

WINNERS OF THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL PHOTO COMPETITION ORGANIZED BY INBAR IN 2024

[INBAR has announced the winners of the 2024 International Bamboo and Rattan Photo Competition.](#)

With over 200 remarkable submissions from participants worldwide, it was a difficult task for the INBAR panel to choose the winners. The competition continues to highlight INBAR's dedication to promote bamboo and rattan as vital resources for sustainable development. This year's

the INBAR competition was looking for photographs that reflect bamboo and rattan's uses for sustainable development, particularly highlighting their role as alternatives to plastics. The participants have been able to not only celebrate the natural beauty of these incredible plants but also emphasize their potential to tackle global challenges, particularly as sustainable alternatives to plastics.

The edition 2024 of the [Earth Day](#) focuses on the theme "Planet vs. Plastics," aimed at raising awareness of the danger of plastic pollution to human and planetary health. This comes ahead of the historic meeting set to establish an [international treaty](#) on plastic pollution by the end of 2024. To that end, INBAR was celebrating Earth Day this year with the launch of the 2024 International Photo Competition, placing a strong emphasis on bamboo as a green alternative to plastics, and also seeking to promote the synergy of INBAR's flagship [Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative](#) with other global plastic reduction strategies.

A distinguished panel of photographers, along with experts from INBAR, meticulously reviewed this year's entries across three key categories: 1) Bamboo and rattan as plastic alternatives; 2) industrial or craft innovations related to bamboo and rattan as substitutes for plastic; and 3) community impacts of bamboo and rattan.

[Winners for the different categories](#)

Category I: Bamboo and rattan as plastic alternatives

First place: "Making coiled lacquerware with bamboo" by Myat Zaw Hein from Myanmar

Upon arriving in Bagan, Myanmar, I visited several workshops and observed the intricate craft of creating coiled bamboo products. In these traditional factories, artisans weave bamboo strips into elegant, functional items, which are then finished with lacquer. Bamboo is a sustainable material that has been deeply rooted in local craftsmanship for generations. This technique not only preserves cultural heritage but also offers an eco-friendly alternative to plastic.



Second place: "Salted fish maker using bamboo baskets" by Muhammad Syarif. S from Indonesia

On the coast of North Jakarta, Indonesia, salted fish makers expertly process mackerel using traditional methods. Bamboo baskets play a vital role in this process, as they are used to transport the fish after they have been salted and boiled in hot water. Once removed from the baskets, the fish are spread out on drying racks, also made with bamboo, where they are left to dry under the sun.



Third place: "Weaving futures: Rattan craftsmanship sustaining communities and the environment" by Luciano Santiago Abad from the Philippines

In the heart of a sunlit workshop, a young boy sits intently, his hands a blur of motion as he weaves slender strands of rattan into an exquisite piece of furniture. His small fingers nimbly guide the natural material, transforming it into a work of art that is as sturdy as it is beautiful. Each weave, a testament to tradition, is done with care and precision. The boy's focused expression reveals his connection to the age-old craft, embodying the promise of a future in which sustainable materials like rattan replace plastics, not only preserving the environment but also providing vital livelihoods for entire communities. This scene captures the essence of a movement that blends environmental consciousness with the enduring power of human skill and community resilience.



Category II: Industrial or craft innovations related to bamboo and rattan as substitutes for plastic

First place: "Intrecci liberi" by Iacopo Bertolini from Italy

The entire structure, with its flowing curves and freeform design, is built entirely from biomaterials. The undulating curves of the installation showcase how bamboo and other natural materials can be used not only for their aesthetic beauty but also for functional design that works harmoniously with the environment.



Second place: "The cane-star grandpa" by Amitava Chandra from India

In the northeastern state of Nagaland, India, the tribal community skillfully uses bamboo and rattan to create a variety of utility items from these natural gifts. Both bamboo and rattan grow abundantly in this region, and the handcrafted items made from them serve not only the needs of the community but also appeal to visiting tourists as unique souvenirs. Notably, the village of Khonoma has earned the title of one of the cleanest villages in Asia, where the use of plastics has been banned by local authorities. For the people of Khonoma, utilizing bamboo for both functional and artistic purposes is not only a means of survival but also a cherished tradition that reflects their cultural heritage.



Third place: "The craftsman" by Rabin Chakra barti from India

The products featured in this photograph are entirely crafted from bamboo, showcasing the beauty and versatility of this natural material. Each product serves as a stunning showpiece, ideal for decorating or ornamenting any space. This collection exemplifies innovative craftsmanship, highlighting the creative potential of bamboo in contemporary design. The photograph was taken in Kolkata, West Bengal, during a crafts fair organized by the local government, celebrating the rich tradition of bamboo craftsmanship and promoting sustainable artistry.



Category III: Community impact of bamboo and rattan

First place: "Planting bamboo" by Aung Kyaw Zaw from Myanmar

Nowadays, bamboo has become increasingly valuable to communities, providing essential utensils, building materials and a variety of crafted items. As a result, many individuals are now dedicated to caring for bamboo plantations, recognizing their importance. This photograph captures the moment when seedlings are planted in a bamboo plantation, highlighting the commitment of local farmers to nurture this sustainable resource, and the vital role bamboo plays in supporting livelihoods.



Second place: "Floating Bamboo Garden" by Klienne Eco from the Philippines

Discover a groundbreaking initiative in the province of San Pablo Laguna, Philippines: A floating bamboo garden that not only purifies the lake for our underwater friends, but also invites tourists to admire nature's beauty. Crafted as an innovative substitute for plastics, this project developed by the rotary club of the Philippine San Pablo Laguna Chapter sets a shining example of sustainable development and environmental stewardship. Let's support efforts like these that not only benefit marine life but elevate local communities through eco-friendly solutions.



Third place: "Bamboo Architecture Building" by Moe Wai from Myanmar

This captivating photograph showcases the stunning beauty and artistic design of buildings made from bamboo, featuring two smiling children playing in the space. Bamboo spaces create opportunities for social interaction, fostering joy and community impact. Bamboo is a low-cost but highly valuable species that offers numerous benefits to humanity.



These stunning images illustrate how bamboo and rattan are paving the way for a more sustainable future and INBAR will highlight the participants who helped highlight the incredible potential of these materials, featuring their work across digital platforms and sharing the fascinating stories behind the images.

For further inspiration, view the past winning entries from [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#) and [2023](#).

To know more

[News announcing the winners of the Photo Competition in INBAR website](#)

[Winners 2024 Photo Competition](#)

[Previous years' winners 2020, 2021, 2022 2023](#)

[INBAR website](#)

