



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND USA

SIWI STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE



Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Israel

Under the auspices of the Iby and Aladar Fleischman Faculty of Engineering, Tel Aviv University and the Jewish National Fund – USA in memory of Zevi Kahanov
With the Support of the Raquel and Manuel Klachky Fund

תחרות פרס המים של שטוקהולם לנוער בישראל

בחסות הפקולטה להנדסה ע"ש איבי ואלדר פליישמן, אוניברסיטת תל-אביב
ג'ואיש נשיונל פאנד ארה"ב אשר תמיכתה בפרויקט מוקדשת לזכרו של זאבי כהנוב ז"ל
בתמיכת קרן ראקל ומנואל קלצ'קי

Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Israel 2019: Finals and Prize Ceremony Summary

SJWP in Israel is held annually under the auspices of the Fleischman Faculty of Engineering of TAU, with the support of the Jewish National Fund - USA (in memory of Zevi Kahanov) and the Raquel & Manuel Klachky endowment, in cooperation with the Ministries of Education and Economy, Water Authority and others. It is administrated by a coordinator (Helen Tanenbaum), with Prof. Emeritus Gedeon Dagan serving as the Academic Director.

This year around 60 water related projects from all over Israel were submitted to the competition. Around 110 pupils from 30 Israeli high schools (most of which participated in the competition for the first time) conducted water related research on two levels: (1) a small-scale research project and (2) an expanded research project in three categories: (a) Research and Development and (b) Technology and Entrepreneurship, and (c) Humanities and Social Sciences.

During the first stage of the competition, a team of professionals from the Water Authority and Water Research Center in TAU evaluated all the projects. This is an opportunity to thank Mr. Uri Shor and Dr. Gefen Ronen-Eliraz, who evaluated the projects thoroughly, on a volunteer basis. Twelve leading projects according to the preliminary evaluation were invited to present their work at the national finals on Tuesday May 14th. The students prepared posters to present their study and answered questions posed by the jury of specialists. This year's jury panel consisted of:

1. Mr. Raanan Adin, Israel Water Association
2. Prof. Dror Avisar, Water Research Center TAU
3. Mr. Asaf Ben Neria, Adam, Teva V'Din
4. Dr. Orna Bergerzon, (former) Ministry of Environment
5. Prof. Gedeon Dagan, Tel Aviv University
6. Prof. Alex Furman, The Technion
7. Mrs. Gal Joss, (former) Institute of Export, Water Department
8. Prof. Daniel Ronen, Ben Gurion University
9. Dr. Gefen Ronen-Eliraz, Water Research Center TAU
10. Dr. Irit Sadeh, Ministry of Education
11. Mr. Uri Shor, Water Authority



After the interviews by the jury, the students had the opportunity to present their research in English to **HE Mr. Magnus Hellgren**, the Ambassador of Sweden and other VIP guests in Israel.



The award ceremony was held in the presence of HE Mr. Magnus Hellgren, the Ambassador of Sweden; Prof. Eyal Zisser, Vice Rector and Prof. Yossi Rozenwaks, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Tel Aviv University and other distinguished guests. During the ceremony, guests of honor congratulated the participants for their impressive, thorough and original research works and encouraged them to continue conducting water related research. They also thanked the jury panel members for their dedication. **Prof. Zisser**, stressed the importance of the water issue that affects the international relations in the Middle East, particularly that of the drought on the ongoing conflict in Syria. **Prof. Rosenwaks** invited the participants to come back to the faculty as students.



Ms. Talia Tzour Avner, KKL-JNF Chief Israel Emissary mentioned the important role of the JNF in Israel and thanked for the possibility the project gives Zionists, who live in USA to support Israel and invest in the future of water field.



In a moving speech **Mrs. Esti Kahanov**, the wife of the late Zevi Kahanov, whose enthusiasm and effort has ensured a continuous financial support for the project by the JNF, addressed the audience. She commemorated his vision, his belief in the power of the young generation, read one of his poems and raised a glass of water in his memory.

The Key Note Speakers of the ceremony were the 2018 SJWPI laureates **Sara Borni and Hava Herman**, from Ulpenat Horev High-School, Jerusalem who gave the gist of their research and the experience of presenting their project in Israel and Stockholm. The girls addressed the future laureate and stressed the importance of representing Israel with honor, no matter the results of the competition. "It's one in a life time experience and you should enjoy it as much as possible. It allows you to meet people from all over the world and stay in touch with them for years" – they said.



