr William K. Reilly – United States**

Lawyer, President and CEO of Aqua International Partners

**Dr Luis Rojas Marcos – Spain**

Psychiatrist and public health official

**Mr Mark Shuttleworth – South Africa**

Entrepreneur, technology specialist and philanthropist

**Dr Kathryn Sullivan – United States**

Geologist, oceanographer and astronaut

**Sir Magdi Yacoub – United Kingdom**

Heart surgeon, professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Imperial College