MEDIA FACTSHEET

Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize

1. The Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize is one of the key highlights of the Singapore International Water Week, a biennial platform for global water leaders and experts to share and co-create innovative solutions to tackle urban water challenges.

2. Named after Singapore's founding Prime Minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, whose foresight, and leadership enabled Singapore to attain a sustainable water supply, this prestigious international award honours outstanding contributions by individuals or organisations towards solving the world's water challenges by developing or applying innovative technologies, policies or programmes which benefit humanity.

3. Since its inception in 2008, the Prize has gained a standing in the global water area as the premier Water Prize amongst its peers, by focusing on innovative water technologies, policies or programmes that have been gamechangers in their real-world applications.

4. The honour roll for the Prize includes Laureates with ground-breaking solutions in membrane technology, used water treatment, as well as holistic water policies and management that have benefitted the lives of millions. Their achievements represent the pinnacle in sustainable water solutions that have made a difference to cities and people around the world. Please refer to Annex below for the list of Laureates.

Nomination Process

1. The selection of the winner of the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize 2024 follows a rigorous two-stage process.
   - Stage 1 nomination: Nominator submits a citation of nominee
   - Stage 2 nomination: Nominators of shortlisted nominees will be invited to provide full submissions with supporting documents

2. The Prize Nominating Committee, chaired by Professor Low Teck Seng, Senior Vice President (Sustainability and Resilience) at the National University of Singapore (NUS), will thoroughly

evaluate all nominations received and make their recommendations to the Prize Council. Chaired by Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security of Singapore, Mr. Teo Chee Hean, the Prize Council will then decide on the prize winner.

3. All nominations received will be evaluated based on the (1) role of nominee, (2) innovativeness and merits of the technologies, policies, or programmes, and (3) impact on humanity.

Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize 2024 Prize Award Ceremony and Prize Lecture

The Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize 2024 Laureate will receive the Prize Medallion from Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore at an award ceremony on Tuesday, 18 June 2024 at The Clifford Pier, The Fullerton Bay Hotel. On the next day, the 2024 Laureate will deliver his prize lecture on Wednesday, 19 June 2024 during Singapore International Water Week 2024.

Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize Sponsor

1. The Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize is sponsored by Temasek Foundation. Temasek Foundation supports a diverse range of programmes that uplift lives and communities in Singapore and beyond.

2. Temasek Foundation's programmes are made possible through philanthropic endowments gifted by Temasek, as well as gifts and other contributions from other donors. These programmes strive towards achieving positive outcomes for individuals and communities now, and for generations to come.

3. Collectively, Temasek Foundation's programmes strengthen social resilience, foster international exchange and regional capabilities, advance science, and protect the planet. For more information, visit www.temasekfoundation.org.sg

For more information, please visit our website at www.siww.com.sg.

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Annex: Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize Laureates

- **Professor Kazuo Yamamoto (2020)**

  Professor Kazuo Yamamoto of Japan was awarded the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize for 2020 for his pioneering work in developing the submerged membrane bioreactor (MBR). The global application of his submerged MBR technology has fundamentally transformed the sewage treatment process and improved the lives of hundreds of millions of people.

- **Professor Rita Colwell (2018)**

  Professor Rita Colwell was awarded the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize in 2018 for her pioneering insights into microbial water quality surveillance, and her pivotal contributions in translating these insights into concrete practices and policies to better manage waterborne diseases and protect public health. Professor Colwell was an early and active proponent of the use of novel molecular methods for more accurate and comprehensive diagnostics of water pathogens.

- **Professor John Anthony Cherry (2016)**

  Professor John Anthony Cherry was awarded the 2016 Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize for his contributions to the advancement of groundwater science, policies, and technologies. A world-renowned hydrogeologist, his revolutionary research in collaboration with international partners has provided the global groundwater community with a better scientific framework to formulate policies and best practices. He has been a major influence in advancing global recognition of groundwater processes and the development of better field methods for monitoring groundwater contamination.

- **The Orange County Water District (2014)**

  The Orange County Water District (OCWD) was awarded the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize in 2014 for its pioneering work in groundwater management and water reclamation using advanced water reuse technologies, and achievements in public policy and community outreach that have advanced public acceptance on water reuse. The impact of OCWD's successful water reuse programme extends far beyond the United States and has also been replicated in countries such as Australia and Singapore to achieve water sustainability through water reuse, benefitting millions in the process.

- **Professor Mark van Loosdrecht (2012)**

  Professor Mark van Loosdrecht was awarded the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize 2012 for his breakthrough contributions in used water treatment, with a completely autotrophic nitrogen removal process known as “Anammox”. By pioneering an innovative biological process that serves as a cost-effective, robust, and sustainable way of removing pollutants in used water, Professor van Loosdrecht introduced a paradigm shift in the understanding of the used water treatment.

- **Dr James Barnard (2011)**

  Father of Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) technology, Dr James L. Barnard was honoured with the Water Prize in 2011, for his groundbreaking invention of the environmentally sustainable, biological method to treat used water. Dr Barnard’s BNR technology revolutionised used water treatment processes by using naturally occurring micro-organisms instead of conventional chemicals, protecting the water quality in lakes and rivers worldwide.

- **The Yellow River Conservancy Commission (2010)**

  The Yellow River Conservancy Commission (YRCC) was honoured in 2010 for its outstanding accomplishments in integrated river basin management. YRCC’s innovative policies and solutions have brought about widespread and sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits. This was the first time an organisation was awarded the prize.

- **Professor Gatze Lettinga (2009)**

  Professor Gatze Lettinga was awarded the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize 2009 for his breakthrough environmentally sustainable solution for the treatment of used water using anaerobic technology. His revolutionary treatment concept enables industrial used water to be purified cost-effectively and produces renewable energy, fertilisers and soil conditioners.

- **Dr Andrew Benedek (2008)**

  Dr Benedek was awarded the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize 2008 for his outstanding work in pioneering the development of low-pressure membranes in water treatment. Dr Benedek has redefined the way water can be treated and shown how drinking water can be produced from different water sources, even those that are highly polluted. This is a big leap that has benefited people worldwide.

For more information on the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize, visit
https://www.siww.com.sg/home/programme/lee-kuan-yew-water-prize

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