



**A REPORT OF THE 2018 NIGERIAN STOCKHOLM
JUNIOR WATER PRIZE COMPETITION AND
AWARD CEREMONY HELD AT THE EMBASSY OF
SWEDEN, ABUJA 41 TY DANJUMA STREET
ASOKORO ABUJA. 5TH OF JUNE 2018**



The Final interview of the national finalists of the 2018 Nigerian Stockholm Junior Water Prize Started by 11; 20 am with seven (7) of the eight (8) members of jury present. The members of the jury present were:

1. Mr. Peter Nwakpa (Jury Chair)- Federal Ministry of Water Resources Abuja
2. Prof. Odikamnor Oliver- Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki
3. Mrs Adenike Adegbenro -National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, Abuja
4. Mr. Shuaibu A. Haruna- Small and Medium scale Development Agency of Nigeria
5. Dr Mrs. Gloria Laraba Shoda – National Council of Women Societies Abuja
6. Dr Princewill Ekanim- Niger Delta Development Commission, Port Harcourt.
7. Mr. Yinusa Saheed Olanrewaju- Lutheran World Federation Uganda.

Of the ten national finalists invited for the interview, eight finalists were able to make it to the event.

The students made poster presentations and demonstrated their projects before the panel of jury after which the students were questioned.

After the interview session, the panel of jury had a closed door meeting to decide the first, second and third positions. The panel of jury had a hard time deciding the winners, for all the projects were innovative. The Schools that participated in the national final are KOFAD Model College, Ijoko Ogun State, Lead British International School Abuja, Stella Maris College Garki Abuja, Northern Annang Secondary Commercial School Akwa Ibom, Charles Dale Memorial International School Port Harcourt, and Great Scholars International School, Sagamu Ogun State.

Three projects were considered for the national award and they are summarized below.

Asekhauno Jayne and Ikpeme Esther of the Lead British International School Abuja made a presentation on How to improve the quality of water by providing a solution to the problem of oil spillage. The students used the oil eating bacteria *Alcanivorax borkumensis* to treat oil contaminated water.

Umoukpong Blessing Utibe and Iniso Thursday Edward from Northern Annang Secondary Commercial School, Akwa Ibom made a project presentation on WATER PURIFICATION USING NATURAL PLANT FIBERS.

Ossia Rogers Chuckwudi, Henry Madubuike and Kennedy Edomobi of Charles Dale Memorial International School, Port Harcourt made a presentation on DANGERS OF POOR WATER MANAGEMENT CULTURE

Evaluation of Projects by Members of Jury

The projects were evaluated by members of Jury based on the following guidelines and criteria:

1. Relevance of project to the environment and society
2. Creativity of project
3. Methodology (scientific and replicable)
4. Subject knowledge by students
5. Practical skills
6. Method of reporting and presentation

After careful considerations by members of Jury and rating of projects based on aforementioned criteria, the first three projects with the highest scores were selected.

Ranking

1. Northern Annang Community Secondary School, Akwa-Ibom State, Nigeria
2. Charles Dale Secondary School, Portharcourt
3. Lead British Secondary School, Abuja

Summary of the Winning Project

The winning project utilized readily available local materials such as coconut husk and *Costus afer* (A common plant considered as weed) to turn waste water into a clean water that can be used for domestic purposes. The project was unanimously adjudged by members of Jury to be cost-effective, economically viable, practicable and scalable..

