



THE SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT WATER FOR ALL FOUNDATION

2010 SPECIAL PRIZE WINNER THE CENTRE FOR AFFORDABLE WATER AND SANITATION TECHNOLOGY (CAWST)

The SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT Water for All Foundation has awarded the 2010 Special Prize to the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST), located in Calgary, Canada, co-founded by Ms. Camille DOW BAKER.

THE INSTITUTION PRESENTING THE PROJECT: CAWST

Founded in 2001 by Camille DOW BAKER and David MANZ, CAWST is a Canadian organisation whose principal objective is to transmit to local stakeholders the technical and managerial capabilities required to enhance access to water and sanitation for the poor. The CAWST is unique among organisations in that it acts as a non-profit engineering consulting agency.

PROJECT LEADER: MS CAMILLE DOW BAKER

After a career in hydrocarbons, initially as an engineer with PanCanadian Petroleum and then with Norcern Energy Resources, Camille DOW BAKER took a Masters Degree in Environmental Engineering specialising in the field of water and sanitation for developing countries at the university of Calgary in 2000. Currently she is the CEO of CAWST.

THE PROJECT:

The creation of CAWST was based on the finding that while many NGOs and government agencies provide assistance programmes in water and sanitation, they need expertise to apply the programmes in an effective, replicable and sustainable way. To achieve that aim, the CAWST intends to facilitate the transfer of knowledge in low-cost water and sanitation technology, to mobilize and train people in installing these solutions and to motivate organisations to implement them. CAWST is present today in some fifty-eight countries on three continents (Asia, Africa and South America).

The CAWST action plan breaks down into three distinct phases: the set-up and organisation of the structure, the test phase and finally the dissemination phase launched into 2007 which consists in setting up professional workshops initially focusing on the topic of water treatment, and expanded thereafter to low-cost sanitation techniques and the recovery of rainwater in low-income areas.

CAWST has set up partnerships with local organisations based in Haiti, Nepal, India and Zambia. These Water Expertise and Training Centres (WET), provide services similar to those offered by CAWST. Other WET Centres are under study today, in particular in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Kampuchea, Honduras and Laos.