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Stockholm Junior Water Prize



1996-2011

ARGENTINA AUSTRALIA BELARUS CANADA CHILE **CHINA CYPRUS** FRANCE GERMANY ISRAEL ITALY JAPAN LATVIA MEXICO **NETHERLANDS** NORWAY **REPUBLIC OF KOREA RUSSIAN FEDERATION** SINGAPORE **SLOVAK REPUBLIC SOUTH AFRICA SRI LANKA** SWEDEN TURKEY UKRAINE UNITED KINGDOM UNITED STATES VIETNAM

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Each year, the international Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition brings together the world's brightest young scientists to encourage their continued interest in water and the environment. Each of the finalists represented in Stockholm are the champions of national competitions with thousands of participants entering unique projects in 30 countries.

This year, we are very proud to celebrate our 15th anniversary of the prize and welcome the winners of national competitions in Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine, USA and Vietnam.

After 15 years, we have learned that brilliant young minds can find inspiration in some unlikely places. Ingenious teams from the world over have shown how to clean water and protect marine environments with everything from oysters to eggshells. They also see opportunity and hope where most find challenges and developed solutions that are cost-efficient, immediate, and applicable the world over. In this catalogue, you can learn more about the innovative research that earned each of the 2011 finalists a chance to compete for this international honor.

During their time in Stockholm, all of the finalists have the special opportunity to meet and learn from the present leaders of the global water community and make life-long friendships with international compatriots who share a passion for water and science. This includes a once-in-a-lifetime chance to receive the international prize from H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, during an exciting ceremony, which will be held this year on Tuesday August 23.

You also have the opportunity to meet this next generation of water leaders by visiting their booths in the exhibition area T. The water challenges they face will be more intense, intricate and expansive than ever before. Looking at the work that has brought to Stockholm, they have created a compelling case to show they are up to the task.

ABOUT THE STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE COMPETITION

The competition is 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 international winner receives a USD 5,000 award and a prize sculpture. As a result of the competitions, thousands of young people around the world become interested in water.

H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden is the Patron of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize.

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The International Jury

The International Jury includes experts within the field of water who, by committee consensus, appoint the winner of the international final. The decision is based on the written report, a short presentation of the display material and interviews with the finalists. The Stockholm Water Foundation Board appoints the Jury members.

THE 2011 INTERNATIONAL JURY MEMBERS ARE:

Dr. Fredrik Moberg, (Chair), Sweden; Mr. Björn von Euler, USA; Ms. Charlotte de Fraiture, Ghana; Ms. Eileen O'Neill, USA; Dr. Piet Lens, Netherlands; Ms. Susana Sandoz, Bolivia; Mr. Alex Simalabwi, Sweden and Ms. Helene Brinkenfeldt (Secretary), SIWI, Sweden.

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The 2011 Finalists

ARGENTINA

Removing Arsenic

By Edgardo Agustin Devia, Felipe Badin and Lautaro Molinengo

The Argentinian team's research on groundwater samples in the city of Leones, showed that arsenic levels in the water was dangerously high (106.6 µg.l-1), and well above what is considered safe for consumption by the World Health Organization (10 µg.l-1). To address the problem, they compared the effectiveness of two methods to remove arsenic: solar oxidation (SORAS) and heterogeneous photocatalysis with titanium dioxide. They found that SORAS treatment was able to remove 94 per cent of arsenic and was significantly more effective than the more commonly applied method of photocatalysis with titanium dioxide. They concluded that SORAS is an inexpensive, readily available and easy to use solution for people to remove arsenic from drinking water at home.

AUSTRALIA

Does Phosphate Runoff From Golf Courses Contribute to Eutrophication in Adjacent Water Bodies? By Mathuja Bavanendrakumar

This study investigated whether phosphate runoff from golf courses contributes to eutrophication in adjacent waterbodies. Seven golf courses with internal lakes were randomly selected in the Gold Coast, and for each, a water body wit in a one kilometer radius was chosen. It was found that all internal lakes in the golf courses, and adjacent natural waterbodies tested had eutrophication occurring in them, indicating moderate to high risk of algal toxication. Moreover, five out of seven golf course internal lakes and three out of seven of the adjacent water bodies had excessive phosphate concentrations, which indicates that runoff from golf courses were likely contributing to the eutrophication. The study concluded that reduced fertiliser use on golf courses could lessen local euthrophication.

