

# **Communication on Engagement**

### **To: United Nations Global Compact**

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement:

From: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

### Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

From: Tina Lindgreen, Chairperson & President

27 April 2018

To: Our Stakeholders

I am pleased to confirm that Water Air Food Award (WAFA) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours, and to promote, support, and achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Tina Lindgreen ) Chairperson & President



## Part II. Description of Actions

WAFA's mission is to acknowledge, certify and take sustainability pioneers global. Our focus area is clean water, clean air, and nutritious food and the pioneers who restore livelihoods of people below the poverty line.

We experience, that sharing their stories across multiple platforms, aiming for global reach, is something the global population wants to be part of.

We celebrate award winners & finalists in our annual Awards Celebrations, giving them the visibility, they deserve, and need, to inspire change and gather support to scale and replicate their solutions.

WAFA's vision is to be a globally recognized sustainability award platform, hence we mobilize the global public in the selection of Award winners. Together, we bring to light the good deeds in the world and spread a genuine message of hope.

Please find below a review of WAFA activities to incorporate the UN Global Compact principles and to support attainment of the SDGs through our direct action and our partnerships with like-minded stakeholders:

#### 2016:

Providing exposure for shortlisted finalists and promoting the opportunity to vote for one's favourite, WAFA held a conference for a global audience at Ivory's Rock Conventions and Events near Brisbane Australia. Funds, raised through the conference, went to finance a documentary series about the award winners. Download link to the pilot of "Silent Heroes" featuring Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation's project in Wardhar District, Maharashtra State, India: <u>https://we.tl/hlr0k6pxix</u>.

#### **Selected Winners and Finalists 2016**



**Tobacco Crop Replacement: A Win-Win for China** 



## The problem

In China, tobacco cultivation has posed a dilemma. On one hand, it has fuelled a multi-billion-dollar industry, employing over 20 million farmers and providing major revenue to the government.

On the other hand, one million people die in China annually from tobaccorelated illnesses. The tobacco industry also harms the environment. Cultivation requires dangerous pesticides. Curing consumes huge quantities of coal and wood, aggravating air pollution and deforestation.

A labour-intensive crop, tobacco requires 3,000 hours work annually per hectare, twice as much as rice. It also takes more nutrients from the land. That said, it provides no food security, an increasingly urgent issue underpinning China's continued social and economic development.

## A Collaborative Solution

A sustainable solution had to address the needs of all stakeholders: farmers, government, and citizens. The Yuxi Municipality Bureau of Agriculture (YMBA) in Yunnan Province, China's largest tobacco producer, proposed planting alternative crops that would yield returns equalling or surpassing tobacco. The state government threw its support behind the initiative.

In 2008, YMBA started a pilot tobacco substitution project in collaboration with researchers from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Through announcements at village meetings and by word of mouth, YMBA worked with village heads to recruit 458 farm families at three sites, totalling over 480 hectares. Villagers at the sites wrote the charter and elected the management board for a farmers' cooperative. Board members were selected for consensus-building and leadership skills. The cooperative's responsibilities included supplying seeds, pesticides, and materials to the membership at the lowest possible cost through bulk purchasing.

Local agricultural specialists provided farmers with training and technical assistance. With this support, the farmers mastered key production and business skills to produce high yields, store crops efficiently, provide reliable accounting, conduct market research, and sell their produce.



## **Growing Success**

By 2010, farmers' annual incomes at the pilot sites were 21% to 110% higher per acre than those of tobacco farmers in the area.

Since 2011, therefore, YMBA has been scaling the project up to other counties. Farmers are taking initiative to reduce tobacco cultivation in favour of other crops; grapes have proven to be the most profitable. The entire community continues to benefit. From 2012 to 2015, the per capita net income of Yuxi Municipality grew by more than 3000 yuan (US\$484).

## A Win-Win

The Tobacco Substitution Project is clear proof that careful, collaborative planning and execution can provide practical benefits to all stakeholders even in the face of traditional practices. Its success should inspire similar initiatives throughout the world.



