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World Clean Energy Awards ceremony brings the world's best energy projects to Switzerland

The very first World Clean Energy Awards were presented today, at the traditional "Faktor 4-Festival" in Basel. The awards honour the world's best projects promoting the large-scale use of renewable energies. From some 70 nominees, a high-profile jury picked the nine winners of the first energy "Oscars", who travelled to Switzerland from as far away as Abu Dhabi, China, India, Kenya, Sweden and the USA to receive their awards. Hosting the gala evening at the Congress Center Basel were Tanja Gutmann and Roger Cahn.

The World Clean Energy Awards will take place in a different country each year, with the inaugural 2007 ceremony being held in Switzerland. The winners of the World Clean Energy Awards set new standards for the large-scale use of clean energy solutions. The following individuals were honoured at the 2007 ceremony:

Construction (new buildings, urban development, renovation)

Josefin Wangel, Communications Officer, with **Hammarby Sjöstad Sustainable City**, Sweden. Resource consumption in this new area of Stockholm, which is home to 25,000 people, is at least 50% lower than the current standard for comparable new developments.

Transport and Mobility

Bryan Willson, Chief Technical Advisor, with the **Philippine Two-Stroke Engine Retrofit Project**, USA. The Envirofit company has developed a retrofitting kit for two-stroke engines, which are found everywhere in the Philippines. The kit improves fuel-efficiency and thus massively reduces greenhouse gas and toxic emissions.

Products (agriculture, mining, industry, utilities)

Fredrick Ouko, Director, with the **Simple Solar Assembling Project in Kibera Slum**, Kenya. The assembly of solar cells in one of Africa's biggest slums has provided inhabitants not only with work, but also with clean energy. The project was also awarded with the "Faktor 4" audience award.

Services, Trade and Marketing

Srinivasan Padmanaban, Project Manager, with the **Green Business Center and Water Energy Nexus Activity**, India. India's leading centre for energy, the environment and climate change supports "green" concepts for improving energy efficiency and sustainable development.

Finance and Investment

Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, CEO Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, with the **Masdar Initiative**, United Arab Emirates. As a first among the world's oil-producing



Faktor 4 Festival

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nations, the United Arab Emirates, launched the Abu Dhabi-based billion-dollar Masdar Initiative to promote renewable energies.

Policy and Lawmaking

Li Zhaoqian, Mayor of Rizhao, with the project: **Popularization of Clean Energy in Rizhao**, China. Home to more than three million, the city of Rizhao, north-east of Beijing, is using a combination of incentives and legislative tools to encourage the large-scale, efficient use of renewable energies. Over 500,000 people have already benefited directly from the scheme. In some areas, solar thermal collectors are installed on almost every single roof.

NGOs and Initiatives

Russell de Lucia, CEO The Small Scale Sustainable Infrastructure Development Fund, Inc. (S³IDF), with the project: **"Social Merchant Bank" – Approach to providing efficient lighting services to poor households, communities and SMEs in southern India**. S³IDF provides around 5,500 people in southern India with light from a clean energy source. More light means that people can work longer and thus generate higher incomes. It also improves health and safety. The project is being extended.

The Jury's Special Award

Anandi Sharan, Project Manager, Women for Sustainable Development, with the **Bagepalli CDM Biogas Project**, India. The project is introducing biogas cookers as a substitute for India's traditional cooking methods, which use non-renewable sources of energy. Under the Kyoto Protocol, the greenhouse gas emissions that the project saves can then be sold in the form of certificates.

The Jury's Special Award for Courage

Patrick Spears (President) and Robert Gough (Secretary), Intertribal COUP, with the **Intertribal COUP/Rosebud Sioux Environmental Justice Revitalization Project: Tribal Wind Power Demonstration Project Plan**, USA. The Sioux are investing in wind power. In doing so, they are generating clean energy, creating jobs and earning income for the tribe. This is happening in an environment which presents many obstacles to the development of renewable energies.

The high-profile jury of the World Clean Energy Awards, chaired by German professor and author Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, met in New York on 8 May 2007.

The jury is composed of the following eight individuals:

- Christopher Flavin, President, Worldwatch Institute (USA)
- Nicky Gavron, Deputy Mayor of London. On the jury she also represents the organisations ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) and "C40 – Large Cities Climate Leadership Group" (UK)
- Ashok Khosla, CEO TARAhaat, New Delhi (India)
- James Leape, Director General, WWF International (Switzerland)
- Amory B. Lovins, Chairman, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), Snowmass, Colorado (USA)
- André Schneider, Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of the World Economic Forum (Switzerland)
- Klaus Töpfer, former Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme UNEP (Germany)
- Ernst U. von Weizsäcker, Dean and Professor, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, UC Santa Barbara (USA)

Well-known institutions such as the Worldwatch Institute, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), the local government sustainability union ICLEI and South-South-North Cape Town, South Africa, were invited to propose winners. Together with other respected institutions, they nominated a total of 70 candidates from 20 countries.

The Swiss transatlantic21 association, which also developed and financed the sun21 solar-powered boat, drew up the programme for the World Clean Energy Awards as a lasting extension to its communications initiative for sustainable energy.

Further information on the winners and their projects, nominating institutions and the jury can be found on the www.clenenergyawards.com website.

For print-quality pictures, please visit <http://www.cleanenergyawards.com/media-relations>

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