Shortly after, **Prof. Gedeon Dagan**, presented the representative of "**Torah Umada High-School**" from Jerusalem,



who participated in the competition for 7 years and even won it, twice with the **School Water Prize for 2018**. It is given by SJWPI to schools investing in research related to water issues and of prolonged participation in the competition. This year the school has participated in the competition for the 8th year. The school has received a Diploma and 5000 NIS for further promotion of the water research in the school. The laureate of the **2019 School Water Prize** is **Hof-Carmel Regional Comprehensive High-School** from kibbutz Maagan Michael for participating in the competition 7 times during the years.

At the end of the ceremony, **Marva Pistinner**, from **Israel Arts and Science Academy High-School, Jerusalem** was announced as **2019 SJWP laureate** in Israel for her research "Development of a Novel Bioreporter for Monitoring Wastewater Quality" which was conducted under the supervision of Hagar Lis, Hebrew University. The jury mentioned that the academic level of the research conducted and the knowledge the student presented during the



interview were of at least a University student's level. Thus, she will travel to Stockholm in August this year to represent Israel at the international SJWP and will receive a one year scholarship if she chooses to study at TAU in the future. HE Mr. Magnus Hellgren presented this young researcher with a diploma of 2019 SJWP Laureate in Israel. He expressed his warm wish to the winner to enjoy her stay in Sweden, and addressed the audience thanking for the opportunity to see such a large variety of a high-level water related projects.

Talia Kainan and Yael Maya Goldenberg, from **Keshet High School**, in **Jerusalem** were announced as winners among the projects in the "**Social Sciences and Humanities**" category for their project "The Unawareness of Water Reality Disparity," done under the supervision of Jennifer Sternlicht, Diplomacy and International Communication Major Coordinator. The jury were impressed by elegant solution of the usage of social media, particularly the Instagram, to raise the awareness for water crisis on a global scale and the high, almost professional level of project presentation and eloquence. Mr. Uri Shor, the spokesperson for Israel Water Authority presented girls with their prize and strongly advised to continue the project so it will gather proof of not only awareness level raise but also of action change. The pupils will receive a 1000 NIS cash prize and a half-year scholarship if they choose to study at the Faculty of Engineering at TAU in the future.



A special prize given by the Water Research Center at TAU was awarded to the best project in the "**Technology and Entrepreneurship**" category conducted by **Haviv Moalem**, from the **Nazareth Baptist School** for his project "Extraction and Purification of Water out of Air" under the supervision of Dr. Ousama Moalem and Mr. Elias Dai. The jury was impressed Haviv's knowledge and an interesting research topic. Prof. Dror Avisar, The Head of the Water Research Center at TAU presented the pupil with a diploma and reminded the audience that water is essential to our physical and mental health and advise to drink at least 6 glasses of water on a daily basis instead of being dehydrated as most of the world population does. The pupil will receive a 1000 NIS cash prize and a half-year

scholarship if he chooses to study at the Faculty of Engineering at TAU in the future.

Among the **small scale research projects** **Ahalem Abu Ganem, Ravia Danaf and Afnan Musa** from the **Secondary Comprehensive Arab High-School in Ramla and Lod**, were announced as winners for their research "The Influence of PH Levels on the Development of Lettuce in a DWC Hydroponic System" under the supervision of Mrs. Shefa Watted. The jury particularly mentioned the practical aspect of domestic vegetable growing. The pupils will receive a 500 NIS cash prize. **Dr. Irit Sadeh** presented them with a diploma and encouraged the audience to eat vegetables out of which Lettuce consists out of more that 90% water.



In addition, the jury has decided to give an **Honorable Mention** to a young scientist who presented a very interesting idea for water purification using Avocado plant in her research "A Technological System for Water Purification, Based on Green Energy Usage." The jury were impressed by the idea of combining research with technology to create an interesting solution for a water problem. The pupil, **Orel Ifrah** from **Moshe Sharet High-School in Netanya** was presented with a diploma of Excellence.

Written by: Helen Tenenbaum, SJWPI National Organizer