

asian WATER

ASIA'S LEADING MONTHLY ON WATER & WASTEWATER,
PUMPS, VALVES AND FILTRATION TECHNOLOGY



Prof Rudolph and Biwater win 2006 Global Competition in Water Management

For the 2006 Global Competition "Innovations in Water, Sanitation and Energy Services for Poor People" the World Bank has received 2,752 eligible proposals. 119 were selected as finalists to attend the 2006 Global Development Marketplace in Washington, with more than 1,000 visitors from all over the world.

As winners of the 2006 Global Competition, 30 innovative projects have been awarded US\$5 million for ideas that will provide concrete benefits to their communities by meeting basic needs for clean water, hygienic sanitation and access to energy. Donors to this year's competition included the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), along with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Global Village Energy Project (GVEP).

Winning project ideas ranged from using native freshwater mussels to cleaning up China's lakes, to establishing a decentralised supply of renewable energy throughout Rwanda, providing water-pumps, to using a solar-powered desalination and water-purification system in Turkey, to improving access to water in Haiti, to using LED light units to bring lighting to tribal homes in India. Africa was strongly represented, with 14 of the 30 winning projects coming from the region. The largest number of winners from a single country was India with five winners followed by Benin, Cambodia, Kenya, and Senegal with two each.

For the first time, the winner with a project in "Water Management" was

a team led by a German: Karl-Ulrich Rudolph, Professor at the University of Witten/Herdecke and International Water Consultant, who received a US\$ 200,000 fund and a trophy.

The winners will elaborate a Franchise Scheme in the River Olifant Area South Africa, to overcome the difficulties with sustainable operations and maintenance of water and wastewater facilities, which are clearly the bottleneck of success in many regions world-wide. The Project will be linked to ongoing research funded by the EU and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research from Germany (BMBF). More details about the winner's project are available at www.worldbank.org/developmentmarketplace.