BELARUS

The Role of Water in the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions on Degraded Peatlands By Vera Parvatava

This project investigated the relationship between agricultural practices in peatlands and their corresponding greenhouse gas emissions. Using an assessment tool to link vegetation types and mean water level fluctuation with annual emission factors, the Belarusian finalist was able to calculate the emission reduction potential of rewetting the land. In the 329 hectares surveyed, emissions ranged between 8,5 and 24 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year, and totaled nearly 6000 tonnes CO₂ over the entire area. The project estimates that rewetting the entire territory could save over 3000 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

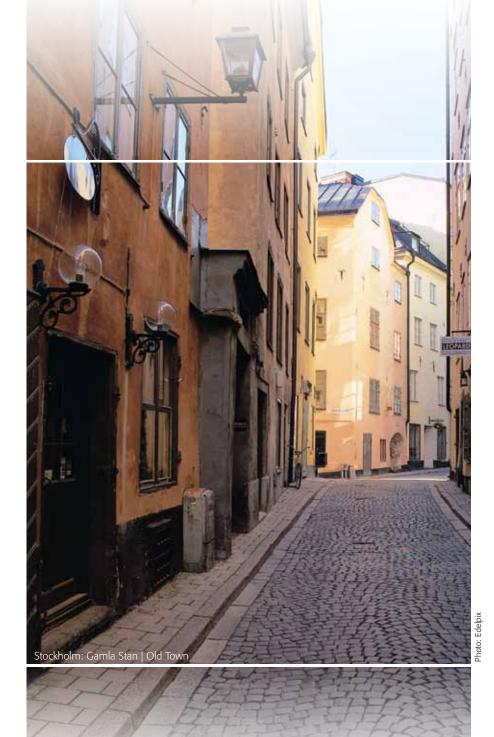
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CANADA

The Hazards of Nanosilver Uncovered *By Shayla Larson and Adam Noble*

The Canadian project examined the effects of nanosilver, an increasingly common commercial and industrial antimicrobial agent, on Euglena. This photosynthetic protozoan may represent an indicator of the potential impact of nanosilver on living organisms in fresh water ecosystems. Results of this study indicated that absorbed nanosilver is toxic to Euglena cells, and can result in structural and functional changes and cell death.

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WEAO, CWWA, WCWA, RESEAU, BCWWA, ACWWA, ITT Water and Wastewater.



CHILE

Cleaning the Ocean From Oil Contamination with Feathers and Bacteria

By Rolf Sommer Catalán and Bruno León Campos Cabrera

Accidents involving oil pollution in the ocean require strategic planning and responses. The Chilean team's research highlighted potential solutions: bird feathers can be used as strong adsorbents of contaminants, which combined with a newly isolated strain of bacterium "corynobacterias" can metabolise contaminants and clean water contaminated by oil.

CHINA

Water Dog – Reservoir Cleaning Controller

By Mengdi Liao, Jianwen Li and Shiyu Shi

The Chinese team invented a new cleaning and monitoring system for reservoirs: the Water Dog. The Water Dog is a low cost, accurate, easy to operate, unmanned operation that can monitor water quality in real time and its use is completely pollution free. The system is also flexible, where any district can set individual thresholds to match the targeted water standards in their local area.

CYPRUS

Turn Your Grey Water Into Green In the Shower

By Alexandros Constantinou and Maria Ioannou

The Cyprian finalists personal experience with strict water restrictions in their home country inspired them to look for smarter ways to get more out of the water they use at home. Using existing green technology, they developed a system that enables bath water to be recycled, reused and come out at the desired temperature. The design is financially viable, user-friendly, easy to install, saves water and reduces energy consumption. They claim that their system can help improve access to clean water; boost local economies through green investment and help Cyprus meet the EU CO₂ emission standards.

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FRANCE

Sediments in Seyne: How Do Sediments Release in Seawater?

