



PRESS INFORMATION

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William Dunbar Medal awarded to Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. techn. h.c. Rolf Kayser

Hennef/Munich, 13 Mai 2002. In the framework of the opening ceremony of IFAT 2002, the international trade fair for water, sewage, refuse, and recycling, the President of the European Water Association (EWA), Raymond Pinoit (France), and the Bavarian Minister of State for land development and environmental questions, Dr. Werner Schnappauf, awarded the William Dunbar Medal. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. techn. h.c. Rolf Kayser (70) was bestowed with this prize in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the development of the activated sludge process, which is the backbone of modern wastewater treatment.

Every three years since 1973 the William 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 Phillips Dunbar, who was born 1863 in Minnesota (USA) and was summoned to Hamburg in September 1892 during the disastrous cholera epidemic. Dunbar improved the detection procedure for the

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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 cleansing make him an authority that is still internationally recognised on this sector today. His textbook „Leitfaden für die Abwasserreinigungsfrage“ (Compendium on the wastewater question), first published in 1907, is yet valid in our days.

An international wastewater career

This year's laureate Rolf Kayser Medal was born in 1931 in Oldenburg, Germany. After an apprenticeship in bricklaying he studied Civil Engineering at the Technical University of Braunschweig. In 1967 he received the Doctoral Degree in Engineering with Distinction. with his thesis "Measurement of the Oxygenation Capacity of Aerators Under Process Conditions". The thesis was honoured with the Karl Imhoff-Price of the ATV, the German Association for Water Pollution Control (now ATV-DVWK, German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste).

From 1967 to 1969 Rolf Kayser worked at the Institute of Water Quality at the Vienna University of Technology where he tested aerators on different industrial wastewaters in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. He then led for 14 months the research project "Design Guidelines for Biological Treatment Processes" at Texas University in Austin (USA). Here he developed the today most commonly used formula for the excess sludge production for the design of activated sludge plants. End of 1970 Rolf Kayser returned to the Technical University of Braunschweig as professor

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for Sanitary and Environmental Engineering. His scientific research and engineering consultancy activities concentrated on the treatment of sewage and industrial wastewater through the activated sludge process. On the international level he served as a member of the Committee for Standards for Oxygenation Capacity Measurements of the American Society of Civil Engineers. In September 1993 Prof. Kayser retired from university, but is still active in consulting and ATV-DVWK expert groups. The Vienna University of Technology awarded him the honorary doctor degree in 1998. In the same year he was honoured with the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

A scientist far away from the ivory tower

The great merit of Rolf Kayser lies in his outstanding contribution to the development of the activated sludge process, especially regarding nitrogen and phosphorus elimination. In 1983 he proposed a method to design nitrification-denitrification plants. Rolf Kayser was the first who developed a programme for the dimensioning of treatment plants with a small calculator. He gave a substantial input to the national and international guidelines in the sector of the activated sludge process. Additionally he contributed to the operation optimisation of activated sludge plants using simple and reliable process control systems.

Prof. Kayser is a lecturer well known both at home and abroad who is very active in the professional education of engineers and operators in the framework of the German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste. EWA hon-

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ours an outstanding scientist and engineer who combines theory and practice in an ideal way.

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 Candidate Countries and Russia.

Besides the information of its members on EU legislation and standardisation, the aim of the association is to provide a forum for the 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 EWA consists today of nearly 30 European national associations representing professionals and technicians for wastewater and water utilities as well as consultants, and about 10 firms and enterprises as corporate members. The association thus represents about 55,000 professional individuals working in their national associations in a broad field of water management.