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INSTITUT DE FRANCE AND FONDATION SUEZ REWARD TWO PROJECTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER, SANITATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Launched in 2009 by the Institut de France and Fondation SUEZ, the SUEZ–Institut de France Award rewards projects and innovations that improve access to essential services (water, sanitation and waste management) in developing countries. Jean-Louis Chaussade, Chief Executive Officer of SUEZ, and Xavier Darcos, chancellor of the Institut de France, today named two winners among the 37 projects received.

These projects had to prove their usefulness, feasibility and sustainability, to demonstrate that they could benefit as many people as possible. Their replicability is also a selection criterion.

THE AWARD FOR « ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES » for an amount of €50,000, rewards an innovation developed by a not-for-profit organisation. This year, it was awarded to **the Moroccan association Dar Si Hmad for Development, Education and Culture** for its **water fog harvesting project**. Aimed at improving access to drinking water, this project relies on a new technology, *CloudFishers*®, which collects water from fog, stores and filters it to provide drinking water to water-stressed villages located in the High Atlas region in southwestern Morocco.

The project includes training inhabitants and sharing expertise in supply distribution and net installation. Nearly 1200 people already have access to water and daily consumption per person has increased from 7 to 26 litres.

This system allows women to be freed from water fetching and save them 3.5 hours per day. Some of them are able to benefit from training in the maintenance of collection and distribution infrastructures.

THE « SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP » AWARD, also of 50 000€, rewards a project using an entrepreneurial approach to ensure economic sustainability and promote social or environmental progress. **The Franco-Ivorian grouping of start-ups C+PROPRE-COLIBA won this prize by showcasing a “digital project for 100% mobile household waste management”**. Residents of Abidjan order on a mobile application, specific and identifiable bags to better collect and sort certain types of waste. The project stimulates sorting and recycling by households through a reward system (phone credits, basic products, beauty

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products, etc.). The application also integrates a geo-localisation service that helps to optimise collection, developed by individuals from the informal sector.

According to **Jean-Louis Chaussade, Chairman and Founder of the SUEZ Foundation and Chief Executive Officer of SUEZ**, *“Innovation is essential to meet the challenges of access to essential services in developing countries. It is a determining factor in more quickly achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations, which the Fondation SUEZ works to reach. 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 in other developing countries. For this edition, we were delighted by the spirit of innovation shown by the associations and NGOs we have the pleasure of supporting.”*

For **Xavier Darcos, chancellor of the Institut de France**: *“After almost ten years of partnership with the SUEZ Foundation, we have enough objectivity to measure the importance of these prizes for the winners: we have seen that these honours give them more than a little boost - they provide real momentum to their projects. The Institut de France is delighted to be working alongside a major, internationally recognised French Group to encourage initiatives suited to the particular contexts of developing countries.”*

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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 employees across five continents, SUEZ is a global leader in smart, sustainable resource management. The Group provides solutions for managing water and waste that help cities and industries optimise the management of their resources and improve their environmental and economic performance while complying with current regulations. SUEZ responds to the challenges of quality and availability by getting fully involved in the resource revolution. Building on the potential of digital technology and innovative solutions, the Group is able to recover 17 million tonnes of waste a year and to produce 3.9 million tonnes of secondary raw materials, as well as 7 TWh of local renewable energy. It also preserves water resources by providing 58 million people with sanitation services and reusing 882 million cubic metres of waste water. SUEZ generated total revenues of €15.9 billion in 2017.

Institut de France

Created in 1795, the Institut de France is one of the oldest and most prestigious institutions to practise 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 the centuries old institution in the field of philanthropy, as well as of the expertise of the members of the academies in all their fields of skill. www.institut-de-france.fr

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