The Chiapas Water Project – Building Community in South Mexico

## The Problem

Water is a chronic issue in Chiapas State, particularly among the indigenous Maya communities. Periodic drought impedes agriculture, threatening the livelihood of millions. The consequent need to fetch water from long distances prevents women from attending to other priorities and children from attending school. Water-borne diseases also damage the health of communities, particularly those far from health centres.

## Working with the Community

Founded in 1972, Concern America (CA) focusses on long-term community development in Mexico and other developing countries throughout the



world. In the early 1990s, CA launched <u>The Chiapas Water Project</u> "to provide clean water to indigenous Mayan communities in Chiapas, Mexico." The goals were to ensure access to food, generate income, promote hygiene, prevent disease, and distribute time fairly among household members.

CA's action plan is based on "working with the most abundant resource in the communities: the people themselves." Meetings are held with community members to explain the scope of the work and foster community involvement. A community water committee is established to receive technical assistance and commit to maintaining the system. The committee includes an active village leader with connections to governing structures, and younger members who are bilingual (Spanish and Maya) and able to travel. A few community members are trained carefully to assess the water system and maintain the water project without outside intervention.

Training and technical assistance are critical to sustainability. They focus on connecting, repairing, replacing, and expanding capacity. All materials and tools are familiar, locally accessible, and readily available to the water committee.

Although Chiapas suffers from conflict, material poverty, and extreme weather, these obstacles have never prevented a water system project from moving forward once a community is committed and ready. Patience and good communication with the community have always overcome occasional delays within a month or two. To date, Concern America has built 40 water systems in the region, benefitting more than 12,000 people.

#### Visible Benefits

Time lost on fetching water is now devoted to other useful tasks. Waterborne illnesses are largely eliminated and skin-related illnesses greatly reduced.

Underlying all of this is community building resulting from a collective success. And communities demonstrate their pride! Religious and cultural celebrations always accompany inauguration of a village's system. Many take great care to paint their water tanks, often involving the school children, who depict their village's history.



### Upcoming Ventures

Next steps of The Chiapas Water Project include installation of five additional water systems and construction of additional water filters in three communities. This is combined with additional training diffusion among community members, and improvement of monitoring and evaluation practices.

These will directly benefit 300 members in some 60 families of the Mayan coffee-growing community in Chiapas, Mexico.

### A Replicable Solution

CA's community-centered approach can be replicated in any number of situations, be they water systems or other community projects. The organization's work throughout Latin America and in Africa on health, education, and income generation (in addition to water and sanitation) follows the same model of building community empowerment and ownership. CA is always open to sharing and collaborating with other groups.



Raised Hand Pumps Save Lives in India

## The problem

Floods are a recurrent problem in Uttar Pradesh, India. The result of torrential rainfall, typhoons, and broken dams during each rainy season, they often cause humanitarian emergencies: destroying houses, washing away land, and interrupting regular medical services. Silt swept downstream impacts the ecosystem and damages crops. It also endangers people's health as they are obliged to drink the same muddy water they use as an open-air toilet. Whole communities have to flee flooded areas; after abandoning their belongings, tools, and livestock, they have no means to earn a living.



## The solution

<u>Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra</u> (SSK) is a participatory learning organisation which empowers communities through building capacity for self-governance. Among other accomplishments, SSK has developed a simple, affordable, innovative solution to ensure access to potable water in flooded communities. Before this breakthrough initiative, Ghaghara River communities near the Nepal border, for example, would suffer devastating annual floods affecting 40-50,000 people in 209 villages.

Standard hand pumps get submerged under floodwaters, eliminating villages' source of safe drinking water. After a massively destructive flood in 2007, SSK and other organizations set to think of ways to ensure local communities continued to have clean drinking water and flood-resistant toilets during emergencies.

