



AMCOW AfricaSan Awards 2009

Recognizing sanitation and hygiene achievements in Africa

PRESS RELEASE

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AMCOW AfricaSan Awards 2009 Winners

The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) today named winners of Africa's premier awards for exemplary achievements in sanitation and hygiene.

The AMCOW AfricaSan top honor for Leadership has been awarded to **His Royal Highness Chief Macha**, a traditional and community leader from Zambia who has used his status in a uniquely proactive manner to advocate for improved sanitation, not just in his Kingdom of Tonga which has now attained Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, but also in the wider district and province with a multitude of stakeholders.

AMCOW AfricaSan awarded a Lifetime Achievement honor to **Professor Albert Wright**, who for more than four decades has made significant contributions to strategic development of water, sanitation and hygiene at global, African and national levels. He has been teacher, researcher, innovator, investment adviser, policy advisor and inspiration and mentor to an entire generation of the African water and sanitation community.

The AMCOW AfricaSan honor to an NGO/Civil Society Institution has been awarded to the **Ethiopia Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Movement**, a multi-stakeholder coalition that has been exceptionally successful in promoting behavioural change on water, sanitation and hygiene, and increase the political and social commitment for progress in these areas.

The AMCOW AfricaSan honor for Technical Innovation was awarded to **Dr Peter Morgan**, a Zimbabwean national, who for four decades has provided Africa with the most innovative technical ideas in sanitation and hygiene directly affecting poor people.

A special commendation was made to **His Royal Highness Prince Willem-Alexander** for his global leadership role in advancing the cause of improved sanitation and hygiene.

AMCOW also announced the following awards:

- 1 The AMCOW AfricaSan Award (Runner up) for Leadership to **WES Sudan**.

- 1 The AMCOW AfricaSan Award (Finalist) for Leadership to ***The Daily Mail (Zambia)***.
- 2 The AMCOW AfricaSan Award (Runner up) for Technical Innovation to the **Centre Régional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement à faible coût (CREPA)**.
- 3 The AMCOW AfricaSan Award (Finalist) for Technical Innovation to the **Office National de l'Assainissement du Sénégal (ONAS)**.
- 4 The AMCOW AfricaSan Award (Runner up) for NGO/Civil Society to **Water for People (Malawi)**.
- 5 The AMCOW AfricaSan Award (Runner up) for NGO/Civil Society to **Africa Media Aid (Ghana)**.

The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) brings together African Ministers with responsibility for water resources and addresses global and regional water policy challenges. Their mission is to provide political leadership, policy direction and advocacy in the provision, use and management of water resources for sustainable social and economic development and maintenance of African ecosystems and strengthen intergovernmental cooperation to address the water and sanitation issues in Africa.

AMCOW is the driving force behind the AfricaSan movement, a regional initiative that seeks to place sanitation and hygiene at the top of the development agenda in Africa. In 2008, the Africa Union Heads of State Summit mandated AMCOW to co-ordinate implementation and monitoring of the *eThikwini Declaration* – which seeks to assist African countries to accelerate the achievement of national and global targets on water, sanitation and hygiene.

The AMCOW AfricaSan Awards are dedicated to recognizing outstanding efforts and achievements in sanitation and hygiene in Africa which result in large-scale, sustainable behavior changes and tangible impacts.

The 2009 Awards are the first in a series of honors for achievements in three categories:

The Leadership Award honors individuals or institutions for strong leadership to sanitation and/or hygiene improvement through policy and strategy development, advocacy, institutional arrangements, financing, coordination and capacity development.

The Technical Innovation Award honors individual and institutional contributions to the improvement of technical solutions for sanitation services and products to make them affordable, reliable, and sustainable.

The NGO/Civil Society Award honors individual and institutional support to and mobilization of communities for the improvement of their sanitation and hygienic conditions.

Other categories will be honored in 2010.

The awards are administered by AMCOW, in collaboration with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP), the African Development Bank (AfDB), UNICEF, the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), UN-Water Africa, WaterAid and the Africa Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW).

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Lifetime Achievement Award

Professor Albert Wright

Through his work over four decades, Professor Albert Wright has played a significant role in sanitation and water development at global, African and national levels. He has been teacher, researcher, innovator, investment adviser, policy advisor and inspiration and mentor to an entire generation of the African water and sanitation community.

