

**One hundred and ten projects have competed for
AGFUND Prize under its three categories**

AGFUND announces four projects as winners of its international prize

**The winning projects serve fields such as; assistance for women migrant workers,
child welfare and poverty alleviation**

**The prize subjects for the year 2004 focus on: Strengthening women's
participation in the labor market, Environmental protection through community
based activities and the Children accessibility to the new means of knowledge and
the comprehension of future technology**

The Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) has announced the winning projects of its International Prize for Pioneering Development Projects in its fifth year 2003. The winners were announced upon their approval by the Committee of the Prize in its meeting held in Riyadh under the patronage of HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, President of AGFUND.

The Prize amount is US\$ 150,000 for the first category, US\$ 100,000 for the second category and US\$ 50,000 for the third category respectively, in addition to trophies and certificates of recognition to be accorded to the winners in a ceremony marking the occasion.

The Prize Committee has approved three projects as winners of the prize under its three categories, in addition to one project approved for the Initiative Prize. The number of projects nominated for the AGFUND Prize 2003 reached 110 benefiting 46 countries in five continents. These nominations were evaluation by arbitrators, who are experts in the fields of the Prize.

The **UNIFEM Regional Programme on Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia** has won the first category prize dedicated for projects implemented by international and regional organizations in the field of "Rehabilitation and employment of refugees and displaced people". The Project is implemented by United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), in five Asian countries, namely Jordan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia & Philippines.

The winner of the second category prize, which is dedicated for projects by NGOs in the field of "Protection of child against abuse and negligence", is the **CHILDLINE Project**, implemented in India by the CHILDLINE India Foundation, (CIF).

As for the third category prize, which is dedicated for projects by individuals in the field of "Innovative initiatives in the field of poverty alleviation" the winning project is the **Appropriate Technologies for Enterprise Creation**, implemented in Kenya upon the initiative and efforts of Dr. Martin Fisher and Mr. Nick Moon.

The committee has approved the **Integrated Project for Protection and Welfare of Women and Children in Nuwakot District** to win the Initiative Prize, which amounts US\$ 40,000. The project is implemented in Nepal, by Planet Enfants, Nepali NGOs Kakani Community Development Center (KCDC) , Society of Ex-Budahnilkantha

Students (SEBS).

The Committee has also approved the prize subjects for the year 2004 as follows:

- ◀ **Strengthening women's participation in the labor market**, for projects by United Nations, international and regional organizations.
- ◀ **Environmental protection through community based activities**, for projects by NGOs.
- ◀ **The children accessibility to the new means of knowledge and the comprehension of future technology**, for projects initiated, sponsored and or implemented by individuals.

It is worth mentioning that the Prize Committee membership comprises a number of renowned world figures, namely: Sra. Mercedes Menafra de Batelle, First lady of Uruguay, Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali, President of the Islamic Development Bank, Professor Federico Mayor, Former Director-General of UNESCO, President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, Professor Muhammad Yunus, Founder and Managing Director of GRAMEEN Bank, Dr. Y. Seyyid Abdulai, Director-General of the OPEC Fund for International Development.