

NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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JERALD SCHNOOR, LEADER IN WATER SUSTAINABILITY, TO RECEIVE THE 2010 CLARKE PRIZE

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. – The National Water Research Institute (NWRI) announced today that environmental engineer Jerald L. Schnoor, Ph.D., of the University of Iowa will be the seventeenth recipient of the NWRI Athalie Richardson Irvine Clarke Prize for excellence in water research. Schnoor was selected because of his leadership and impact on promoting the sustainable use of water.

The 2010 Clarke Prize will be presented to Schnoor on Thursday, July 15, 2010, at the Seventeenth Annual Clarke Prize Lecture and Award Ceremony, to be held at the Orange County Performing Arts Center in Orange County, California. NWRI established the Clarke Prize in 1993 to recognize outstanding research scientists who have demonstrated excellence in water-science research and technology. The prize, which includes a medallion and \$50,000 award, is presented annually.

Schnoor has taught courses in groundwater, environmental modeling, water quality, and sustainable systems at the University of Iowa since 1977, where he serves as the Allen S. Henry Chair of Engineering. He also co-founded and co-directs the university's Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research, which is a state-funded institute devoted to studying and bettering our environment (such as mitigating the effects of population growth, land use changes, energy choices, and other human activities on water quality and availability).

To ensure water use sustainability, Schnoor has focused much of his career on improving human management decisions to reduce negative impacts on water. For instance, early in his career, he developed models of the complex chemistry of acid rain and its impacts on aquatic systems and watersheds. He played a central role in linking acid rain to lake acidification, which ultimately resulted in his "Trickle Down" model being adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and later used to guide the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments.

Schnoor was also one of the first researchers to investigate using plants to take up toxic organic chemicals and other pollutants (a process known as "phytoremediation") as a means to remediate contaminated hazardous waste sites – fostering a new green technology for the treatment of soil and groundwater. He has since established a phytoremediation technology laboratory with funding from the W.M. Keck Foundation, one of the nation's largest philanthropic organizations.

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Among his recent work, Schnoor chaired a National Research Council committee on the “Water Implications of Biofuels Production in the United States,” which noted water quality and availability problems associated with increasing ethanol production from corn. He was also selected as Co-Director for the National Science Foundation Project Office on the WATERS (WATER and Environmental Research Systems) Network, a \$300 million proposal to construct a national environmental observatory network for sensing, modeling, and forecasting water and contaminants.

Schnoor is not just a leader in environmental science and engineering, but he is also considered a major intellectual leader in the world of scientific publishing. He is the author of over 150 peer-reviewed journal articles, edited or authored seven textbooks, and has served on the editorial board of several journals, such as *Aquatic Sciences* and *Water Resources Research*. He is best known, however, for his role as Editor-in-Chief of *Environmental Science & Technology*, the leading journal in the world on environmental engineering and science. In the seven years he has served as Editor-in-Chief, he has doubled the amount of articles published each year and broadened its international influence by opening offices in Beijing, China, and Utrecht, The Netherlands. Schnoor’s editorials on topics such as water sustainability, water policy, and regulatory action have had direct influence on government, industry, and academia.

Established in honor of NWRI’s co-founder, the late Athalie Richardson Irvine Clarke, the Clarke Prize is awarded to outstanding research scientists who are currently active in the water and wastewater fields. It is one of only a dozen water prizes awarded worldwide and has been distinguished by the International Congress of Distinguished Awards as one of the most prestigious awards in the world.

Recent past recipients of the Clarke Prize include: environmental biotechnologist Bruce E. Logan, Ph.D., of The Pennsylvania State University (2009); aquatic scientist Nancy N. Rabalais, Ph.D., of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (2008); environmental engineer James L. Barnard, Ph.D., P.E., of Black & Veatch Corporation (2007); water-quality engineer Philip C. Singer, Ph.D., P.E., of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2006); water-quality engineer Menachem Elimelech, Ph.D., of Yale University (2005); and water-quality engineer Vernon L. Snoeyink, Ph.D., of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2004).

More information about the Clarke Prize can be found at www.nwri-usa.org/ClarkePrize.htm.

The National Water Research Institute (NWRI) was founded in 1991 by a group of Southern California water agencies in partnership with the Joan Irvine Smith and Athalie R. Clarke Foundation to promote the protection, maintenance, and restoration of water supplies and to protect the freshwater and marine environments through the development of cooperative research work. NWRI’s member agencies include Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Irvine Ranch Water District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Orange County Sanitation District, Orange County Water District, and West Basin Municipal Water District.

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