Recommendations by Members of Jury

In the course of project evaluation, the members of Jury made recommendations on how to further reinvent and publicize the competition in Nigeria, so as to make it more competitive and increase the chances of Nigerian project at the international stage. The following were the points raised by members of Jury;

- Capacity building of participants, especially the students with the winning project. The Chairman of Jury, who is also the member representing the Federal Ministry of Water Resources suggested that the students can be further trained at the National Water Resources Institute prior to the International Finals in Sweden. He reiterated that the Water Resources Ministry can leverage on the relationship with the institute to build the capacity of the students and refine their project.
- Plagiarism Check: Dr. Princewill Ekanim pointed out that the reports/presentation of the winning project should be researched in-depth to ensure there are no traces of plagiarism found in the reports. He also suggested that the National Organizers should collate and catalogue all the projects and properly keep in a database.
- Sustainability and Succession Plan: SMEDAN Representative, suggested that the catalogued projects can be further refined and the ideas turned into a social enterprise.
- Partnership and Sponsorship: The Nigerian Young Water Professionals (NYWP) who are the National Organizers, reiterated the need for partnership and sponsorship. The tripartite arrangement or partnership between NYWP, private sector/relevant government agencies and the Swedish Embassy in Nigeria, would form a formidable structure that will ensure a successful and innovative competition in Nigeria. The NDDC representative suggested that his organization can take on the competition as part of their human

capacity development activities and recommend that the National Organizers should get similar agencies on board.

- **Publicity:** The members of Jury also suggested the need for enhanced awareness and sensitization of the public about the competition. Private and Government media agencies should be involved in the entire process of the competition.

The award ceremony commenced at 3pm at the Embassy of Sweden Abuja and those present were His Excellency, Robert Keller, Deputy Ambassador of Sweden to Nigeria, Mr Peter Nwakpa, the Representative of the Honourable Minister of Water Resources and Chairman of Jury, Mr. Ikechukwu Godwin Chinemerem, the Steering Committee Chairman International Water Association Young Water Professionals Nigeria Chapter and National Organizer Nigerian Stockholm Junior Water Prize, Hon. Sam Ifeanyi Onuigbo, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change, Hon. Usman Ibrahim, National Coordinator MBO Dynamic Support Group, Peter Zakora, Chairman of Governing Council of Ofa Polytechnic, members of Jury, members of the press : Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and TSTV, representatives of NGOs and the private sector, and a host of others.

In his opening remarks, the Deputy Ambassador of Sweden His Excellency, Robert Keller expressed the delight of the Embassy at the passion and transparency of the competition. He admonished the young scientist to continue to work on the path of honour and excellence which they have chosen.

Thereafter, the Moderator of the event, Mr OTU Uwem Robert called on the Chairman of the panel of Jury, Mr Peter Nwakpa to highlight on the processes of selecting the National winner which he said was a rigorous one because of the great level of intelligence exhibited by the contestants.

The Deputy Ambassador of Sweden in Nigeria, Mr. Robert Keller called the winners of the competition and presented awards to the winners and runners-up.

The National Organizer, Mr. Ikechukwu Godwin Chinemerem said the National winners would be representing Nigeria at the International Final in Stockholm Sweden in August

2018. He also gave a brief presentation on how the 2019 Nigerian Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition would be organized. He said a national call for water project proposal submission would be made in October 2018. He stressed the importance of making the competition open to all Secondary School Students in Nigeria within the age of 15-20 years. He said that in the 2019 edition, there would be State finals across the 36 states of Nigeria and the FCT which would then produce regional finalists for the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria. He further stated that the winners from the six geopolitical zones would compete for the national award which would come up in April 2019. The National organizer thanked the Embassy of Sweden Abuja for their immense support and reiterated that the competition under his leadership would not compromise on integrity, excellence and transparency. He also thanked the Federal Ministry of Water Resources for their support and appreciated National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Small and Medium Scale Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), and Niger Delta Development Agency (NDDC) for nominating their renowned Water experts as members of Jury for the competition.

The Award ceremony was brought to a close, with a vote of thanks from Hon. Sam Ifeanyi Onuigbo who commended Nigerian Young Water Professionals and the Embassy of Sweden, Abuja for organizing the competition which he adjudged a great success, and promised that the legislative would continue to make laws that would favour Young Nigerians and the environment which water is an integral part.

The National anthem was taken after which was group photo.



The Panel of Jury during interview session



Some finalists making presentation



Members of high table during award ceremony



Group photograph with members of high table, panel of jury and National organizers