

PRESS RELEASE

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FONDS SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT INITIATIVES AND INSTITUT DE FRANCE SINGLE OUT TWO PROJECTS THAT IMPROVE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

In 2012, as part of their partnership, the Institut de France and Fonds SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT Initiatives launched the "SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT Initiatives–Institut de France Award". Split into two prizes of €50,000 each, the award is given out every two years to support and encourage projects and innovations that help improve access to water, sanitation and waste management services in developing countries. On 25 June, Jean-Louis Chaussade, Chief Executive Officer of SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, and Gabriel de Broglie, Chancellor of the Institut de France, announced the winners of this year's award.¹

Projects that promote sanitation and biogas

The Access to Basic Services Award recognises an innovation developed by a non-profit organisation and aims to act as a link between applied research and operational development projects. This year, the award went to Italian association **Comunità Volontari per il Mondo (CVM)** for its "**Biogas Plant**" project developed in Durame prison, Ethiopia, where a digestion tank was installed to produce biogas from sewage and organic waste. The project has been a great success: not only has it helped improve the living and health conditions of prisoners, prison staff and local residents, but it has also reduced the environmental impact – by obtaining a source of renewable energy and reducing deforestation – and has had a positive economic impact by lowering energy costs, decreasing staff turnover and self-generating organic fertilisers.

The Social Entrepreneurship Award recognises an initiative led by a social entrepreneur. Accordingly, it supports the development of economic activities that have a social impact and often lead to job creation. This year the recipient was Kenyan company **Sanergy** for their "**Fresh Life Toilet**" project.

Sanergy's innovative approach to sanitation and waste recovery has already improved the sanitation conditions of more than 12,000 Nairobi slum residents by providing access to a network of sanitation facilities near their homes. Once constructed, the "Fresh Life Toilets" are sold to local micro-entrepreneurs. Waste from each of these latrines is collected daily and transformed into organic fertiliser and biogas that is then sold. To date, 1,500 tonnes of waste have been collected.

"We want these awards to provide each award-winner with the opportunity to continue their initiative and develop and enrich it, but also give them fresh impetus. The Initiative Awards are above all a tribute to the people who work in the field on a daily basis to provide access to basic services the world over. It's also how we envisage our business and our role as a responsible and community-focused company" said Jean-Louis Chaussade, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT CEO.

"At a time where the entire planet, or almost, is on Rio de Janeiro or São Paulo time and getting ready (...) to give a general 'ola' to the two finalists of the football World Cup, your commitment, dear winners, is a bit like the Brazilian proverb that says 'fresh water dripping on hard stone will eventually bore through it.' You are indeed that fresh water that is soaking the heavy stone and will eventually bore through the inequalities of access to basic services," said Gabriel de Broglie, Chancellor of the Institut de France.

¹ Selected from more than 30 applicants

SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT

Natural resources are not infinite. Each day, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) and its subsidiaries deal with the challenge of protecting resources by providing innovative solutions to industries and to millions of people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT supplies drinking water to 92 million people, provides waste water treatment services for 65 million people and collects the waste produced by 52 million people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT has 79,219 employees and, has a presence in five continents. In 2013, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT posted revenues of €14,6 billion.

FONDS SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT INITIATIVES

On 1 January 2011, the FONDS SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT INITIATIVES took over from the SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT – Water for All Foundation. Its aims:

- To develop access to essential services for disadvantaged people in developing countries by supporting projects led by international solidarity organisations;*
- To promote integration through employment and training, in France;*
- To strengthen skills*
- To respond to emergencies by continuing to support Aquassistance, an international solidarity organisation well-known for its development and emergency projects.*

INSTITUT DE FRANCE

Founded in 1795, the Institut de France is one of the oldest and most prestigious institutions to provide sponsorship and manage donations and bequests. For two centuries it has housed foundations and awarded prizes that play an unparalleled role in modern sponsorship.

Created by individuals or companies, the Institute's Foundations and Awards benefit from the experience of this centuries-old institution in the areas of sponsorship and philanthropy, as well as the expertise of academics in all their areas of competence.

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