

Torkil Jønch-Clausen's thank you note at the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize ceremony on March 16, 2006 at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico.

Thank you!

In a few months I turn 60, and this is the **first time in my life** that I receive a prize. I am happy, honored, overwhelmed – and humble.

After more than 30 years work in the developing world I am particularly happy – and proud – to be awarded this prize by the **Kingdom of Morocco**. This is a country which is devoted to good water resources management – and reform - and one which I have some of my best water friends and colleagues. It was also the country of my honeymoon!

I am also happy to receive this prize from **the WWC** with which I have had close working relations up to and during three WWFs, including this 4th WWF in Mexico.

I have traveled many times to Mexico in my capacity as GWP representative and beacon for the IWRM framework theme. During the long battles to prioritize and merge sessions I never thought that I should stand here on Opening day! I am happy to **share this with my Mexican friends**

However, I must stress that **no single individual really deserves** such an honor for himself. And I am no exception. This prize is a recognition of the team work and commitment of more people and institutions than I can mention. But I would be remiss not to mention the key ones:

First of all my friends and colleagues from **DHI Water & Environment** in Denmark with whom I have worked for over 30 years, and who have contributed significantly to developing the concept and practice of IWRM as we know it today. And still do!

Secondly, during the last 10 years **GWP** has been my focus – and mission. GWP was formed in 1996 to assist stakeholders in practicing sound water management – IWRM – and doing so by developing and sharing knowledge and experience. For almost 10 years I had the privilege to work with **GWP TAC** which set out to develop IWRM principles and a global network to share them.

I really feel that I **receive this prize on behalf of these two groups** of people – and I am proud to do so,

And thirdly, I should recognize my colleagues in the **Danish government and Danida**. Without their cooperation and financial support for IWRM since Dublin and Rio in 1992, DHI and I would not have had the opportunity to develop. Still today the Danish government gives top priority in development assistance to water resources management. Their support to GWP, UNEP and WWAP to follow up on the target set in Johannesburg to develop IWRM plans is critically important for all our work.

I do hope that the award of this prize to me will be seen as **recognition of the importance of IWRM**, and all the countries and people who are devoted to practicing IWRM. We have less than 10 years to go before the World in 2015 will ask: how did we measure up to **achieving**

the MDG's. All these MDG's – reducing poverty, hunger, diseases and environmental quality – depend on water for their achievement. And that in turn calls for IWRM. I am confident that this message will sent loud and clear from this Forum, and that the King Hassan II Great World Water prize will contribute to this message.

Finally, the prize money! One challenge in water management that we have all been poor in addressing is the recognition of the role of women in water management. And that in spite of the now 14 year old “third Dublin principle” about the vital role of women at all levels in water management. I intend to make my small contribution by using this prize for a **fund for young women from the developing countries** to study water with my colleagues and me.

Again, my warmest thanks and gratitude to the Government of Morocco and the WWC – and **thank you all for listening** to me!