

# Awards About



Participants from more than 140 countries attended the 2006 World Water Week, but those coming from Australia, Canada, China, Kenya and Sweden couldn't be blamed if they felt an added touch of pride during the week. That's because the winners of the Stockholm Water Prize, Stockholm Junior Water Prize, Stockholm Industry Water Award, Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award and World Water Week Best Poster Award came from those countries.

Stockholm was the venue for more than 100 seminars, workshops, side events and closed meetings. Still, perhaps the most memorable events for many participants will be the different celebrations honouring excellence in the water field.

# and at the Water Week

## Stockholm Water Prize

Of the many events participated in by Prof. Asit K. Biswas – the Opening Session, the SJWP ceremony, the Founders Seminar, media interviews, and more – none was more momentous than that on the evening of August 24.

A fine summer evening greeted Prof. Biswas – as did hundreds of assembled family, friends and guests – to see him accept the 16th Stockholm Water Prize from the hands of H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden. The tireless water proponent, noted for constantly challenging the “status quo,” is an Indian-born Canadian citizen and president of the Mexico City-based Third World Centre for Water Management.

At the ceremony in the Stockholm City Hall, Dr. Akissa Bahri of the independent international Nominating Committee noted that Professor Biswas has made “outstanding and multi-faceted contributions to global water resource issues, including research, education and awareness, water management, human and international relations in both developed and developing countries.”

Among the many qualified water experts in different disciplines, Prof. Biswas was heralded for sharing his broad knowledge across many fields internationally, thereby adding new dimensions to the wise use and management of the global water resources.

The Stockholm Water Prize, a global award founded in 1990 and presented annually to an individual, organisation or institution for outstanding water-related activities, is worth USD 150,000.

Following the ceremony, the Royal Banquet in the City Hall offered guests the opportunity to hear of Professor Biswas’ “dreams” during his acceptance speech. “I have a final dream that every one of the world’s citizens will live in a water secure world within my lifetime,” he said. “This is not an impossible dream but an achievable dream. If we fail, as Shakespeare has said in Julius Caesar ‘The



The Stockholm Water Prize was presented by H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria to Professor Asit K. Biswas during a ceremony at the Stockholm City Hall on Thursday, August 24.

fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves that we are underlings.”

Among the many distinguished guests to hear his wise words were those of the Founders of the Stockholm Water Prize. They include: Anglian Water, Bacardi, DuPont, Europeiska Insurance, Fujitsu Siemens Computers, General Motors, Grundfos Manage-

ment, Hewlett Packard, Hilton and Scandic, ITT Flygt, Kaupthing Bank Sverige, Kemira Kemwater, KPMG Sweden, P&G, Ragn-Sells, Scandinavian Airlines (SAS), Siemens AG, Snecma, Stockholm Water Festival, Swedish Railways (SJ), Uponor, and the Water Environment Federation, in collaboration with The City of Stockholm.

Photo: SJWI



Photo: STWI

H.R.H Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden presented the award to (from left) to Ms. Wang Hao, Mr. Xiao Yi and Mr. Weng Jie during the ceremony at the Stockholm City Conference Centre.

## Stockholm Junior Water Prize

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize, presented August 22, was the first to be handed out during the week. In front of 700 guests in the Stockholm City Conference Centre, a Chinese trio – Ms. Wang Hao, Mr. Xiao Yi and Mr. Weng Jie – were awarded the prestigious youth prize.

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize is presented each year to high-school age students for an outstanding water-related project focusing on topics of environmental, scientific, social or technological importance.

In taking top place among 26 participating countries, the team from Shanghai Nanyang Model High School was recognised for a project which “displayed originality, ingenuity and tenacity in its use of low-cost, ecologically friendly technology to restore a polluted urban river channel,” according to the international nominating committee. They received the Prize from the hands of H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria plus a USD 5,000 scholarship and a crystal sculpture.

The winning project consisted of the students damming small sections of the highly polluted Caoxi river channel and removing the contaminated mud which was exposed. Second, oxygen-starved stretches of the river were revitalised through the use of floating aerators. Third, bushes and other bank-side plants were carefully fertilised with organic waste, irrigated and used as biological bar-

riers to block polluted runoff from the land. Finally, through a water quality monitoring program, illicit sewage discharges were discovered, exposed and eliminated.

The committee called the project a “tried-and-true method for river channel restoration which gives great hope for similar successes with other streams in the 19-million person Shanghai metropolitan area”.

Diplomas of Excellence were also given to Japan and Sri Lanka. Ms. Satomi Kosho, Ms. Naomi Sugimoto and Ms. Sae Nishino from Japan, who developed a portable nursery which adapted the principles of the well-known Wardian Case for transporting plants, created an innovative approach which both reduced the amount of water needed to grow rice seedlings and improved their quality. The Sri Lankans Ms. Mihirani Kethumalika, Ms. Uthpala Rathnayake and Ms. Chaturika Rathnayake challenged the wasteful water practices often found in paddy rice cultivation.

