

STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE

BRINGING TOGETHER THE WORLD'S BRIGHTEST YOUNG MINDS

Young people do not realise that a problem is unsolvable – so they solve it. That is the principle that drives the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. Every year since 1997, the world's most imaginative young people have gathered in the capital of Sweden for a competition aimed at finding the best idea for improving the world's water situation.



Every year, thousands of students in over 30 countries enter national competitions with the hope to represent their nation in the international final. The competition is open to students between the ages of 15 and 20 who are passionate about water and the environment. Their projects cover a variety of water related topics - from strict scientific and technology oriented innovations to ideas of a more political and social nature.

NETWORK WITH THE WORLD'S WATER PROFESSIONALS

Finalists from each country earn a five day trip to the final held during World Water Week in Stockholm, where they actively take part in the global conference and interact with today's leaders in the global water arena.

Inside the conference venue, a poster exhibition of all student projects gives the finalists an opportunity to discuss their projects with the wide range of high level attendees, including researchers, politicians and media: a perfect opportunity to inspire and get inspired.

During the week every finalist is interviewed by a jury of international experts, who, based on the projects' scientific significance and societal importance, decide on the winner whose name is then announced at the award ceremony. Ahead of the announcement, finalists are celebrated on stage with music and entertainment while eagerly waiting to see who gets the once-in-a-lifetime chance to receive the prize from the hands of H.R.H Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden.

Besides their own ceremony, the finalists are treated with study visits and social activities

throughout the week. A highlight is the opportunity to attend the Royal Banquet in the Stockholm City Hall, where the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize is awarded.

FIRST STEP TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER IN WATER

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize journey does not necessarily stop after World Water Week. Inspired by meeting water professionals face to face and learning from their experiences, many contestants decide to devote themselves to studies and careers in water and sustainability. While in Stockholm, students also build life-long friendships and start professional networks.

There are many heartening success stories from the competition. In 2003, South African Claire Reid received the prize for the "Water Wise Reel Gardening" system that helped small scale farmers to be more efficient in their use of water in growing crops. Today, she has developed Reel Gardening into a successful, nation-wide business and goes on to win awards for her work.

Alison Bick from the US developed a smart-phone application that tests water contamination, an invention that earned her the 2011 prize. Now a junior at university, Alison has patented her application. She has even been approached by the World Bank hoping to use her technology to test water in Nigeria.

Evidently, the creative energy of students in the competition help advance water knowledge. With ever increasing pressure on the world's water resources, fresh ideas are critical to help solve water-related challenges. ♣

DOES YOUR COUNTRY WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMPETITION?

We co-operate with devoted national organisers in over 30 countries. During 2014, national competitions have been conducted in Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine and USA. Is your country not represented in the list above? Do you know of an organisation suitable to host the national competition? Get in touch - we are always looking for new inspiring organisers to help us aggregate and spread water knowledge. www.sivi.org/prizes/stockholmjuniorwaterprize



STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE – FACTS AND FIGURES

Stockholm Junior Water Prize was founded in 1997 by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). The world's five continents are represented in the competition and 12 different countries have received the award.

As of 2014, SIWI has increased the prize sums notably, to enhance the support and encouragement to young people's interest in water and sustainability issues. The new prize sums are:

Winner – USD 15,000
Winner's school – USD 5,000 (new category)
Diploma of Excellence - USD 3,000

H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden is the Patron of the prize. Sponsors and supporters are Xylem Inc., SAS & Coca-Cola Foundations, Ragn-Sells, Trosa Tryckeri, and People Travel Group. Read more: www.sivi.org/prizes/stockholmjuniorwaterprize



2014 WORLD WATER WEEK IN STOCKHOLM – ENERGY AND WATER

World Water Week in Stockholm is the leading meeting place to discuss the planet's most urgent water issues. The week brings together 2,500 experts, practitioners, decision makers and business innovators from around the globe. This year's focus is on the entwined relationship between energy and water. Read more: www.worldwaterweek.org