



PRESS INFORMATION

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Mexico Wins Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Adriana Alcántara Ruiz, Dalia Graciela Díaz Gómez and Carlos Hernández Mejía from Mexico were awarded the prestigious 2007 Stockholm Junior Water Prize tonight in a formal ceremony in the Stockholm City Conference Centre/Folkets Hus during the World Water Week in Stockholm. The students from the Cultural Institute of Paideia in Toluca, Mexico, received the Prize from the hands of H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria on behalf of the Stockholm Water Foundation. They also received a USD 5,000 scholarship and a crystal sculpture.

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize is presented each year to high-school age students for outstanding water-related projects that focus on topics of environmental, scientific, social or technological importance. The international honour is given to an individual or group who, like their 27 co-competitors, has been awarded the top prize among national competitions. The National Country winners travel to Stockholm from as far a field as Australia, Israel and Vietnam. The official motivation of the Nominating Committee for this year's winner is:

"The Mexican team's project, *The Elimination of Pb(II) From Water Via BIO-Adsorption Using Eggshell*, developed a novel approach to adsorb lead in industrial wastewater by utilising eggshells, a locally abundant bio-organic waste material.

By mixing ground-up eggshells in a liquid lead solution, the young Mexicans successfully removed more than 90% of lead pollutants from liquid waste. This low-cost, time-efficient method provides an alternative solution for removing heavy metals, a pollutant and health hazard around the world, from water. The quick and effective process can be applied in both small-scale industries large industrial operations.

For its project *The Biochemical Detoxification of Heavy Metals and its Application to the Water-Soil Environment in the Agricultural Wetlands of the Pearl River Delta, China*, the Chinese team of Yang Guo, Junhong Wu and Sisi Yu received honourable mention.

High-resolution photos for press are available after 22.00 Central European Time at www.worldwaterweek.org.

The World Water Week continues at the Stockholm City Conference Centre until Saturday, August 18.

Links

World Water Week: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org>

Press Kit: http://www.worldwaterweek.org/Downloads/WWW_2007_Press_Kit.pdf

SIWI – Independent and Leading-Edge Water Competence for Future-Oriented Action

The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is a policy institute that contributes to international efforts to find solutions to the world's escalating water crisis. SIWI advocates future-oriented, knowledge-integrated water views in decision making, nationally and internationally, that lead to sustainable use of the world's water resources and sustainable development of societies.

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