



AGREEMENT ON AWARD COLLABORATION

BETWEEN

THE INTERNATIONAL ERGONOMICS ASSOCIATION
AND
KINGFAR INTERNATIONAL INC.

1. Objectives

Kingfar International Inc. (hereafter referred to as Kingfar) is a company that specializes in providing comprehensive solutions for devices, equipment, technologies, and simulation/testing systems development for human factors and ergonomics researchers. Recently, Kingfar has supported a large number of customers, including research laboratories at leading universities, research institutes, and high-tech companies. Kingfar has successfully commercialized quite a few new technologies and systems initially developed by its customers, most of whom are graduate students. The company values outstanding human factors and ergonomics (HFE) research conducted by students and academics. Every year, it supports high-quality HFE conferences and training programs in China. Now Kingfar would like to extend its support to the global HFE community. In this regard, Kingfar hopes to provide awards through the International Ergonomics Association (hereafter referred to as IEA) with PhD students, newly graduated PhDs, or early career researchers who have demonstrated high-quality human factors/ergonomics (HFE) research achievements. The purpose of the award is to significantly promote and reward high-quality original research and applications on new and emerging HFE issues or issues specifically related to industrially developing countries (IDCs), as well as to promote a career path in HFE. The IEA agrees to collaborate with Kingfar to realize their aim. It is believed that this award will encourage PhD students, new PhDs, and early career researchers worldwide to address high-impact HFE issues in IDCs, which in turn would potentially help to improve the well-being of people in IDCs.

For this collaboration the IEA will be represented by:

- i. President of IEA,
- ii. Chair of IEA Awards Standing Committee;

whereas, Kingfar will be represented by:

- i. The President of Kingfar.

2. Purpose of the Agreement

This Agreement makes it possible for the IEA and Kingfar to collaborate on providing awards to PhD students, new PhDs, and early career scholars and researchers as described in Objectives.

3. Scope

The collaborative awarding undertaken by this Agreement applies to PhD students, newly graduated PhDs within one year, and early career researchers (within 10 years of receiving a PhD) who have conducted high-quality HFE research that addresses HFE issues which are typical of IDCs. All areas of HFE are eligible for consideration. The research achievement must be evidenced by high-quality journal articles or conference proceedings papers, high-impact HFE designs, or project reports.

4. Title of the Award

The title of the award is specified as “The IEA/Kingfar Award for Research in Human Factors and Ergonomics Issues”, abbreviated as “The IEA/Kingfar HFE Research Award”.

5. Criteria for Eligibility

The following criteria for eligibility will apply:

- The submitted research achievement should address new and emerging HFE issues or issues typical of IDCs, which is demonstrated by submitted evidentiary documents. All areas of HFE are acceptable.
- Nominees may be graduate students, recent graduates, or early career researchers (within 10 years of completing a doctoral program).
- For student nominees:
 - The submitted research achievement should have been accomplished by the nominated student prior to graduation from the doctoral program.
 - The nominee is, or was, a registered PhD student or a PhD candidate. Newly graduated individuals who were awarded a doctorate within the past year are acceptable as student nominees.
- For early career researchers:
 - The submitted research achievement should have been accomplished by the nominee within 10 years of graduation
 - The submitted achievement should be part of a programmatic research plan, geared toward a career in HFE
- The nominee must have made a major contribution to the submitted research achievement, preferably the first or corresponding author of evidentiary technical document(s) – See Nomination Process shown below.
- The nominee is a member of an IEA Federated or Affiliated Society, or a self-recommending individual whom an IEA Federated or Affiliated Society agrees to nominate. It is suggested that the federated or affiliated society promote ways to associate students to enable applications.

6. Nomination Process

The nomination will be submitted to the chair of the IEA Awards Standing Committee by an IEA federated/affiliated society. Each IEA federated society/affiliated society may nominate up to three candidates.

7. Formation of Selection Committee

A selection committee is formed by the IEA. The chair of the selection committee will be appointed by the chair of the IEA Awards Standing Committee, and the members of the selection committee will be appointed by its chair. Kingfar will provide honoraria as described below for the chair and selection committee members.

- The chair of the selection committee should be familiar with the operation of the IEA and major related societies.
- The selection committee should have at least one member from an IDC and at least another from a developed country.
- Kingfar will be invited to be a member of the selection committee.
- Committee members who have a conflict of interest, including from Kingfar, are not allowed to participate in the selection.
- The decision made by the selection committee will be subject to approval by the IEA Executive Committee.

8. Award Frequency

Yearly

9. Relationship with Existing IEA Awards

- The K.U. Smith Student Award is similar to the IEA/Kingfar Award. However, the IEA/Kingfar Award has and will maintain the following unique features which significantly differentiate the IEA/Kingfar Award from the K.U. Smith Award:
- New and emerging HFE issues or issues that are typical to IDCs are highlighted.
- PhD students, new PhDs, and early career researchers are eligible.
- The K.U. Smith Student Award is given triennially, whereas the IEA/Kingfar Award is given each year.

10. Award Presentation

The time and place of the award presentation will be suggested by Kingfar in consultation with the IEA after winners are selected. Usually, the award presentation will be arranged within a major IEA-endorsed conference.

11. Transfer of Award Funds

Kingfar is scheduled to transfer a total of \$21,000 USD to IEA before May 31 every year, as a corporate sustaining membership fee, which will be reserved in a dedicated fund. The date may be changed based on discussion between Kingfar and IEA. The fund will be used for the award recipients (max 8 students, \$1,000/student, and max 5 early career scholars/researchers, \$1,500/ECR), the award selection committee (\$1,000 shared among the committee chair and committee members as determined by the IEA Awards Chair), and IEA operations (minimum of \$4,500).