Professor Wright started his career as an academic. He taught at Ghana's premier engineering university, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi where he rose quickly to become Head of the Civil Engineering Department, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, and Pro Vice-Chancellor. He is credited with setting up the Institute of Mining and Mineral Engineering of the University.

Some 32 years ago, Professor Wright developed the K-VIP latrine (Kumasi VIP latrine), starting from the Reid's Odorless Earth Closet used in South Africa. It was in course of that development that he coined the term 'VIP' latrine which has become part of the vocabulary in sanitation.

Professor Wright was drawn into global sector development ahead of the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade (1981-91) when he participated in a seminal World Bank research project on low-cost technologies for excreta disposal which shaped technical options promoted through the Decade and beyond. He was a founder member of the Technology Advisory Group (which subsequently became the Water and Sanitation Program) and was associated with the World Bank for nearly two decades, 11 years as a senior staff member. During this time, he and his TAG colleagues lead global thinking in low-cost sanitation, with Professor Wright providing key insights into approaches for Africa. Amongst his many contributions was the concept of strategic sanitation, an approach that advocates the use of both demand and incentives in sanitation service planning and delivery.

Wright has taken on many senior global advisory positions. He is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Global Sanitation Fund which is managed by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council. He is also a Senior Advisor to the Global Water Partnership, having previously served as a member of its Technical Committee. He also served for twenty years on the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Environmental Health. In that capacity, he contributed to various expert committees, including those on filariasis and solid waste disposal. At one time Professor Wright was Chairman of the International Management Board of the International Reference Centre (IRC) for Community Water Supply at Rijkswijk, the Netherlands. He has been a member of the

Technical Advisory Committee of the World Water Assessment Program, and a member of the Expert Group on Indicators, Monitoring, and Databases for the Third World Water Development Report. He was the Co-Chair for the Task Force on Water and Sanitation which was set up under the Millennium Project established by the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan

Professor Wright has worked in most African countries at some point in his career. He prepared the “Africa Water Vision 2025” for the African Development Bank, the OAU, and the ECA. He served as Chair of the Africa Water Task Force and, in that capacity, played a leading role in the establishment of the Africa Water Facility for financing water and sanitation programs in Africa – a Facility that is now being managed by the African Development Bank. It was also in that capacity that he helped to organize the Water Dome which showcased the activities and developments of many members of the water sector during the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. Most recently, as a UNICEF consultant, he provided technical support during the preparation and the running of the first African Union Summit on Water Supply and Sanitation.

Through a career of major achievements, Albert has remained a devout, thoughtful, and caring. He has the greatest respect from his colleagues as much for his personal qualities as his professional achievements. For a lifetime of commitment, selflessness and outstanding contributions to sanitation in Africa, AMCOW and the AfricaSan Movement are pleased to present to Professor Albert Wright, this Lifetime Achievement Award.



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Leadership Award

His Royal Highness Chief Macha

Chief Macha is a major force and a driver of change in the implementation of Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), not just in his Kingdom of Tonga which has now attained Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, but also in the wider district and province. Since 2007, when CLTS was first introduced in Zambia, Chief Macha has embraced the new sanitation approach and has used his influence as a traditional and community leader to help change the mindset of his people to see the importance of building their own sanitation infrastructure with their own resources, in order to improve their economic standing, health and dignity.

Before the Advent of the Community-Led Total Sanitation programme there had been a long history of hostility and persistent objection to the use of toilets in the Tonga Kingdom owing to the experience of the people who were compelled to own a toilet in their households and subjected to harsh punishment for failure to do so, during the colonial era.

However, with the energetic leadership provided by Chief Macha and his total embrace of the Community Led Total Sanitation program, this resistance was overcome.

Chief Macha's active and enthusiastic involvement has encouraged the participation in sanitation of a wide range of stakeholders at district, provincial and national levels. Because of him, the country can now see that sanitation should no longer be considered the poor relation to water.

