



Press release, Basel/New York, May 9, 2007

Launch of the “World Clean Energy Awards” in New York

The “World Clean Energy Awards“ were launched yesterday evening at a ceremony in New York. The Awards recognize the best projects worldwide that implement and encourage the broad-based use of renewable energies and energy efficiency concepts. Transatlantic21, the Swiss association that developed and financed the solar boat “sun21”, is the driving force behind for the “World Clean Energy Awards”. The arrival of the “sun21” in New York, representing the arrival of the first motorized vehicle to cross the Atlantic without using a drop of fuel, was the kick-off for the first meeting held by the highly-esteemed jury members of the “World Clean Energy Awards”. The jury is under the chairmanship of the German professor and author Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker.

Respected institutions from across the world nominated 70 candidates from 20 countries for the “World Clean Energy Awards”. A prestigious international jury will choose the Award winners. The winners for this year will be announced on the 15th of June at the annual Factor 4-Festival in Basel, which forms the opening event for the 10th international sun21 conference. The Awards recognize the new standards being set for the use of clean energy solutions.

The seven “World Clean Energy Awards” categories are:

- Construction (new, urban development, rehabilitation)
- Transport und Mobility
- Production (agriculture, mining, industry, utilities)
- Services, Trade and Marketing
- Finance and investment
- Policy and lawmaking
- NGOs and Initiatives

The jury, which met yesterday in New York at the launch of the “World Clean Energy Awards”, consists of eight highly respected individuals:

- Christopher Flavin, Director General, Worldwatch Institute (USA)

- Nicky Gavron, Deputy Mayor of London, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and "C40 - Large Cities Climate Leadership Group" (Great Britain)
- Ashok Khosla, CEO, TARAAhaat, New Delhi (India)
- James Leape, Director General, WWF International
- Amory B. Lovins, President Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), Snowmass, Colorado (USA)
- André Schneider, Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer, World Economic Forum (Switzerland)
- Klaus Töpfer, former United Nations Environment Program Secretary General (Germany)
- Ernst U. von Weizsäcker, Professor and Author (USA/Germany)

Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, newly elected President of the jury for the "World Clean Energy Awards" and Rector of the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara, made the official announcement of the Awards candidates at a festive ceremony in New York. He stated that "All Award's candidates deserve to be treated as winners. Receiving a nomination from one of the respected nominating institutions is in itself a recognition of merit".

Well-known institutions such as the Worldwatch Institute, the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, and South-South-North in Capetown, South Africa proposed the candidates. Together with other respected organizations they nominated this year a total of 70 candidates from 20 countries.

Mr. von Weizsäcker was not the only high-ranking person with the honor of presenting the nominees to the public. Wilfrid Le Naour, CEO of Somfy, announced the nominees in the Construction category. Somfy is the exclusive sponsor of this category. The nominations in Construction include an urban development zone in the western port of Malmö in Sweden. This project provides the many tens of thousands of workers and inhabitants of the port with energy from 100% local and renewable sources. Another nominated project is the MINERGIE-P®-Standard for buildings, which provides a guarantee of energy efficiency and of a healthy and ecologically friendly construction method.

All nominees can use the coming weeks until the Awards presentation on the 15th of June to present their projects to the wider public.

Further information about the candidates and their projects, and about the nominating institutions and the jury can be found on the website at www.cleanenergyawards.com. This website will develop into a platform for best practice in implementing clean and renewable energy sources.

A photo (high resolution) of Prof. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, chairman of the WCEA Jury you find on: <http://www.cleanenergyawards.com/top-navigation/media/media-kit/index.html>.

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