## Replicability around the globe

In 2008, SSK, with the support of Malteser International and the European Commission, installed 30 new hand pumps with raised platforms and proper drainage systems. Their platform level was based on the level of the last flood; the main structure was built of cement, providing structural stability and flood resistance. Later improvements have included stairs and railings to prevent falls. The space required has also been reduced. Their sturdy structures also allow locals to moor boats when they come to fetch water for their homes. And very importantly, their simple design now allows local communities to maintain and repair them independently.

The raised hand pumps have functioned effectively since 2008, providing a constant supply of clean water to flooded areas. They have also helped to reduce waterborne diseases significantly during floods. As a result of their success, the UNDP and government agencies have introduced raised hand pumps into their programmes. Their use keeps on expanding.

The simple technology is easily replicable in other flood-prone areas around the globe.





Green Enterprise in India, Good for People, Good for Business



### A Double Challenge

Mr. Ramesh Kumar Nibhoria is concerned with three major problems in rural India. First, fossil fuels in kitchens and small industries cause a number of environmental and health problems. Second, they emit high levels of CO2. Burning post-harvest field residues produces smoke, harming both the environment and people in the area. Cutting wood for fuel depletes the forests. Third, lack of employment opportunities pushes rural youth to the cities, depriving the countryside of future entrepreneurs and threatening it with economic stagnation.

#### Green entrepreneurship

Mr. Nibhoria has adopted an entrepreneurial approach to both problems. Since 1990, he has been working in the area of biomass to energy conversion, striving to find sustainable green energy alternatives to fossil fuels in kitchens and micro industries. In 1999 he founded <u>Nishant Bioenergy</u> <u>P Ltd</u> (NBPL) to produce biomass pellet manufacturing plants and commercial stoves.

The first stove model, the Biomass Briquette Stove (Sanjha Chulha) had emission and heat control issues. The NBPL team continued innovating. In



2010 the company started developing biomass fuel pellet technology; by 2014 they had mastered the technology. NBPL's workshop now manufactures small biomass pellet plants and pellet-fueled stoves. The smoke-free stoves, of industry standard design and performance, are suitable for commercial heating, cooking, and boiling. Operating costs benefit rural users, as biofuel costs less than fossil fuels.

NBPL has started franchising its products and services under the Green Enterprise (GE) name. It markets a key-in-hand operation with exclusive retail rights to a defined region. NBPL mentors the franchisee throughout the process of setting up the business: biomass pellet making; pellet stove installation, and troubleshooting. After that, the franchisee is fully equipped to operate the business independently.

#### Promising Results

Environmentally, GE is a winner, providing clean, environmentally-friendly service at competitive cost. Its benefits to users are clear.

Economically, the benefits are also clear. Within rural communities, local residents now find employment in each franchise's pellet factory. The franchise has exclusive rights to supply fuel pellets for all pellet stoves in its franchise area. (The pellet stoves are provided to consumers free of cost, a powerful marketing tool.)

#### **International Possibilities**

So far, GE has self-financed, operating frugally and marketing online through social media. It is now ready for scale up, through investment and grants, to a bigger factory and training centre to service thousands of small enterprises. NBPL envisions huge possibilities to replicate the GE franchise throughout Asia and Africa.



TellSpec: Food Security in Consumer's Hands





## The problem

Global competition has driven some suppliers to replace advertised food ingredients with cheaper and sometimes dangerous substitutes. A wellknown example of this occurred in 2008, where it was discovered that milk in China had been contaminated with melamine, an industrial chemical and known carcinogen that causes kidney failure. The Melamine incident affected 300,000 infants and young children, with six reported deaths. A more recent example occurred in 2015, when the Canadian government issued a warning regarding the high levels of aflatoxin in corn. Despite recognizing aflatoxin as carcinogen and a serious health risk, most food safety regulators have set a tolerance for aflatoxin as opposed to an absolute ban.

Consumers in rich and poor countries alike lack a quick, cheap and reliable way to analyze the food offered to them. Food-testing labs typically serve for large food manufacturers, and their results are not publicly available. Information on food labels may not be accurate or complete.

