

The Power of Rain

Ceren Burçak Dag had a rough start to World Water Week when her luggage got lost in transit from her home in Turkey. What happened later in the Week more than made up for it.

At an award ceremony on August 18, the young woman from the Nişantaşı quarter of Istanbul was named winner of the 2009 Stockholm Junior Water Prize. She won the coveted honour with her study detailing an innovative method for generating energy from falling rain drops.

“Many young people are concerned about climate change, but few will take action to identify a solution,” noted the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Jury in its citation. “Reducing CO² emissions by developing alternative environment-friendly, renewable energy sources is a specific response to this global problem. This year’s winner had a spark of genius in developing a high tech solution that used PVDF, a smart material with piezoelectric properties, to transfer the kinetic energy of raindrops into electrical energy.”

Ceren Burçak Dag competed with other high-school age students from 29 countries for this year’s prize. The international field encompassed more than 5,600 individual projects. After the ceremony, she explained her hopes for her award-winning project. “We have a new energy source from rain with a piezoelectric effect with this project,” she said. “I hope that my work will contribute to the development of the next generation of energy panels where rain, sun, and wind are combined.”

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize jury also awarded Diplomas of Excellence to Emily Elhacham of Israel for her project, “Detecting water contamination chemical sensors using metal nanoparticle networks”, and Mary Zhao of Canada, for her project, “Grasping water: A novel method of inducing precipitation using the Ice Nucleating Protein”.

About the Stockholm Junior Water Prize

The international Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition brings together students to encourage their continued interest in water and the environment. Each year, thousands of participants in over 30 countries

join national competitions for the chance to represent their nation at the international finale held during the World Water Week in Stockholm. The national and international competitions are open to young people between the age of 15 and 20 who have conducted water-related projects focusing on local, regional, national or global topics of environmental, scientific, social or technological importance.

The winner receives a USD 5,000 award and a crystal sculpture. H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden is the Patron of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. The Stockholm International Water Institute administers the prize. ITT Corporation is the global sponsor of the award.



Ceren Burçak Dag receives the prize from Mr. Peter Forssman, Chairman of the Stockholm Water Foundation at the award ceremony.