By Laura Cerdan, Julia Bastos Reinaldo and Kenza Bouaziz

Plans to renovate the harbor of la Seyne on the Mediterranean shore have been delayed several times due to the presence of sediments that prevent dredging. Removing the sediments, however, would release a significant amount of pollution into the seawater. Faced with this dilemma, the French team conducted a series of experiments, developed new analysis, possible measures and potential solutions for clean dredging and initiated a public awareness campaign to educate local stakeholders on the issue.

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Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transportation and Housing Department of France, Seine Normandy Water Agency, ITT France, VEOLIA Water and Hydroplus.

Photo: Edelpix

GERMANY

Preventing Eutrophication: Ammonium as an Abiotic Factor in the Ecosystem Tide-Elbe

By Mathias Dehn and Jasper Feine

Ammonium, a component of agricultural fertiliser, is produced during the bacterial decomposition of organic material and is found in human and animal feces. High ammonium concentrations is a common problem seen in many rivers that are subject to intensive human use, such as the Elbe. This project measured the spatial and seasonal variations in ammonium concentrations in the Tide-Elbe in 2010, and their implications on eutrophication found in various areas found in the river.

ISRAEL

SOWP-DTS – Solar Water Purification Using a Drop Technology System By Maya Braun and Avishai Ketko

59 111aya Drawn and 110555ar 190760

Hundreds of millions of people lack access to safe drinking water. It is one of the most pressing problems faced by humanity. The Israeli team designed a water purification device that uses sunlight to disinfect water. Through detailed analysis of the geometric properties of the water drop and applied understanding of the laws of optics, they were able to create a device that is able to concentrate UV radiation from the sun onto the water, trap UV energy within each water drop and ultimately result in clean water. The technology uses renewable solar energy, is inexpensive and has a wide spread applicability in areas most in need.

ITALY

An Aquarium Under the Microscope: A Study of Zooplankton in a Resurgence Environment Reproduced in a Laboratory

By Umberto Lavagnolo

The quality of water, and quality of life for its many guests, is largely determined the composition of micro-organisms in the water body. This project replicated the aquatic environment found in a natural resurgence in Verona, Italy in a laboratory and performed tests to study how possible changes to the environment caused by human activities can impact the biological balance of the water body. It was able to link the presence of certain species to specific water characteristics, which the author concludes can be identified as "biological indicators".

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JAPAN

Forging Information Networks to Face a Silent Threat: Addressing Alien Species in Water Environments

By Daichi Ogata, Mikage Aoki and Miki Nakajima

The Japanese team researched the causes for the expansion of two alien species in their local water environment: Asian clams and New Zealand mudsnails. They discovered that nature conversation activities were a primary catalyst and that poor access to information on alien species has stunted concerted action. To solve the problem, they developed a new "information network of alien species" and have raised awareness on how alien Asian clams seriously threaten native species in Japanese water ecosystems.

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LATVIA

Assessing the Ecological Quality of Lake Engure with Macrophytes By Linards Klavins

This study compared differences in ecological health in Lake Engure and analysed the possibility to use water plants, macrophytes, for water quality evaluations. Ecological quality assessment methods have a great potential for evaluation of surface waters. Amongst different aquatic species, macrophytes can easily be used for water quality evaluation. The Latvian students were able to elaborate an ecological quality map and study new possibilities to use macrophytes for lake quality assessments.

MEXICO

Reducing the Water Footprint for Biodiesel Production

By Luis Alberto Lira-Hernandez

Applying a research model developed at the University of Twente, Netherlands, the Mexican project demonstrated how the water footprint of the biodiesel manufacturing process could be reduced by improved water reuse. They found that water used to wash biodiesel could be reintroduced to wastewater treatment plants without any further treatment or processing. The effluent is a viable alternative to replace fresh water during the manufacturing process of biodiesel and therefore can reduce the need to draw from new freshwater resources.

N E T H E R L A N D S

Unlocking the Potential of Local Wastewater Treatment By Rogier Burger

Today, wastewater treatment is organised in a way that focuses on "removing pollutants" from water, and in the process it uses a lot of energy. However, there are valuable materials that can be recovered from what we call 'waste' water. New systems to recover and reuse those materials could be used produce energy, and also reduce treatment costs. The Dutch project details a "Decentralised Ecologic Manufacture Approach" (DEMA) which improves the separation of 'black' and 'grey' water and can reduce costs, recycle materials and reuse water and energy. The sustainable DEMA is applicable across the world and could make a difference in the quality of life for many people.

