The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs facilitates the search for innovations in governance and public administration through the Public Service Awards Programme. This year, twelve winners are awarded with the most prestigious recognition of excellence in the public service on 23 June, during the United Nations Public Service Day. The winners are public organizations from: Australia, Brazil, India, Jordan, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia and the United States of America.

The 2008 UNPSA is awarded in three categories

Category 1: Improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the public service

AFRICA
Rwanda “Ubudehe”, Common Development Fund

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Singapore Home Ownership Policy, Housing and Development Board

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA
United States Juvenile Delinquency Domestic Violence and Family Violence Court, State of California Superior Court for the County of Santa Clara, San Jose, California

LATIN AMERICA
Brazil Projeto Oficina-Escola de Artes e Oficios de Santana de Parnaiba, Prefeitura Municipal de Santana de Parnaiba, Santana de Parnaiba, Sao Paulo
Category 2: Improving the delivery of services

AFRICA
South Africa  Phelopepa Health Care Train, Johannesburg

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Australia  Job Access, Department of Education

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA
Sweden  Library 2007, City of Umeå

WESTERN ASIA
Saudi Arabia  SADAD Payment System, Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, Riyadh

Category 3: Fostering participation in policy-making decisions through innovative mechanisms

AFRICA
Tunisia  Orientation universitaire en ligne, Direction générale des affaires estudiantines, Tunis

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
India  Programme of Communitization of Public Institutions and Services, Government of Nagaland India

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA
Spain  Direcció General de Participació Ciudadana, Generalitat de Catalunya, Barcelona

WESTERN ASIA
Jordan  Family Planning, the Higher Population Council, Amman

For more information regarding the United Nations Public Service Awards, please contact Adriana Alberti at alberti@un.org or Olivier Munyaneza at munyaneza@un.org Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations or visit: http://www.unpan.org/dpepa_paward.asp