

Water Pollution 2008
June 9-11, 2008
Alicante, Spain

Hromadka Prize

The Rector of the University, Professor Ignacio Jimenez Raneda, chaired the opening ceremony and welcomed the delegates to his University. Following his remarks, he asked Prof Brebbia to proceed with the Award of the Hromadka Prize for Advances in Water Resources. The Prize was launched two years ago by Prof Ted Hromadka in memory of his father. Prof Hromadka, who sits on the WIT Board of Directors, is recognized worldwide for his pioneering work on the development of a new mathematical technique, as well as for his practical engineering work on hydraulics and hydrology. He has numerous publications, including papers and books, and has helped to develop better standards of practice in his native California. He holds 3 PhD degrees, one of them from WIT, and has received many honours and prizes. Until recently, he was a Professor at the State University of California at Long Beach and more recently he has been appointed Professor at West Point Academy.

Carlos explained that it has been difficult to reach a decision regarding the recipient of the prize, in view of the high quality of the nominees. As a result, a number of candidates were awarded a Diploma of Excellence due to their outstanding contributions.

The Prize was given to Professor Gabriel Winter from the University of Las Palmas and Gran Canaria for a paper that describes the system developed at that Institute to fight coastal pollution problems. The title is “An integrated system for real time fight against the maritime and coastal pollution with environmental data acquisition, pollutant spillages modelling and risk management”.

Diplomas were awarded for the following contributions:

“Farmstead drinking water sources, concerns and safety practices of livestock farm families in Southern Alberta, Canada” by Manju P. Acharya, University of Lethbridge, Canada

“Hydro chemical evaluation of the quality of some Brazilian waters” by Daniel Marcos Bonotto, Instituto de Geociencias e Ciencias Exatas – UNESP, Brazil

“Study of the extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) in different types of membrane bioreactor (MBR) effluents” by Liuba Dominguez Chabalina, Water and Environmental Science Institute, University of Alicante, Spain

“Determination of the spreading-velocity of nitroaromatic compounds in aquifers represented on the basis of column tests under in situ conditions” by Fraziska Jaenig, Mull & Partner Consulting Engineers, Germany

“Absorption of zinc, cadmium and nickel from aqueous solutions by using ground water sludge” by Shamsul Rahman Mohamed Kutty, University Teknologi PETRONAS, Malaysia

“Role of high mountain areas in catchment hydromineral resources - Northern/Central Portugal: environmental issues” by Jose Manuel Vaz Velho Barbosa Marques, Institute Superior Tecnico, Portugal

“Oil spill boom modelling by the finite-element method” by Frederic Muttin, Engineering School EIGSI,

France

“Modelling environmental impact on sediment caused by discharges deposited on the sea floor” by Henrik Rye, SINTEF, Norway

“Application of dynamic parametric sensitivity analysis for identifying contaminant sources in a watershed” by Jenő M. Scharer, University of Waterloo, Canada

“Preliminary analysis of water pollution in a small lake in Western Mexico” by Harvey Shear, University of Toronto, Canada

“Screening of priority pollutants in urban stormwater: innovative methodology” by Sally Zgheib, University Paris-Est, France.

The award and diplomas were given by the Rector of the University and the Minister for the Environment of the Region, Mr Jose Ramon Garcia Anton, who agreed to come and open the Conference, in spite of his very busy schedule.



Prof Garcia Anton, who is a Civil Engineer and Professor at the University of Alicante, referred to the importance of water in his region and to the work carried out by his University to optimise its use and recovery. The Alicante region has been historically always associated with the careful use of its hydraulic resources; this irrigation system being one of the oldest in Spain.

The Minister then proceeded to officially open the Meeting.