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Netherlands Water Partnership, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, artners for Water and Wetsus.





NORWAY

Pool Water and Health Issues: A Scientific Analysis on the Connections Between Water Quality and Health Issues in Public Swimming Pools By Henning Kaland and Kristoffer Karud

Extended exposure to hypochlorite in pools has been linked to asthma as well as a host of other possible health complications, some more serious than others. The Norweigan team performed an in depth assessment of water quality in swimming pools in Oslo, with detailed measurements of bacteria, hypochlorite and particle content and pH levels. The young scientists concluded that the water quality in the pools were within national regulations, but that regulations on hypochlorite should be reassessed to ensure public safety.

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Photo: Edelpix

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Introducing a New Climate Coast Guard: Coastal Erosion Protection From the Impacts of Climate Change

By MSung Eun Jang, Hayejin Moon and Dhoyeon Kim

Climate change is likely to cause sea level rise, and corresponding increases in the height of waves can lead to serious erosion in beach and coastal areas. The Korean team engineered a blockade to protect beaches from erosion. Initial test of their MECS design (Mushroomshaped Eco Coastal Structure) were estimated to be able to avoid 44-50 per cent of erosion. They hope that their work is a first step towards creating an engineering solution to erosion.

R U S S I A N F E D E R A T I O N

Water Map of Kazan City *By Aigul Khafizova and Oleg Shamaev*

Using original methods and standard techniques of environmental mapping, the Russian team developed a digital map of water resources of Kazan city, based on a bit map topographic base. The map contains an inventory of 200 urban water reservoirs. The maps are available online on the Russian webpage of the international web-based project www.GreenTeen.org, and is also posted at www.GreenMap.ru, a site created by high school students. The map has also been published in print as an environmental guidebook.

SINGAPORE

Use of a Natural Fibrous Sorbent for Oil Spill Cleanup

By Kai Sheng Leonard Tan, Mohammad Mustafar Bin Abdul Razak and Jin Hao Tan

Oil spills pose a major threat to the marine environment. In this project, Kapok, a natural agricultural fibre which possesses outstanding hydrophobic-oleophilic characteristics, was studied for its ability to absorb crude oil. It was found to be very efficient compared to commercial sorbents, retaining oil at almost 50 times its weight. When placed under pressure, 98 per cent of the oil could be recovered, and thus help minimise the wastage of crude oil.

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Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Lien Foundation, Public Utilities Board (PUB) and Singapore's National Water Agency.



SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Natural Treatment of Water and Its Effect on Unicellular Organisms

By Dominika Pelegrinová and Nikolette Zavillová

This project investigated the potential use of natural zeolite (of the clinoptilolite type) and hydrologitic enzymes isolated from rainworms as a natural option for water treatment. The experimental purification method was applied to water samples taken from three separate sources. Each sample contained cilates, whose activity could be tested before and after treatment through fluorescence spectroscopy to evaluate the impact of the treatment method. Zeolite was found to improve water quality, lower total concentration of ammonia and remove odors, colour and some organic compounds, but did not change pH levels.

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Young Scientists of Slovakia, Bratislava Water Company (Bratislavská vodárenská spolo nos), East Slovakia Water Company (Východoslovenská vodárenská spolo nos), Slovak Research and Development Agency, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of Slovak republic and Ministry of Environment of the Slovak republic.

SOUTH AFRICA

Water Conservation in Windmills *By Hendrick Fourie and Gideon de Jager*

The South African team sought to improve the design of windmills to ensure that water was used as efficiently as possible. In their model, they fitted a by-pass valve to redirect the water to the groundwater source and added a ball-valve to the reservoir to cut off excess incoming water. They believe that such improvements are needed at all levels of society for South Africa to grow with its relatively limited water resources.

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Water Research Commission, University of KwaZulu-Natal and Cape Peninsular University of Technology.