Chief Macha's efforts have been felt at the household level in rural areas as sanitation coverage in his Chiefdom has doubled from 50 percent to 100 percent in less than two years, but his influence has extended far beyond his own community. As Chairman of the Joint Monitoring Team for Sanitation for Choma district, a multi-stakeholder body, Chief Macha is striving to make the entire district open defecation free. He has been actively involved in adapting the CLTS approach to urban environments in order to achieve this aim. He came up with the slogan "One Family, One Toilet" which has been adopted by the Government's "Make Zambia Clean and Healthy" campaign, which is designed to improve sanitation across the country. Primarily as a result of national media coverage of the success of CLTS in his Kingdom, the approach has now been adopted as one of the key

sanitation strategies in the Government's National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, designed to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets.

As a traditional leader, Chief Macha has used his status in a uniquely proactive manner to advocate for improved sanitation with a multitude of stakeholders, from Ministers of State to elected Councilors, from fellow Chiefs to rural householders. By bringing together traditional and civic leaders he has created a unique model for decentralized service delivery which has the potential to ensure that Zambia will achieve the MDG target for sanitation, even while current funding levels remain relatively low.

His Royal Highness Chief Macha is being honoured by AMCOW and the AfricaSan Movement as the winner of the 2009 AfricaSan Award for exemplary leadership.



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NGO/ Civil Society

ETHIOPIA WASH MOVEMENT

Ethiopia WASH Movement is a coalition uniting more than 70 governmental, non-governmental, faith based, media, private sector organizations, UN agencies as well as individuals. The coalition was established in 2004 by concerned government and non-governmental organizations to promote behavioural change on water, sanitation and hygiene and increase the political and social commitment for progress in these areas.

The goal of the Ethiopia Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Movement is to contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality caused by lack of safe and inadequate water and poor sanitation and hygienic practices. The objectives are to promote improved water, sanitation, and hygiene, and gain the political and social commitment and endorsement required to make a difference in the country's water, sanitation and hygiene situation. Campaign activities include multi-media messages, working with the media, and facilitating opportunities for advocacy.

While in essence a multi-stakeholder coalition, the group chose to call itself the Ethiopia WASH Movement to emphasize the extent of the social mobilization effort needed to lift WASH to the level of priority it needs. The Movement has been

exceptionally successful in spreading the WASH message and in facilitating change. Among others the WASH Movement contributed to a Memorandum of Understanding signed among the three sector ministries, and the development of a National Hygiene and Sanitation Strategy and Protocol. In a survey conducted in 2007, 55 percent of people surveyed had access to a latrine. Of these, 82.7 percent were aware of the message of the WASH Movement: water, sanitation and hygiene for all.

The Movement enables many sector actors to come together and work for one common goal. This enables them to disseminate focused messages on single topics/ themes like proper hand washing at critical times, proper human waste disposal, water quality and safe water handling etc. and to mobilize the public throughout the country with a strong collective voice. It also increases

opportunities to engage continuously with the media and to be an important forum for learning and experience sharing.

Each year the WASH Movement in Ethiopia launches a new slogan that determines the Movement's focus for the year. This allows the Movement, political leaders, and community members to focus on specific issues in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector. To date, the slogans have been "Your Health is in Your Hands" (2004-2005), "Let us Use Latrines for our Health and Dignity" (2005-2006), and "Keep Water Safe" (2006-2007).

Besides these, the Movement is engaged in organizing Global Hand Washing Day, World Toilet Day, World Water Day, Ethiopia Sanitation and Hygiene Festival etc. to promote improved sanitation and hygiene issues and messages. Currently, the movement is involved in the promotion of urban sanitation, which is complex and neglected by the sector. It is also involved in the development of local government minimum capacity package to speed up the country progress towards the achievement of Universal Access Plan by 2012 and Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The Movement also has strength when it comes to influencing the government – particularly on the need to integrate education, health and water policies and services. The Movement has shared its experience in coalition building, coordination and harmonization of sector efforts in several international forums, including Stockholm Water Week in 2006 and the AfricaSan +5 Conference in 2008.

For its contribution to the sector at national, regional and local levels, especially in coordination and harmonization of efforts among government and other sector actors; in mobilizing the public to bring behavioural change; enhancing the private sector role in the WASH sector; establishing the WASH media forum and multiplying media role in the sector among other things, WASH Ethiopia is being honoured by AMCOW and the AfricaSan Movement as the winner of the 2009 edition of the AfricaSan Awards in the NGO/Civil Society Category.



