

WOMEN AWARDS 2026

POLICY DOCUMENT



Venus International Foundation

(A Non-Profit Organization – Established in January 2015)

Chennai – 88

WOMEN AWARDS POLICY DOCUMENT

Policy Document for the Venus International Women Awards

Author Name	Center for Women Development (CWD)
Name of Policy document	Venus International Women Awards (VIWA)
Code of Policy document	WASN11 – PD2026
Purpose of Policy document	To provide a framework to enter in to VIWA 2026 at Venus International Foundation (VIF), Chennai, India
Approval for this Policy document given by	Governing Council
Responsibility for its update	Director of Administration
Policy document applies to	To all nominees applying for VIWA 2026 at VIF
Date of approval	9 January 2025
Proposed date of next review	18 January 2026
Date of Publication	18 April 2025

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POLICY DOCUMENT GOVERNING VENUS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN AWARDS

1. PREAMBLE

The Venus International Women Awards (VIWA) scheme was instituted in the year 2016 by the Center for Women Development (CWD) of Venus International Foundation (VIF) is presented yearly during the Annual Women's Meet (AWM).

Vision	We have committed to celebrating achievements of woman researchers
Mission	To recognize 'Best Woman Researchers' who are demonstrated creativity and excellence in their discipline
Objectives	To cultivate research spirit and inspire next generation Women

2. THE VENUS INTERNATIONAL AWARD AND THE PROCESS

The award recognizes individuals for their “Quality, Reliability and Competence to Apply Knowledge and Skills” to carry out specific tasks.

2.1 The Award: The Award is a Certificate. It is a formal authentication; A seal of approval.

2.2 The Scheme: The scheme has a policy, nomination form, expert committee and judging process that are governed by the Board of Trust.

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2.3 The Process: This section describes the Venus International Award processes in steps.

S.No.	Process
2.3.1	Nomination Form
2.3.2	Secretariat Review
2.3.3	Document Review
2.3.4	Preliminary Assessment
2.3.5	Verification
2.3.6	Peer Assessment
2.3.7	Committee's Decision
2.3.8	Declaration to the Nominee
2.3.9	Registration to the Event
2.3.10	Award Presentation

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3. THE 11TH WOMEN AWARDS

The 11th Venus International Women Awards – VIWA 2026 (F.No.WA26/SN11/AAP–I) is convened by the CWD of VIF and will be conducted in accordance with the VIF BOARD MEETING resolution vide F. No. VIF/MIN/BM–I/2025 held on 19 February 2025 at VIF Head Quarters.

Following are the list of disciplines to be considered for the VIWA 2026.

S.No.	Disciplines	Code
3.1	Agricultural Sciences	AG
3.2	Engineering	EN
3.3	Health and Medical Sciences	HM
3.4	Humanities and Social Sciences	HS
3.5	Management	MG
3.6	Science	SC
3.7	Veterinary and Animal Sciences	VA

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4. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

This annual award is open to 'Woman Researcher/Faculty' of any nationality, who is in good standing at the time of nomination, and in the age group of 27 – 70 years with good academic and service record. The nominee must have completed a recognized Doctorate Degree (PhD) or its equivalent.

4.1 Evaluation Criteria

4.1.1 General:

Extensive Knowledge – Mastery of Subject – Creative Thinking and Dedication to Profession – Significant and Sustained Contributions to Institution and/or Community at large – Quality and Competence evidenced by continuing Intellectual Accomplishments and Pursuits.

4.1.2 Research:

Grants – Patents – Collaboration with Industries and Institutions – Contracts – Publications (Original Research Articles, Review Articles, Short reports or Letters, Case Studies, Methodologies and Books) – Invited Lectures and Presentations – Membership in Professional Organizations

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5. AWARD CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

5.1 Lifetime Achievement (Code: LA)

Each year since 2016, this award is conferred to a remarkable woman researcher for the exceptional contribution to fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights have had an impact on their own discipline and beyond and cutting-edge achievements – continued extraordinary productivity over the course of career.

The nominee must be above 55 years of age and at least have 25 years of service as on 5th January 2025.

5.2 Distinguished Woman Researcher (Code: DWR)

Each year since 2021, this award is conferred for a remarkable woman researcher for the exceptional contribution to fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights have had an impact on the discipline and beyond and cutting-edge achievements.

The nominee must be above 44 years of age and at least have 20 years of service as on 5th January 2025.

5.3 Outstanding Woman Researcher (Code: OWR)

Each year since 2021, this award is conferred for a remarkable woman researcher for the exceptional contribution to fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights.

The nominee must be above 34 years of age and at least have 10 years of service as on 5th January 2025.

5.4 Young Woman Researcher (Code: YWR)

Each year since 2021, this award is conferred for a remarkable woman researcher for the contribution to new theories, or insights on the discipline.

The nominee must be above 27 years of age and at least have 5 years of service as on 5th January 2025.

6. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The process for VIWA commences with the release of “Call for nominations”.

The 11th Venus International Women Awards – VIWA 2026 invites nominations vide F. No. VIF/CFN/WA/2026 opened on 18 April 2025 from women researchers and women faculty members working at institutions of academic, scientific and industrial sectors with a recognized qualification.

