



PRESS RELEASE

King Hassan II Great World Water Prize (\$100,000) to reward outstanding achievements in “Innovation for access to Water and Energy”

Marseille-Rabat, 16 June, 2014 - The Government of Morocco and the World Water Council launch today the 5th edition of the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize – one of the world's highest distinctions in the water sector – to reward excellence in “Cooperation and sound management in the development and use of water resources.” The winner will be granted a US\$100,000 award. As for each of its previous edition, the Prize will be handed out during the Opening Ceremony of the next World Water Forum – to be held in Daegu & Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea, 12 to 17 April 2015.

In the tracks of this year’s United Nations “Water and Energy” topic

The topic of the 2015 edition is “Innovation for access to Water and Energy”. By “innovation”, the King Hassan II Prize Committee means any kind of technical, institutional or financial innovation that secures access to water, sanitation and energy for all.

A recommendation-based Prize process

Candidates must be nominated by at least 2 individuals and/or organizations, with thorough knowledge of the qualities and accomplishments of their candidate in line with the Prize theme. Organizations or institutions as well as individuals or groups of individuals are eligible.

Submission Deadline: 30 September 2014

Nominations shall be submitted to the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize Secretariat before 30 September 2014. The nomination form is available upon request at the World Water Council Headquarters, and on line www.worldwatercouncil.org. Contact hassan2@worldwatercouncil.org

Governance

This Prize honors the memory of his Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and his strategic vision in terms of protection and sustainable management of water resources. Since its creation in 2003, on the occasion of the 3rd World Water Forum, a permanent committee composed of representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco and of World Water Council members oversees the organization and international promotion of the Prize.

The Jury of the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize - 5th edition:

- Charafat Afailal El Yedri, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment in charge of water - President of the Jury
- Omar Assobhei, President of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University of Fès, Morocco
- Abdelkader Benomar, Director for Water Research and Planning, Morocco
- Torkil Jønch Clausen, Water Policy Adviser, DHI, Denmark
- Jun-Haeng Heo, Vice-President of the Korea Water Resources Association (KWRA), Republic of Korea
- Abdeladim Lhafi, High Commissioner for Water and Forests and Fight against Desertification, Morocco
- Adame Nombre, President of the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD)

- Monica Porto, President of the Foundation for Hydraulic Technology, Polytechnic School of University of Sao Paulo (USP), Brazil
- Houria Tazi Sadeq, President of the Water Association for Machreq Maghreb (ALMAE), Morocco

King Hassan II Great World Water Prize Permanent Committee members:

- Charafat Afailal El Yedri, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment in charge of water
- Soumia Benkhaldoun, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Superior Education, Training and Research, Morocco
- Ali Fassi Fihri, CEO of the National Office of Electricity and Potable Water (ONEE), Morocco
- Loïc Fauchon, Honorary President of the World Water Council
- Guy Fradin, World Water Council Governor
- Nabil Mosleh, Communication and Cooperation Manager of the ONEE, Morocco
- Lisette Provencher, World Water Council Governor

King Hassan II Great World Water Prize Winners:

2012 – The Sahara and Sahel Observatory (SSO)

SSO is an independent international organization based in Tunis. It was founded in 1992 to improve early warning and monitoring systems for agriculture. SSO has placed particular importance on aquifers of large shared basins and on implementing the North-South-South partnership framework in order to strengthen the fight against desertification and reduce the impact of droughts. SSO has developed an innovative regional approach based on the notion of “basin awareness” for the management of water resources shared by its member countries.

2009 – Abdulatif Youssef Al-Hamad

CEO of the Board of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Mr. Al-Hamad was honored for his outstanding contributions to advancing cooperation and solidarity in the fields of development and management of water resources.

2006 – Torkil Jønch Clausen

At the time Development Director and Deputy CEO of DHI Water and Environment (Denmark), Mr. Clausen was honored for his outstanding contributions to advancing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) on a global scale. He is also one of the founders of the Global Water Partnership, and World Water Council Governor.

2003 – Jerson Kelman and Mahmoud Abu-Zeid

The President Director of the Agencia Nacional de Aguas (ANA) of Brazil and the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt were both honored for their significant water-related achievements and contributions to the improvement of water resources management.

More about the Prize: Detailed nomination criteria and candidature procedure are available on line with the nomination form at www.worldwatercouncil.org

About the World Water Council

The World Water Council is an international organization that aims at promoting awareness, building political commitment and triggering action on critical water issues by bringing people together, through active hydro-politics, and serving as linkage between stakeholders and decision-makers.

The World Water Council, which has its headquarters in Marseille, France, was created in 1996. It brings together around 300 member organizations from more than 50 different countries.

It represents a multi-stakeholder water community including representatives from intergovernmental organizations, national governments, business sector, NGOs and water users associations, and academia.

Every three years, the World Water Council organizes the World Water Forum in close collaboration with the authorities of the host country. More than 20,000 stakeholders and decision makers from over 140 countries attended the latest edition, in a joint effort to build strong political commitment. The Council catalyzes collective action in between each World Water Forum and guarantees continuity and success from one edition to another.

More: www.worldwatercouncil.org

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About the Kingdom of Morocco

Protecting water resources was a National Priority for the Kingdom of Morocco long before Millennium Development Goals and the sustainable development approach. Among many other projects, the country elaborated its policy for dams and reservoirs aiming to secure the country's water supply and contribute to its food security, and to its economic and social development.

Today, under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohamed VI, the Kingdom of Morocco is developing integrated water resources management policies and implementing innovative and alternative technologies. Morocco is about to overcome its challenges due to water scarcity, increase of the water demand, and the protection of the environment.

As a key player in customizing solutions and thought leadership, Morocco has developed North-South and more recently South-South cooperation efforts, offering its expertise and experience to close partners in water resources mobilization, water efficiency (drip irrigation system) and the development of alternative technologies (sea-water desalination, treated wastewater reuse...).

Building on its political achievements and international outreach, Morocco had the privilege of hosting the very first World Water Forum in 1997 in Marrakech. The Forum is now considered as the world's largest water event gathering the international community. Since then, Morocco has participated in all of the Forum's following editions.

About the 7th World Water Forum - "Water for our future" - Daegu & Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea, 12-17 April 2015

The 7th edition of the world's largest water event will gather participants from the international water community: academics, research institutions, enterprises, professional networks, governments and policy-makers, IGOs and NGOs, as well as representatives from various fields such as agriculture, food or energy. The 7th World Water Forum will focus on the implementation of the solutions that were identified during the 6th edition (Marseille, France, 2012). The legacy the 7th World Water Forum will therefore include:

- Moving from Solutions to Implementation
- Bridging the Platform of Science & Technology to Water Issues
- Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Necessitating two years of collaborative preparation with stakeholders from around the world, the Forum consists of 4 preparatory processes within a common framework, so as to catalyze collective action and positive change. These processes are Regional, Political, Thematic as well as Science and Technology. The Thematic process, overarching backbone of the Forum, is built according to 4 goals and tools:

- Water Security for All
- Water for Development and Prosperity
- Water for Sustainability: Harmonizing Humans and Nature
- Constructing Feasible Implementation Mechanisms

The 7th World Water Forum will also be composed of cultural events, water co-located events, a water exhibition, and a Citizen's Forum, including a Youth and Children's Forum, to raise citizens' awareness in favor of water.

The 7th World Water Forum is jointly organized by the World Water Council and the Republic of Korea together with the city of Daegu and the Province of Gyeongbuk.

More: <http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/en>

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