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Technical Innovation Award

Dr Peter Morgan

For over four decades, Dr Peter Morgan, a Zimbabwean, has provided Africa with the most innovative technical ideas in sanitation and hygiene directly affecting poor people.

Dr Morgan began his career as a marine biologist, before moving to land-locked Malawi and later his adopted country, Zimbabwe. In the dark-days of war in Rhodesia in the 1970s, Peter began a series of practical experiments in fly control which resulted in an outpouring of ideas in water and sanitation management. By the time of Zimbabwe's Independence and the resurgence of its economy in the 1980, Peter had invested, tested and piloted a huge variety of low-cost approaches to water, sanitation and hygiene, starting from USD\$5 options to grand robust structures.

Amongst his many ground-breaking inventions, perhaps the most impactful was his development of the Ventilated Improved Pit-latrine (VIP - the most commonly accepted low-cost technology in use in Africa), known in Zimbabwe as the Blair Latrine. Much of Peter's work was undertaken at the Blair Research laboratory, where he developed an extraordinary relationship with the Environmental Health Department of the Zimbabwean Ministry of Health, which enabled scientific ideas to be tested, amended, piloted, and then through training programmes disseminated throughout the country.

Dr Morgan was never satisfied with any of his inventions and kept breaking new ground. Low-cost sanitation options were designed for schools, farmers, the urban poor, clinics, children, girls, women, the aged, and the disabled. He has also adapted the technology to work with an amazing range of locally available materials and his work has had an impact in virtually every African country, but especially in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Africa.

Dr Morgan has been a pivotal figure in global thinking about ecological approaches to sanitation adapted for African conditions. The most well known of these are the *Arborloo* and the *Fossa Alternata*. Peter was never attracted to the cult dimension of the ecosan movement, but saw the scientific

possibilities in nutrient re-use and was able to offer simple, highly practical solutions to conceptually complex ideas. These are now being taken up in increasing numbers, in Africa and the world over, and are amongst the most practical and affordable, ecologically- sound sanitation solutions available to poor people. Dr Morgan has also pioneered many innovative low-cost hand-washing aids for use after going to the toilet. These include the tippy tap, and many other devices, using locally available materials.

Tens of millions of Africans have benefited from his sanitation work. The impact of his work has been to save thousands of lives and prevent millions of episodes of sanitation and hygiene-related illness.

Dr Morgan is the most deserving recipient of the AfricaSan Technical Innovation Award. He has worked selflessly, quietly behind the scenes and has never sought recognition or profit from his brilliant inventions. The patents for all his work were given to the Government of Zimbabwe. He has approached this life work in the most humble of manners, giving his ideas away freely, eschewing all offers to work for the big development agencies, committed to solutions for the poor, firmly believing that the only way forward is for Africa to find its own solutions to its own challenges.

For a lifetime of commitment, selflessness and outstanding contributions to sanitation in Africa, AMCOW and the AfricaSan Movement are pleased to present to Dr Peter Morgan, this Technical Innovation Award.



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Special Commendation

His Royal Highness Prince Willem-Alexander, the Prince of Orange

The Prince has been active in this field, in the Netherlands and elsewhere, since 1998. He has held several posts:

- 1998: Patron of the Global Water Partnership, which was established by the World Bank, the United Nations and the Swedish Ministry of Development Cooperation with the aim of achieving integrated water management by turning international environmental agreements into concrete programmes and projects.
- 1999-2000: Member of the committee that coordinated the formulation of the World Water Vision.
- 2000: Chair of the Second World Water Forum in The Hague.
- 2002: Member of the Panel of Eminent Persons convened at the request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to issue recommendations for the UN conference on sustainable development in Johannesburg. The Prince served on the Panel as an expert on water management.
- 2000-2004: Chair of the Integrated Water Management Commission.
- 2004-present: Chair of the Water Advisory Committee, which replaced the Integrated Water Management Commission. This independent body advises the Minister for Transport, Public Works and Water Management on the feasibility of water policy and its financial and social impact, doing so either in response to a specific request or of its own volition.
- 2006-present: Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. This Board was set up in 2004 by Kofi Annan to advise him on practical measures that could be taken to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation.

Prince Willem-Alexander often visits companies and organisations active in the water sector in the Netherlands and elsewhere to keep himself informed of developments in the field.

