

communiqué de presse

1 July 2016

FONDS SUEZ INITIATIVES AND INSTITUT DE FRANCE REWARD 3 PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In 2012, the partnership between the Fonds SUEZ initiatives and the Institut de France launched the Prix SUEZ Initiatives - Institut de France in support of initiatives that facilitate access to essential services (water, sanitation and waste management) in developing countries. Jean-Louis Chaussade, President and Founder of the Fonds SUEZ initiatives and CEO of SUEZ, and Gabriel de Broglie, Chancellor of the Institut de France, today rewarded three new winners, out of more than fifty projects. *



The **Prize for Access to Essential Services** rewards innovations developed by non-profit organisations. **Rongead and Cefrepade** won €50,000 for the CAJOUVALOR project, **producing energy from cashew nut shells** in Burkina Faso. West Africa is one of the world's biggest producers of cashew nuts, accounting for 45% of worldwide production today. But the local transformation of the cashew nuts faces numerous difficulties, such as high energy costs, that are an obstacle to the development of specialised businesses. An innovative technology, that is well adapted to small and medium-sized cashew nut recovery operators, has been developed to allow them to transform the shells into fuel that powers their activities. By transforming the shells, which are also a significant source of pollution, this project is promoting waste management and the production of renewable energy. It is also helping to improve the competitive performance of local industry, while reducing the sector's ecological footprint.

The €50,000 **Prize for Social Entrepreneurship** rewards an entrepreneurial project that is economically sustainable, with the constant and main objective of promoting social and environmental progress. This year's award went to **Solidarité Technologique** for its project to **recycle and reuse waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)** in Cameroon. Initially created to support the integration of underprivileged youngsters and the combat against the digital divide, this NGO is now active in the recycling and reuse of WEEE in Yaoundé, while guaranteeing optimal working conditions for its informal members. The equipment that is rehabilitated in the country's first accredited recycling centre is then sold at a reduced price to NGOs, schools, businesses and individuals. The goal is to develop a large-scale solution to the problem of WEEE in Cameroon, as well as in other developing countries.

Special prize for the governance and support of local instances in favour of sustainable access to water and sanitation

For the first time, the jury also awarded a special prize to the **Eau Vive** NGO for its governance and support programme for local instances in the organisation and the management of water and sanitation services in Niger. The project set up a multi-community instance in a region, where one out of two inhabitants does not have access to drinking water and only 7% have access to latrines. Moreover, the local authorities, which are responsible for water and sanitation, have limited technical and financial resources. The **InterK'Eau** project is durably improving access to drinking water and sanitation in the canton of Kornaka in the South of the country, with the creation of an **inter-locality** department that has strengthened local capacity. The NGO has durably improved access to essential services for **400,000 inhabitants**, thanks to water adduction networks, family, school and public latrines and actions to raise awareness of hygiene.

According to Jean-Louis Chaussade, President and Founder of the Fonds SUEZ initiatives and CEO of SUEZ, *“Innovation is essential in order to rise to the challenge of access to essential services in developing countries. It is a decisive lever in the quick achievement of the UN’s sustainable development goals, to which the Fonds SUEZ initiatives is contributing. Together with the Institut de France, we wanted to reward and promote open initiatives in favour of access to essential services that can be replicated elsewhere in other developing countries. This year, we awarded a special prize for an innovation in the realm of governance and a guaranteed durable service. For this edition, we were delighted to receive even more entries, a fact that demonstrates the vitality of the NGOs in this field.”*

For Gabriel de Broglie, Chancellor of the Institut de France: *“The recognition that this award represents is another source of satisfaction: one of the world’s leaders in resource management and the Institut de France, which has been active in every area of philanthropy for two centuries, reward and recognise projects that aim to improve the living conditions of the most fragile. The COP 21 reminded us that the ecology and, more broadly, sustainable development are essential, both today and in the future.”*

** With Jean Baechler, a member of the Institute, in the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques, Chairman, Frédérique Raoult, Vice-President of the Fonds SUEZ initiatives, Director of Communications and Sustainable Development of SUEZ and Myriam Bincaille General Delegate of Fonds SUEZ initiatives, the winners of SUEZ Prix initiatives - Institut de France for 2015/2016.*

The Fonds SUEZ initiatives

The Fonds SUEZ Initiatives supports concrete actions to sustainably develop access to essential services (water, sanitation and waste) for underprivileged populations in developing countries and to support the integration of the most vulnerable populations in France thanks to training and employment. Every year since 2011, the Fonds SUEZ Initiatives has invested €4M every year since 2011 in the projects it supports by donating the skills of Group experts. www.suez-environnement.fr/groupe/fonds-suez-environnement-initiatives

SUEZ

We are at the dawn of the resource revolution. Faced with an increasing world population, growing urban development and rarefied resources, the security, optimisation and recovery of resources are indispensable to our future. SUEZ (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) supplies 92 million people with drinking water and 65 million with sanitation services, collects waste from almost 34 million people, recovers 16 million tonnes of waste per year and generates more than 7 TWh of local and renewable energy. Employing 82,536 people, SUEZ is active on five continents and a key player in the circular economy for sustainable resource management. SUEZ generated total revenues of €15.1 billion in 2015. www.suez-environnement.fr

Institut de France

Founded in 1795 in order to contribute, on a non-profit basis, to the perfecting and dissemination of Humanities, Sciences and Arts, the Institute of France is a corporate entity in public law with a special status of five Academies. Meanwhile, it is one of the oldest institutions to practice patronage and manage gifts and bequeaths. For over two centuries, it has hosted foundations and awarded prizes that have played an incomparable role in modern patronage. Created by private individuals or companies, the Institute’s foundations and awards benefit from the experience of this centuries old institution in the field of philanthropy, as well as the expertise of the members of the academies in all their fields of skill. The Institute is also the owner of considerable artistic heritage, composed of exceptional houses and collections bequeathed to it since the end of the 19th century www.institut-de-france.fr

www.prix-initiatives.com

Press contacts

SUEZ
Ophélie Godard
+33 (0)1 58 81 54 73
ophelie.godard@suez.com

Institut de France
Louis de Genouillac
+33 (0)1 44 41 44 20.
l.degenouillac@institut-de-france.fr