IEA will invoice the following contact person at Kingfar every year at least one month before the scheduled transfer as specified above. Kingfar will inform IEA when the contact person has been changed.

Mr. Qichao ZHAO

President and General Manager of Kingfar International Inc.

1st and 3rd Floors, Building 1

No. 12, Anningzhuang Back Street

Haidian District, Beijing 100085, China

Email: qichao@kingfar.cn; fanjieyun@kingfar.cn

Phone: +86 10 8289 3950; +86 138 1088 3138

12. Payment of Prize and Handling of Balance

The IEA will pay the prize to up to 13 award winners each year from the dedicated fund, 8 to students and new/recent graduates, and 5 to early career scholars/researchers. Each student award winner will receive \$1,000 and each early career scholar/researcher will receive \$1,500. The chair of the selection committee and selection committee members will share \$1,000 in honoraria as determined by the IEA Awards Chair. The balance will be reserved in the fund and will be used by the IEA for administrative purposes. When the IEA/Kingfar Award is terminated, the fund will be integrated into the IDC fund of IEA and/or into the general reserve of IEA.

13. Expected Duration

Kingfar will guarantee the collaboration for three years starting from 2025. The IEA and Kingfar will determine the continuation of the IEA/Kingfar Award and may adjust the amount of fund and policies before January 2028.

14. Announcement of Award

The IEA will make an announcement of the IEA/Kingfar Award on the IEA website - <https://www.iea.cc>. A draft announcement is found in the Appendix, which may be subject to change depending on discussion between IEA and Kingfar.

15. Oversight

The presidents of the IEA and Kingfar, or their representatives, will confer annually to evaluate this collaboration to identify issues and corrective actions. In addition to the annual evaluation, each party may request that the other party hold a high-level meeting any time critical issues are recognized.

16. Updates and Termination of this Agreement

This Agreement enters into force upon the signature of the Signatories of the IEA and Kingfar. It may be modified at any time by a written agreement between the IEA and Kingfar. Upon determination of continuation of the award, this Agreement will be extended accordingly with any changes agreed upon by IEA and Kingfar.

This Agreement may be terminated before the scheduled duration when the IEA or Kingfar provides a written notice to the other party ninety days prior to the effective date of such termination.

Jan 16, 2025

Dr. Andrew Thatcher,
President
International Ergonomics Association (IEA)

Mr. Qichao Zhao,
President and General Manager
Kingfar International Inc.

Dr. Jose Orlando Gomes,
Past President and
Chair of Awards Standing Committee
International Ergonomics Association (IEA)

Appendix:

Draft announcement to be uploaded to the IEA website. This is to be completed by the IEA in consultation with the sponsor.

The IEA/Kingfar Award for Research in Human Factors and Ergonomics Issues (hereafter abbreviated as The IEA/Kingfar HFE Research Award) is given annually to honor persons who have made high-quality human factors and ergonomics (HFE) research achievements that address new and emerging HFE issues or HFE issues typical of industrially developing countries (IDCs). The purpose of the award is to honor deserving students and early career researchers and allow them to focus their research on high-impact HFE issues, thereby potentially improving the well-being of people in industrially developing countries. Honor up to 13 award winners each year, with 8 awards given to graduate students, and 5 awards to early career scholars/researchers (within 10 years of completing a PhD). Award each student winner a prize of \$1,000 and each early career winner a prize of \$1,500.

All areas of HFE are eligible for consideration. Examples of submitted proof of research achievements include high-quality journal or conference papers, high-impact HFE designs, or project reports. The following criteria will apply for nomination:

- The submitted research achievement should address new and emerging HFE issues or issues typical of IDCs, which is proved by submitted evidentiary documents. All areas of HFE are acceptable.
- Nominees may be graduate students or early career researchers (within 10 years of completing a PhD).
- For student nominees:
 - The submitted research achievement should have been accomplished by the nominated student prior to graduation.
 - The nominee is a registered PhD student or a PhD candidate. Newly graduated ex-students who have been awarded a PhD within the past year are acceptable as student nominees.
- For early career researchers:
 - The submitted research achievement should have been accomplished by the nominee within 10 years of graduation
 - The submitted achievement should be part of a programmatic research plan, geared toward a career in HFE
- The nominee has to have made a major contribution to the submitted research achievement, preferably the first or corresponding author of evidentiary technical document(s) – See Nomination Process shown below.
- The nominee is a member of an IEA federated or affiliated society, or a self-recommending individual whom an IEA federated or affiliated society agrees to nominate. It is suggested that the federated or affiliated society promote ways to associate students to enable applications.

Please combine the following evidentiary items into a single pdf file and send it to the Chair of Awards Standing Committee (at PastPres@iea.cc), Vice President and Secretary General (VPSG@iea.cc), and IEA Administrator (office@iea.cc) by June 30, each year. The application must be submitted through an IEA federated/affiliated society.

- A letter of nomination from the nominating society that justifies the quality of the nominee's research. Relevance to new and emerging HFE issues or issues relevant in

IDCs should be clearly stated in a specific paragraph. The quality of submitted research achievement should be clearly described;

- Full copy of journal/conference paper(s), and/or design(s) with explanations, and/or project report(s);
- The nominee's curriculum vitae or résumé, which must include references of background and/or present training in the HFE domain. The nominee's current mailing and email address should be included.
- A statement of the nominee's status with supporting evidence (e.g., student ID, graduation certificate, employment, or job title).
- A letter of recommendation from the nominee's academic adviser or supervisor, using the institution's letterhead, which justifies the HFE contribution, certifies the nominee's contribution, and describes the nominee's status at the time of submitting the nomination. The letter may encompass other features judged relevant to the decision of nomination.

The application can be found at
<https://iea.cc/iea-kingfar-award/>

End of Appendix