



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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William-Dunbar-Medal awarded to Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. techn. Dr.h.c. Helmut Kroiss

Hennef/Munich, 24th April 2005 – In the course of the opening ceremony of IFAT 2005, the international trade fair for water, sewage, refuse and recycling, the President of the European Water Association (EWA), Haakon Thaulow (Norway), together with the Bavarian Minister of State for Environment, Health and Consumer Protection, Dr. Werner Schnappauf, awarded the William-Dunbar-Medal. Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr.techn. Dr.h.c. Helmut Kroiss (61) was bestowed with this prize in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the waste water treatment and water protection.

A scientist far away from the ivory tower

The great merits of Helmut Kroiss lie in his outstanding contributions to the Austrian water management. He is adapt in the field of the design and operation of municipal and industrial waste water treatment plants. Furthermore, he is the holder of patents in the development of industrial water protection technologies. EWA honours an outstanding scientist and engineer who combines theory and practice in an ideal way.

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An international career in waste water

This year's laureate Helmut Kroiss was born in 1944 in Mauterndorf, Austria. After a Master's degree in civil engineering at the Vienna University of Technology, Helmut Kroiss worked as assistant from 1972 to 1985 at the Institute for Water Quality at the Vienna University of Technology, where he earned a doctorate in 1977.

In 1987 he was appointed as full professor for water supply, waste water treatment and water protection at the Institute for Water Quality and Waste Management at the Vienna University of Technology. Helmut Kroiss became dean of the faculty of civil engineering in 1994.

As member of cross national specialist organisations he contributes to several committees, amongst others to the EWA, IWA (International Water Association), WEF (Water Environment Federation) and to DWA (German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste). Moreover, he acts as consultant in many national and international projects. He is the author of a considerable amount of publications in the field of waste water treatment and water protection. In 2002 Helmut Kroiss has been awarded the Austrian "Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst 1. Klasse" – the highest national award for scientific and artistic achievements. In 2003 the honorary doctorate was conferred on him by the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy in Sofia.

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Dr.med. W. Dunbar – A pioneer in sewage technology

Every three years since 1973 the Dunbar Medal is donated by the Messe München GmbH and awarded by the European Water Association (EWA) on the occasion of each IFAT. The prize is endowed with 5,000 EUR and comprises a gold medal, a certificate and a financial award. It is given in remembrance to William Philipps Dunbar, who was born in 1863 in Minnesota (USA) and was summoned to Hamburg in September 1892 during the disastrous cholera epidemic.

Dunbar improved the detection procedure for the cholera and pest pathogens. He regularly surveyed the river and tap water, as the water ways had proved to be especially significant for the spread of cholera. His pioneering research about city sanitation make him an authority that is still internationally recognised on this sector.

The European Water Association (EWA) is an independent non-governmental and non-profit making organisation dealing with the management and improvement of the water environment. It is one of the major professional associations in Europe that covers the whole water sector, wastewater as well as drinking water and water related waste, providing best practice and best science. With member associations from nearly all Central and Eastern European Countries, it not only includes most of the current European Union member states, Norway, and Switzerland, but also most of the Accession Countries.

Besides the information of its members on EU legislation and standardisation, the aim of the association is to provide a forum for the

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discussion of key technical and policy issues. This is done by international conferences, workshops and meetings, special working groups for experts and also publications. Through this exchange of knowledge the association intends to contribute to a sustainable water management: a safe water supply and the protection of water and soil.

The EWA has established close contacts to the European Commission (DG Environment), the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Parliament.

The European Water Association (EWA) is one of the most important technical-scientific associations in Europe in the field of water. With 25 national member associations and a growing number of member firms, the EWA covers nearly all European countries. It offers its members a forum for the discussion of central technical and political questions. This takes place through conferences, workshops, meetings and groups of experts as well as through regular publications. Via the 25 national member associations there are more than 55,000 experts from the complete field of water.

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