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The Institut de France and the fondation SUEZ launch a call for “open innovation” projects to support developing countries

The SUEZ-Institut de France Awards were created ten years ago to reward, every year, projects that contribute to the development of water services, sanitation and waste management in developing countries.

The “Access to Essential Services” Award (access to water, sanitation and waste management services) and the “Social Entrepreneurship” Award (entrepreneurial approach to develop social and environmental progress), both of an amount of 50,000 euros, support projects that meet the criteria set by the Institut de France and the Fondation SUEZ. The jury pays particular attention to the project’s durability, its potential for replicability in other regions, and its capacity to benefit the largest number of people.

Candidates have until December 15th to check details at www.prix-initiatives.com and send their applications to: prix.initiatives@suez.com and prix@institutdefrance.fr.

A selection of previous years’ winners

Dar Si Hmad, winner of the “Access to Essential Services” Award in 2018

Founded in 2010, Dar Si Hmad association helps low incomes communities in Morocco. It won the 2018 “Access to Essential Services” Award for its project to collect fog water using the innovative “Cloud Fishers” technology.

Extremely fine meshes are used to collect, store and filter water droplets contained in cloud and fog: *“the SUEZ-Institut de France Award has enabled us to supply drinking water to three more villages in the arid villages of southwestern Morocco using the Cloud Fishers process,”* the association says.



Cloud Fishers of Dar Si Hmad (DSH-2)

C+ Propre-Coliba, winner of the “Social Entrepreneurship” Award in 2018

C+ Propre-Coliba is an Ivory Coast startup that offers a web and mobile application to encourage recycling of plastic waste. The residents of Abidjan can use the app to order bags for sorting and arrange collection of their sorted plastic waste. The app offers Gift vouchers to rewards the action of sorting and recycling. Winner of the 2018 “Social Entrepreneurship” Award, the startup has continued to develop and has moved up a gear by recruiting fifteen new pre-collectors of waste and by extending its operational coverage.

Rongead and Cefrepade, winners of the “Access to Essential Services” Award in 2016

Winners of the 2016 “Access to Essential Services” Award, the two associations *Rongead* and *Cefrepade* developed a project to recover energy from cashew nut shells using a pyrolysis reactor. The process produces fuel bricks that can be used by local inhabitants instead of wood charcoal from threatened and unmanaged forests.

The SUEZ-Institut de France Award has helped Rongead extend its operations to Burkina Faso, where it recovers shea waste. On the back of the success of the cashew nut shell recovery process, a new project was launched in Ivory Coast: Agrovalor recovers waste from shea butter production and from the cassava semolina meal production process.

Solidarité Technologique, winner of the “Social Entrepreneurship” Award in 2016

The association *Solidarité Technologique*, winner of the 2016 “Social Entrepreneurship” Award, aims at supporting social integration of young people through training programmes in computer maintenance and secretarial skills provided by Solidarité Technologique’s professional training centre. The association also recovers waste from electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).

The SUEZ-Institut de France Award has enabled the association to intensify and expand its waste collection and recycling operations. In 2018, the Yaoundé collection centre was expanded and a new collection point was set up. Volumes of waste collected have increased from 50 to 5,000 tons of WEEE treated every year.

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Institut de France

Created in 1795, the Institut de France provides its five Academies (French, humanities, sciences, fine arts, moral and political sciences) with a harmonious environment in which to perfect the humanities, sciences and arts, on a non-profit basis. As a leading patron, it supports research and creation by providing awards, grants and subsidies (every year, the foundations it hosts donate over 23 million euros). Placed under the protection of the President of the French Republic, it is also in charge of a considerable artistic heritage including the Palais du Quai de Conti, the Mazarine Library and three other important libraries, and many houses and collections bequeathed to it since the end of the 19th century. These include the Château de Chantilly, Chaalis Abbey, the Jacquemart-André museum, the Château de Langeais, Kerazan Manor and the Greek Villa Kérylos. www.institut-de-france.fr

Fondation SUEZ

The Fondation SUEZ supports concrete actions to sustainably improve access to essential services (water, sanitation and waste management) for disadvantaged populations in emerging countries and, in France, to promote the integration of people in difficulty through training and employment. With an annual budget of €4m since 2011, the Fondation SUEZ participates in the projects it supports through skills patronage with the Group’s experts.

SUEZ

With 90 000 people on the five continents, SUEZ is a world leader in smart and sustainable resource management. We provide water and waste management solutions that enable cities and industries optimize their resource management and strengthen their environmental and economic performances, in line with regulatory standards. To meet increasing demands to overcome resource quality and scarcity challenges, SUEZ is fully engaged in the resource revolution. With the full potential of digital technologies and innovative solutions, the Group treats over 45 million tons of waste a year, produces 4.4 million tons of secondary raw materials and 7.7 TWh of local renewable energy. It also secures water resources, delivering wastewater treatment services to 66 million people and reusing 1.1 billion m³ of wastewater. SUEZ generated total revenues of 17.3 billion euros in 2018

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