## Technology to the Rescue

<u>TellSpec</u>, a Canadian-based data company, has developed an affordable, handheld food scanner. This simple solution was designed to provide the most relevant, useful and accurate information about the food we eat. <u>The technology</u> is a three-part system: a pocket-sized scanner, a cloud-based analysis engine, and a mobile application. At a molecular level, the system identifies ingredients, food quality, calories, macronutrients, and allergens. At a glance, the consumer can now determine the authenticity, safety and nutritional value of the products on sale. It also gives the user knowledge about their health in relation to the food they consume.



## On a Mission

Everyone at Tellspec believes in the company's mission for a world of clean food. Its overriding purpose is to put the scanners in consumers' hands, not just grow a business. Most employees have given long hours without pay to the project. Some have even left other ventures to work for the firm, whose culture features strong respect among all team members. The company has currently 16 employees across North America, Europe and Asia, 6 volunteer advisors, and over 30 food testers across all continents.

### Power to the People

TellSpec's food scanning solution literally brings food testing in the hands of the consumer. Many food-testing labs exist, but they typically perform detection for large food manufacturing groups and their results are not publicly available. Food labels can give us some information, but they are not always accurate, and some ingredients may not be reported.

TellSpec's dedicated team has made this initiative sustainable. The scanner technology will be integrated into appliances and phones within the next 5 years. Over time, more consumers, restaurants, and supermarkets will realize its benefits. The WAF Award can give TellSpec the visibility needed to kickstart a consumer food revolution.



## School Water Kiosks – Empower the Community

WAFA finalist in 2016, "A Water Kiosk at School" project is a great example of the extraordinary results that can be obtained when two countries partner together. The <u>International Transformation Foundation</u> (ITF), a youth-led nonprofit organization based in Kenya, partnered with Netherlands-



based Join the Pipe Foundation (JTP) to design and produce water kiosks for schools across rural Kenya.

Venuste Kubwimana, Secretary General of ITF, says: "With the WAFA finalist recognition, our outreach improved, with more young people reaching out to join or volunteer within our organization. It also played a big role in motivating our existing partners, staff and members. Their commitment to their work up to now is obvious. Our beneficiaries and their networks also grew as they put in the effort to vote for ITF."

## The problem

In Kenya over half the population lacks access to affordable, safe drinking water. School children in small villages often have to walk miles to nearby villages to get clean drinking water. As a result, they are often absent from school and tend drop out altogether.

## An Entrepreneurial Approach

Venuste Kubwimana grew up in a large rural family of seven siblings in Rwanda. In Nairobi, Kenya, he established the <u>International Transformation</u> <u>Foundation</u> (ITF), a youth-led nonprofit organization to develop youth leadership and creative entrepreneurship in Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania. In 2009, ITF identified lack of affordable, clean water as a major issue impeding children's development and family resilience.

In 2013, ITF partnered with Netherlands-based Join the Pipe Foundation (JTP) to design and produce water kiosks for schools across rural Kenya. The innovative design features: a water-saving tap station, drip taps for hand washing, recyclable water bottles, easy push transport carts.

## Shared Responsibility

After discussion with ITF, a school administration commits formally to the project; it is understood that students will manage the business under teacher guidance. A complete installation costs approximately US\$10,000. ITF, the school and community members work together to estimate the funds needed to liquidate the costs within 24 months; water sales to community members funds construction costs. JTP has funded tap stations, bottles,



sanitation facilities, and carts through a Buy One Give One" campaign in the Netherlands.

School and ITF book keepers maintain detailed records, updated and crosschecked daily. With teacher support, students submit weekly and monthly reports to ITF.

## **Multiple Benefits**

In 2016, nine kiosks have been installed in three areas of Kenya, benefitting some 4000 students and 70000 community members. These encouraging results have led ITF to expand operations into Rwanda and Tanzania.