SRI LANKA

From pollutant to pulp: Industrial Symbiosis of Textile Finishing, Paper Recycling and Pulp Production By: Prasan Warnakula

The objective of this research was to investigate the possibility of making paper pulp out of low grade recycled paper. The young Sri Lankan scientist found that some nutrients from wastewater from the textile finishing industry could enable a symbiotic process. Aluminum, which needs to be removed from the industrial wastewater can be absorbed in paper pulp, to improve its stability. Following a series of experiments and trials, the project indicates that it is possible to reduce the water requirement for pulp production and improve the treatment efficiency of the textile industry wastewater.

SWEDEN

Lagena: Bottle Made by Nature By Josefin Pettersson and Emma Högström

Lagena is an innovative bottle design that makes it possible to transport 78 per cent more water per truck than is done with the average plastic water bottle. Shifting to Lagena would translate into significant reductions in CO_2 emissions. The bottle is made out of polylactide (PLA), which is renewable, fully biodegradable and does not release hydrocarbons when it is reabsorbed by the earth. The Swedish inventors envision Lagena as an attempt and a suggestion to present smarter solutions to secure global water supply and reduce the emissions of CO_2 and hydrocarbons into the environment.

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TURKEY

Clean Energy From Dirty Water: Producing Electricity From Wastewater Using Exoelectrogen Anaerobic Bacteria in Microbial Fuel Cells By Ozan Ozkan, Cem Celik and Emre Suna

This study aim to use Exoelectrogen Anaerobic Bacteria in microbial fuel cells to produce electricity and prevent pollution from wastewater discharge. The Turkish students systems was able to generate electricity and treat wastewater to 90 per cent efficiency. Their design was unique in its electrote shape, and used no extra substrate, chemical compositions or buffer solutions. Their work makes a strong case for the use microbial fuel cells to treat water pollutants.

UKRAINE

Splitting Oil From Water: Purifying Water From Oil Pollution Using Magnetic Separation Through Fine-Dispersed Magnetite By Dmytro Danylchuk

This project explored the feasibility of magnetic separation as a method to clean water that has been polluted by oil. Fine-dispersed magnetite was applied as an experimental method to remove oil and some oil derivatives from the water. A thin-layer chromatography was utilised to monitor the results, which suggest that the magnetite is a potentially effective treatment option that can be used during the liquidation of shelf oil spills.

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UNITED KINGDOM

Sampling Efficiency of Plankton Net *By Katie Forbes*

UNITED STATES

Development and Evaluation of a Microfluidic Co-Flow Device to Determine Water Quality *By Alison Bick*

The UK research project provided new insights into plankton analysis. Detailed understanding of plankton is crucial to evaluating marine ecosystems, as plankton is a strong indicator of how external pressures are affecting the ocean's food chains. Plankton have short life cycles, which means that changes in their quantity provide an indication of how pollutants, climate change and other external forces affect the marine food chain and especially fisheries. Sampling must therefore be accurate and producing precise results that will identify accurately the subsequent variations in the ecosystem.

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The Chartered Institution of Water and Environemtal Management (CIWEM) and Marine Scotland with Nuffield Foundation. By combining co-flow microfluidic devices, cell-phones, and the indicator chemical Colilert-18, a novel way of determining water qualities was found. The cell-phone takes an image of the channel and analyses it. A statistically significant positive correlation between bacteria concentration and yellow pixel intensity in the images were identified. In comparison, the new device is 18 hours faster, 200 times less expensive, and as accurate as the standard bacteria tests.

VIETNAM

Carpet Cleaning: Absorbing and Retaining Oil Spills Through a Melaleuca Cajuputibark Carpet

By Hien Ly Cong, Hay Nguyen Tri and Liem Nguyen Thanh

The Vietnamese team sought to protect the Mekong River Delta from oil spills with a smart, and readily available solution. They innovated a "Melaleuca Cajuputi bark carpet", which is not only beautiful but is also extremely effective in absorbing spilled oil in water bodies. According to their tests, the carpet is able to collect up to 97 per cent of oil in rivers and canals, making it an aesthetic and economical solution to protect water resources.

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- 1997 | Stephen Tinnin, USA
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