



SVERIGES AMBASSAD

**Embassy of Sweden
Pretoria**

**THE SWEDISH CHALLENGE AWARD FOR INVENTION AND INNOVATION
Innovations for Development in Eastern and Southern Africa (IDESA)
The Launch of the South African competition**

In December 2002 a decision was taken by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida) to support the project, Innovations for Development in Eastern and Southern Africa (IDESA). The project comprises eight countries; Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

The organisation responsible for the competition in South Africa is the Institute of Inventors and Innovators, Research and Development (IIIRD) in Saxonwold. The IIIRD is a private organisation with 25 years of experience. The organisation has several times arranged various kinds of competitions, giving medals and diplomas.

A national committee, chaired by the Ambassador of Sweden, Dr. Helena Nilsson, heads the South African IDESA. Members to the committee are representatives from the South African public and private sector.

The overall objective of IDESA is to encourage an innovative, entrepreneurial spirit in selected African countries.

The immediate objective is to identify and reward individuals exhibiting creativity and entrepreneurial spirits. Technical innovations as well as innovations which provide a solution to a problem, will be selected in a competitive process and rewarded within the framework of the project. The immediate objective will be accomplished through a series of competitions, launched nationally in the eight countries, starting 2003.

The innovations should, directly or indirectly, contribute to an increased and/or a more efficient use of available resources, or provide other benefits of a similar kind. The purpose is to recognise the need for support of innovations well before their commercial value has been established.

The Swedish Challenge Award is open to all South Africans, young and old. Members from former disadvantaged groups and women are encouraged to participate.

In South Africa the total sum of the award amounts to SEK 250 000, a jury will decide on how this sum should be divided.

Applications should be submitted to the IIRD before 31st August, 2003. The selection of award winners will be finalised in the 4th quarter, this year.

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