The international competition, which is sponsored globally by ITT Corporation, included a number of events in addition to the award competition. Site visits, seminars and social events provided the 60 young people, many of whom were making their first international trip, with an experience to remember.

## World Water Week Best Poster Award

The 2006 Best Poster Award was given to Mr. Joseph Sang, RELMA in ICRAF, Nairobi, Kenya, for his poster, “Adoption of Rainwater Harvesting to Mitigate the Impacts of Land Cover Change: The Case of Local Hydrology of Lare Division in Kenya.”

Posters presented during the World Water Week have always been an important component of the overall programme. Special efforts are made to make them accessible to participants and incorporated into the deliberations taking place during the World Water Week.

Mr. Sang will receive travel and accommodation to participate in the 2007 World Water Week in Stockholm.



Photo: STWI

Mr. Joseph Sang from Kenya won the best poster award – and a return trip to Stockholm!

## Stockholm Industry Water Award

Mrs. Gabrielle Kibble travelled some 21,700 kilometres from Sydney to Stockholm. For the Chair of Sydney Water, the municipal water and wastewater supplier in the Australian metropolis, it was worth it. Every day is not like August 23, 2006, when your company is honoured with the Stockholm Industry Water Award. It isn't every municipal water and wastewater supplier that has helped the businesses and industries within its confines save 20 million litres of water daily.

Sydney Water was recognised in Stockholm for its “Every Drop Counts (EDC) Business Program”. The innovative programme demonstrates how the utility is working in partnership with business, industry and government to help ensure the long-term sustainability of Sydney’s water supply.

Sydney Water is the largest water utility in Australia, the driest inhabited continent in the world, and supplies water to 4.2 million people and many businesses and industries. As part of its operating license requirement, Sydney Water is required to reduce per capita consumption by 35% during the period from 1991 to 2011. The EDC Business Program is a water conservation programme for the business, industry and government sector, which represents around 30% of the total water use in the Sydney region. The EDC Business Program addresses these challenges by promoting water management as a business issue rather than a technical issue.

In Stockholm, Ms. Kibble also had the opportunity to talk about EDC during the business-oriented Founders Seminar. The seminar theme, “Business on the Ground: When Solving Local Community Water Issues Becomes Part of Doing Business,” provided an opportunity to speak about how more than 310 organisations have joined the programme. The direct benefits in terms of water conservation, Ms. Kibble said, are significant in and of themselves, even more so because they are enhanced by the indirect benefits of energy savings and reduced wastewater flows.

The Stockholm Industry Water Award is presented by the Stockholm Water Foundation. It honours innovative corporate development of water and wastewater process technologies, contributions to environmental improvement through improved performance in production processes, new products and other significant contributions by businesses and industries that help improve the world water situation.



From left: Mrs. Gabrielle Kibble, AO, Chair, Sydney Water, Mr. Mohan Seneviratne, Program Manager - Business, Water Conservation & Recycling, Sydney Water and Mr. Stig Larsson, Chair, Stockholm Water Foundation, at the Stockholm Industry Water Award Ceremony.

Photo: STWI



From left: Mr. Anders Bertell, Executive Director at SIWI, Mr. Björn Carlsson, recipient of the 2006 Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award, and Ms. Annika Björner, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden.

Photo: STWI

## Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award

During the Closing Session of the World Water Week on August 25, 2006, attendees witnessed the honouring of an exceptional example of personal philanthropy.

The 2006 Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award was presented to Mr. Björn Carlsson, a Swedish financier, for his 2005 personal donation of SEK 500 million (USD 62.6 million) for interdisciplinary projects and creative initiatives that support direct and practical efforts which contribute to im-

proved water quality in the Baltic Sea. The funds are administered by the Björn Carlsson Foundation for the Baltic Sea.

Through this large donation, he wishes to encourage politicians, authorities, companies, fishing societies and other sectors around the entire Baltic Sea to dare to try new methods and to take unconventional measures in the work to improve the sea’s marine environment.

The Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award is a regional award for water stewardship. The award is given by Sweden’s Ministry for Foreign Affairs in appreciation for what individuals, corporations, non-governmen-

tal organisations and municipalities have done to help improve the Baltic Sea’s water environment.

“Mr. Carlsson’s donation is a truly outstanding example of individual philanthropy in pursuit of a worthy cause,” said Dr. Ulla-Britta Fallenius, chair of the Award Committee. “Like all of us living around the Baltic Sea, he is disturbed and concerned by the increasingly threatened health of this common natural resource; unlike all of us, through such a generous donation he has the ability to stimulate efforts to make concrete improvements to the sea which benefit us all living in the region.”