Further information and documents are available electronically on the official website:

<https://www.venusinfo.org/women/2026/awm.html>

7. JUDGING

The VIWA 2026 judging is a peer review process. The panel (from diverse backgrounds, working individually) is instructed to score entries from 0 to 100, using the criteria (as mentioned in the section 4 and 5).

7.1 The panel aggregates scores and determine the category. The panel decision is final and binding.

7.2 For each category/discipline (Eg. Outstanding Woman Researcher – Computer Science) the expert committee will select 2 nominees. However the apex committee reserve the rights to honour less or more than 2 nominees in any category who meet standards set by the expert committee.

7.3 The committee will use discretion if an individual is nominated for two concurrent awards and will move the nomination to appropriate category based on their judgment.

7.4 In case, if a nominee meets the criteria for an award, other than the one nominated for, the committee will be deciding to move the nomination to a suitable category.

8. SELECTION PROCESS

This section describes the total VIWA 2026 processes in steps

S. No	Process
8.1	Screening process (preliminary assessment) of nomination
8.2	Acknowledgement intimation to the nominee
8.3	VIWA team may ask proof for credits mentioned in the cv (optional)
8.4	Cross verifying the documents and forwarding it to the committee
8.5	Selected nominees will be communicated with an official email
8.6	AWM 2026 registration (Refer Annexure – B)
8.7	Release of the winners list in an official webpage
8.8	An official email will be communicated to the award winner
8.9	Award presentation ceremony
8.10	Summary of AWM 2026 will be released in an official webpage

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9. IMPORTANT DATES

9.1	Entries open	18 April 2025
9.2	Closing date	7 September 2025
9.3	To submit supporting documents	17 September 2025
9.4	Announcement of winners	On or before 7 October 2025
9.5	Award presentation	7 March 2026

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10. SUBMISSION

A working professional can nominate an 'eligible individual' (or self nominate) for VIWA 2026.

Following are the list of documents to be submitted for nomination:

10.1	The filled nomination form in pdf/.doc/.docx format
10.2	Duly completed curriculum vitae (of any format/pages)
10.3	Recent photograph
10.4	Copy of degree certificate (PhD or Equivalent)
10.5	Copy of workplace ID

Nominee has to submit the filled form and other documents electronically to:

viwa2026@venusinfo.org (AND) directorvifindia@gmail.com

Note:

The VIWA 2026 no longer requires a hardcopy of the nomination files. Non-compliant nominations will not be accepted for process. Acknowledgment of receipt of nomination will be sent via email in 2/3 working days

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11. AWARD PRESENTATION

The 11th Venus International Women Awards – VIWA 2026 will be held on 7 March 2026 at Green Park Chennai, India. The Awards will be presented to the winners by the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of Venus International Foundation.

12. HEADQUARTERS

The administrative office for servicing:

Office of the Chairman,
Venus International Foundation,
No.1, Ganesh Nagar Main Road,
Adambakkam,
Chennai – 600088, Tamilnadu, India.

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THE 11TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S MEET – AWM 2026

<https://www.venusinfo.org/women/2026/awm.html>

Only around 30% of world's researchers are women and they publish less and paid less. To reduce this gap, we must go beyond and identify the qualitative factors that deter women from advancing in research. Women advocating for women is very much essential in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). The AWM provides a unique platform to have voice of women researchers to raise broad awareness to the potential of female intellectualism and this promotes integration of women in STI.

The 11th Annual Women's Meet – AWM 2026 (Event Code: WM26EN11SN-046 | Event Type: Scientific Conference) invites researchers working in the frontiers of Agricultural Sciences, Engineering, Health and Medical Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, Management, Science, and Veterinary and Animal Sciences.

- **Theme:** *"To cultivate research spirit and create a vibrant community of women in science and technology"*

Paper/Abstract Submission and Guidelines: The AWM 2026 seeks original, high-quality proposals describing the research and results that contribute to advancements in their major areas. Further information and documents are available electronically on the official website:
<https://www.venusinfo.org/women/2026/authors.html>

Publications: All the selected and registered papers will be published in AWM 2026 Conference Proceedings with ISBN.

Previous Event:

10th Annual Women's Meet – AWM 2025:

<https://www.venusinfo.org/women/2025.html>

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THE AWM 2026 REGISTRATION

1. Registration fee for delegates working in:

Foreign Institutions

a) High Income Countries : USD 590

b) Middle Income Countries : USD 350

2. Registration fee for delegates working in:

Indian Institutions: INR 14,900

3. Registration fee for accompanying person: USD 60

Note – 1: The registration includes:

- Access to all sessions and invited speakers
- Paper/ Abstract presentation and participation certificate
- One high buffet lunch and breaks.

Note – 2: The registration does not include:

- Travel and accommodation cost of delegates.

4. Activities Covered: The registration fees collected will also supports the long term development of the conference and to keep AWM format viable by ensuring that infrastructure and services are in place from year to year. Following are some of the activities covered:

- ✓ Summary of the AWM 2026 will be released in an official website
- ✓ AWM 2026 conference proceedings with ISBN will be released
- ✓ Website design AND maintenance

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