

Wikipedia wins top Spanish prize for international cooperation

June 17 2015



Jimmy Wales, the co-founder of Wikipedia, is pictured on August 6, 2014

Online encyclopedia Wikipedia was on Wednesday awarded Spain's Princess of Asturias award for international cooperation.

The award foundation hailed the website as an "important example of international, democratic, open and participatory cooperation -- to which thousands of people of all nationalities contribute selflessly -- that

has managed to make universal knowledge available to everyone".

Founded by US entrepreneur Jimmy Wales in 2001, Wikipedia has 35 million articles in 288 languages. It is written by volunteers around the world and its articles are edited by registered users.

It has been run since 2003 by a non-profit organisation, the Wikipedia Foundation, which is headquartered in San Francisco in the United States.

Wikipedia receives about 500 million single visits a month making it one of the 10 most visited websites in the world, according to the award foundation.

The 50,000-euro (\$54,000) award is one of eight prizes handed out yearly by a foundation named after Spain's Princess Leonor. Other categories include the arts, sport and literature.

The awards will be handed out in a ceremony presided by Spain's King Felipe and broadcast live on Spanish television around October.

They were named the Prince of Asturias awards after Felipe, until he became king last year, passing the title to his nine-year-old daughter.

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Citation: Wikipedia wins top Spanish prize for international cooperation (2015, June 17)
retrieved 9 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2015-06-wikipedia-spanish-prize-international-cooperation.html>

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