



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing the 2023 World CleanTech Awards Winners: Visionary Pioneers and Emerging Leaders in Clean Technology and Green Hydrogen at KAUST, Saudi Arabia

Powered by the CleanTech Business Club: The 2023 World CleanTech Awards Honour Visionary Pioneers and Emerging Leaders Advancing Clean Technology and the Green Hydrogen Revolution.

Thuwal, Saudi Arabia, February 7, 2024 - The World CleanTech Awards 2023 "WCA2023 KAUST Ceremony", held on January 23, 2024, at KAUST (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology), has showcased pioneers and emerging stars in Clean Technology and Green Hydrogen. The event, a part of a collaborative gathering among the CleanTech Business Club (CBC), ACWA Power, Dii Desert Energy, and KAUST, on the occasion of the ACWA Power Innovation Days 2024, honoured the disruptors and innovators leading the CleanTech Transformation and Green Hydrogen Revolution.

Prof. Eicke R. Weber, Chair of the WCA Jury, Vice-Chair of the European Solar Manufacturing Council and Former Director of Fraunhofer ISE, reflected on the significance of the awards: "It is an honour to acknowledge the remarkable efforts of our awardees towards a 100% renewable energy future. Their dedication exemplifies the collective strength necessary for the CleanTech Transformation, following our motto #TogetherWeAreStronger."

The "WCA2023 KAUST Ceremony" highlighted the extraordinary achievements of four eminent figures: Pinfang Wu, celebrated as the "Father of Hydrogen in China"; Frank Wouters, a veteran with thirty years of pioneering work in CleanTech and Green Hydrogen; Dr. Jianhui Zhang, distinguished for his leadership in Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) within China; and Mikaa Mered, an emerging yet highly esteemed expert in Green Hydrogen Geopolitics.

Pinfang Wu, "Father of Hydrogen in China", Chairman of Jiangsu Guofu Hydrogen Energy Equipment and Honorary Co-Chair of CBC Green Hydrogen Hub, **awarded the WCA2023 Special Lifetime Achievements Award**, expressed gratitude: "This recognition honours not just my work but our collective dream for a greener future. It underscores the importance of safety and innovation in the hydrogen sector."

Frank Wouters, Senior VP at Reliance Industries; Chair, Advisory Board, Dii Desert Energy and MENA Hydrogen Alliance; CBC Co-Chair of Green Hydrogen Hub (In Charge of the Middle East) **receiving the WCA2023 Visionary CleanTech Advocate (Pranav Mehta Award)**, shared his enthusiasm: "I am deeply honoured. This award fuels my ongoing commitment to renewable energy, emphasising the urgent need for clean, accessible energy solutions worldwide."

The ceremony culminated in a grand gala dinner, co-hosted by CBC, ACWA Power, Dii Desert Energy, and KAUST, set against the striking "KAUST Beacon." This emblematic tower vividly embodied the university's commitment to spearheading scientific and technological advancements for a sustainable future. The evening seamlessly gave way to the ACWA Power Innovation Days 2024, a distinguished event commemorating groundbreaking achievements in the realms of renewable energy, hydrogen production, and clean water technologies. It underscored innovation as the cornerstone of ACWA Power's ethos, highlighting its unwavering dedication to fostering a greener, more sustainable world.

Tomasz Slusarz, Founder & Vision Streamliner at the CleanTech Business Club, reflecting on the collective achievements, underscored the impact of the awardees' commitment to action: "Thanks to visionaries like Frank Wouters and Pinfang Wu, we have made significant strides in solar energy and hydrogen technologies. Their pioneering work, coupled with the dynamic efforts of emerging leaders like Dr. Jianhui Zhang and Mikaa Mered, drives us toward our goals in clean technology and Green Hydrogen."

Dr. Jianhui Zhang, CEO at Beijing HyperStrong Technology, Board Member of the US-China Green Energy Council (UCGEC), **awarded the WCA2023 Visionary CleanTech Disruptor (Tony Seba Award)**, remarked, "Receiving this award is a testament to our dedication to environmental sustainability and innovation. HyperStrong remains committed to leading the charge towards a sustainable and carbon-neutral future through advanced energy storage technologies."

Mikaa Mered, Green Hydrogen Ambassador at IAHE-GH2; Adjunct lecturer on hydrogen markets, diplomacy and geopolitics at Sciences Po; CBC Co-Chair of Green Hydrogen Hub (In Charge of Geopolitics & Diplomacy), **receiving the WCA2023 Visionary CleanTech Policy Decision-Maker (Hans-Josef Fell Award)**, noted, "This award is a recognition of the critical role of grounded research in effective climate policy-making. I am grateful for this acknowledgment and motivated to further contribute to our planet's preservation."

"We wholeheartedly congratulate all the winners, whose proactive efforts are significantly bridging the gap between dreaming of a better future and actualising it. Their actions are a beacon of change, showcasing the tangible impact of committed steps towards a zero-emission world" concluded **Paul van Son**, President at Dii Desert Energy and a member of the WCA Jury.

This year, the World CleanTech Awards reached a notable milestone by initiating the tradition of hosting two annual ceremonies on different continents. This new approach emphasises the vital importance of personal, human-to-human (H2H) interactions in driving the CleanTech and Green Hydrogen mission, underlining the worldwide scope and the collective spirit of the #TogetherWeAreStronger movement aimed at fostering a sustainable and regenerative global community.

The upcoming "WCA2023 Munich Ceremony," slated for June 20, 2024, at the unique Künstler House, will coincide with the 10th CBC Anniversary Black-Tie Gala Celebration and the Smarter E Conference and Exhibition. It will continue celebrating the achievements of CleanTech and Green Hydrogen leaders, marking an important event in the global sustainability calendar.

For more information about the World CleanTech Awards please visit www.worldcleantechawards.com

Contact us: [email us here](mailto:info@worldcleantechawards.com)

Watch "WCA2023 KAUST Ceremony" Video Coverage: on WCA website - [here](#), on YouTube - [here](#)



Useful Links:

- **WCA2023 logo** - download [here](#)
- **Main photos:**
 - "WCA2023 KAUST Ceremony" Winners - download [here](#)
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