PSIPW, Item 11

Statement of the Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW)

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to the 65th meetings of COPUOS

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Item 11: Space and Water

Respected delegates, I would like to congratulate Mr. chairman for his election to this 65th session of COPUOS. I also wish to congratulate Mr. Niklas Hedman, acting director at UNOOSA, for his many achievements over the years as well as thank him for his longstanding support for us at the Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water.

I am happy to take this occasion to make the official and first announcement of the prizewinners for the 10th Award. The Awards ceremony will take place later this year at the United Nations Headquarters.

I invite you now to watch a short film introducing our 2022 winners. Thank you.

(film narration)

The Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water is a leading, global scientific award focusing on cutting-edge innovation in water research. The Prize gives recognition to scientists, researchers and inventors around the world for pioneering work that addresses the problem of water scarcity in creative and effective ways.

The Prize was established in 2002 by His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz, who realized that scientific innovation was needed if we are to prevent a global water crisis.

This vision is shared by his son and PSIPW president, HRH Prince Khaled Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz. We need international commitment, political will and effective water management to ensure people get the water that is vital for their lives. This will not be enough without innovative scientific solutions. Breakthroughs are needed.

To this end, PSIPW offers a suite of five prizes every two years, covering the entire water research landscape. There are four specialized prizes, each worth 133,000 US Dollars, in: Surface Water, Groundwater, Alternative Water Resources, and. Water Management & Protection.

Then there is the Creativity Prize, worth 266,000 US dollars. This is a unique prize that awards cutting-edge interdisciplinary work relevant to water resources. The challenges we face today in protecting our environment and water supply are extremely complex, and they require a wide range of expertise to solve them.

In June 2022, PSIPW announced the winners for its 10th Award.

The Creativity Prize was awarded to the team of Thalappil Pradeep at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras in India. His team developed environmentally friendly “water positive” nanoscale materials for the affordable, sustainable and rapid removal of arsenic from drinking water.

The Creativity prize was also awarded to the team of Dionysios Dionysiou of the University of Cincinnati in the United States. His team developed advanced oxydation technologies and nanotechnologies for environmental applications, particularly in the removal and monitoring of emerging contaminants.

The Surface Water Prize was awarded to Dennis Baldocchi of the University oof California, Berkeley in the United States, for developing effective models to understand, evaluate and predict eevapotranspiration and water-use efficiency in various environments under climate change conditions.

The Groundwater Prize was awarded to Linda Abriola of Brown University in the United States, for her pioneering research on toxic Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (DNAPLs’) in groundwater, ranging from the simulation of their fate to effective methods for cleaning contaminated sites.

The Alternative Water-Resources Prize was awarded to the team of Menachem Elimelech of Yale University and Chinedum Osuji of the University of Pennsylvania, for advances in nanostructured materials for next-generation membranes and water purification technologies, with a particular focus on implementation issues like manufactring, sustainability, self-assembled materials, and biofouling.

The Water Management & Protection Prize was awarded to Matthew McCabe and his team at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Thuwal, Saudi Arabia, for employing CubeSat constellations in the sustainable management and security of linked water-food systems.

PSIPW is now receiving nominations for its 11th Award. Nominations can be made online at the PSIPW website.