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IDA WORLD CONGRESS ON DESALINATION AND WATER REUSE CLOSSES WITH GALA DINNER, AWARDS PRESENTATIONS AND TRIBUTE TO DUBAI

DUBAI, UAE, Nov. 16, 2009 – The International Desalination Association (IDA) brought its 2009 World Congress to a rousing close with a Gala Dinner held at the Madinat Jumeirah. Attended by approximately 900 delegates and guests, the program began with the unveiling of a new educational video on desalination produced by IDA. This video will be available on IDA's website, www.idadesal.org, and a new Youtube channel.

The Gala then featured remarks from several dignitaries including new IDA President Imad Makhzoumi, outgoing President Lisa Henthorne, and Ibrahim Al Janahi, Chief Commercial Officer, Economic Zones World - UAE.

In keeping with tradition, IDA presented a host of awards during the festive program. Dr. Miriam Balaban and Dr. Totaro Goto received IDA's Lifetime Achievement Awards for their outstanding contributions to the global desalination community during their long and illustrious careers. IDA also conferred Presidential Awards to the following individuals for their dedication, hard work and commitment to the Association and its goals: Leon Awerbuch, Dr. Corrado Sommariva, Dr. Adil Bushnak, Fady Juez, Tom Pankratz, Victor Verbeek and Guillaume Clairet.

One of the evening's highlights was presentation of awards for Best Papers. Honors were conferred in several categories, with each winner receiving a monetary prize of USD 5000.

According to Dr. Adil Bushak, Awards Committee Chairman, the number and quality of the papers presented for review was outstanding. "The Awards Committee received more than 200 papers for review, from which a short list of 35 candidates was developed. These papers were then evaluated according to the originality of the subject matter, impact of the subject on the desalination industry, and finally, the quality of the work. We were very impressed by the outstanding quality of the papers presented for review at this year's World Congress."

The winners were:

Best Paper Presentation, Oral, Thermal Desalination
Thermal Design, Operation and Experience: A Demonstrated Reliability of Distillation Process
Author and Presenter: Mr. Fritz Alt

Best Paper Presentation, Oral, Membrane Desalination
MBR Design and Operation Using Membrane Performance Enhancer Technology
Author and Presenter: Mr. Thomas Wozniak

(more)

Best Paper Presentation, Oral, General Topic of Desalination and Water Reuse

FRP Membrane Vessel Fabrication and Safety in a Growing Market

Authors: Mr. Douglas W. Eisberg and Mr. C. Peter Darby

Presented by Mr. Douglas W. Eisberg

Best Paper Presentation, Poster, General Topic of Desalination and Water Reuse

Sustainable Wetland Using Recycled Water – A Project by Nakheel

Authors: Engr. Amir Basha K. Syed and Mrs. Diane Klaimi

Presented by Engr. Amir Basha K. Syed

Best Paper Presentation, Poster, General Topic of Desalination and Water Reuse

Pressure Drop and Heat Transfer Analysis in Multi Effect Distillation Units

Authors: Dr. Nahid Pourkhiabani, Dr. Maryam Alishiri and Dr. Ramin Kouhikamali

Presented by Dr. Maryam Alishiri

Honorable Mention

Elimination of Bromate from DEWA Potable Water Using Chlorine Dioxide Disinfection Technology

Author and Presenter: Mr. Elfatih Elhag Eltom

Honorable Mention

Scale Formation of Mixed Salts in Multiple Effect Distillers

Authors: Dr. Heike Glade, Ms. Kerstin Kromer, Prof. Stefan Will, Mr. Stephan Nied, Dr. Sabrina

Montero Pancera and Dr. Gregor Schurmann

Presented by Dr. Heike Glade

The inaugural Best Young Leaders Presentation

Community, Environment and Marine Impact Minimisation at the Gold Coast Desalination Plant

Authors: Nelly Cannesson, Peta M. Johnstone, Michael A. Mitchell and Dr. Siobhan F.E. Boerlage

Presented by Nelly Cannesson

Following the awards presentation, Secretary General Patricia A. Burke and Ms. Henthorne recognized the contributions of World Congress host TechnoPark and supporter Economic Zones World by presenting its Host Country Award to Hamad Al Hashemi, Managing Director – Dubai Institute of Technology, TechnoPark. After presenting an award to IDA and Ms. Henthorne, Mr. Hashemi then presented awards to HE Mohammed Bin Dha'en Al Hameli, UAE Minister of Energy, and HE Dr. Rashid Ahmad Bin Fahad, UAE Minister of Environment and Water.

The program concluded with an exciting film previewing the 2011 World Congress, which will take place in Perth, Australia.

About IDA

The International Desalination Association (www.idadesal.org) is a non-profit association of over 2,200 members in 60 countries. The membership is comprised of scientists, end-users, engineers, consultants and researchers from governments, corporations and academia. IDA is associated with the United Nations as part of a growing international network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

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