"Thanks to the Pollination Project Funding, in November 2016 we launched a public drinking tap water station in Nairobi's main recreational Park (Uhuru Park) in collaboration with Nairobi City County Government - Environment, Water department (See energy & this short video https://youtu.be/dCr8eRjW WI). The station is now providing drinking tap water free of charge to 400 – 500 people on daily basis. We are in the process (final stages) of setting up a water kiosk at Patriana educational Centre, in Makongeni estate (Nairobi). The Kiosk will be directly benefiting 216 students and about 31000 people living in Makongeni community, all of them have no access to tap water. Recently, i also signed a grant agreement with The Slovak Republic ambassador for the SlovakAid to finance setting up another water kiosk as school model at Agawo Primary school that will provide clean tap water to 477 students and about 2500 people residing around the school in Oyugis, Kenya."

This community-based business provides affordable potable water to the entire community independent of third parties. It also develops valuable business skills among the schoolchildren, the community's future leaders.

Environmentally, the initiative reduces plastic waste and CO2 emissions caused by the production and transport of water bottles and containers.



## Looking Forward

ITF plans to hold an annual conference for all participating schools to share their experiences and expertise. The conference will lay the foundation of an international entrepreneurial network to meet community social challenges and fund sustainable education.



Restoring the Farmers' Lifeline in India



The project "Reviving the farmers lifeline with the help of water resource development" won the WAF Award in 2016.

Mr. Mahendra Phate, director of the project together with Mr. Haribhai Mori, says: "Even though our area of work is confined within the Wardha district, India, through the WAF Award many people have come to know about our project. Thanks to WAFA we can reach people in many countries where there is a need for such a project."

## The Problem

In Warda District of Maharashtra State, India, silted seasonal rivers could no longer supply water for agriculture. Monsoon rains burst their banks, flooding fields, destroying crops, and eroding land. This desperate situation provoked



increasing suicides. After mobilizing the community in 2009, <u>Kamanayan</u> <u>Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation</u>(KJBF) initiated studies to restore the river system.

### Community Commitment

Farmers were reluctant to donate land for stream revival. However, through respectful dialogue, they came to support the project. KJPF's research, shared with all stakeholders, was key to this process. KJBF organized beneficiaries into user groups, which were active in all aspects of the project.

KJBF set farmers' contribution at 10 % of the cost and let user groups decide how to share the cost. Because farmers supported the project, they contributed quickly; some even contributed for less fortunate colleagues. During implementation, village volunteers marked the channel and supervised the work.

#### Resources

KJBF generally funds its projects; some are implemented in collaboration with government, NABARD and TATA Trusts. Community contribution, in cash and labour, ensures ownership and maintenance. Community volunteers assist KJBF's experts and social worker. KJBF's machines excavate at less than half the market rate rentals. A "no profit no loss" formula covers operations, maintenance, salaries, and depreciation.

## Spreading the Word

As word has spread of the benefits, user groups now organize themselves to raise their share. The Water Resource Team does a feasibility check, prepares a design, and works out details with stakeholders. When all stakeholders are on board, KJBF starts work.

#### Ongoing Improvements

KJBF has made three major changes to optimize results. First is excavating ponds for storage, recharge, and silt capture. User groups distribute the silt to farmers. Second is improving embankments. Third is raising farmers' contribution to 17%, with their agreement; the additional 7%, contributed in kind, purchases pipes to drain overflow back into the river.



Stakeholders are also working together to develop organic farming and learning water-saving techniques to mitigate climate change. KJBF collaborates with all stakeholders, levels, castes, and shades, including women.

### Obstacles

Maintenance is the main obstacle; government funding is scarce. KJBF trains user groups; some village committees contribute. KJBF is working with stakeholders to improve management.

### Measurable Success

On the supply side, 91 check dams conserve monsoon water, reviving 135 watercourses. Ample water from wells and conserved runoff has eliminated the need to bore into the aquifers. On the demand side, drip irrigation and sprinklers save water. Conservation measures and captured silt rejuvenate the soil. Consequently, agricultural production has increased substantially and the water table has remained stable. There have been no suicides among families in the programme.

This programme is replicable throughout India. The WAFA Awards can also help to communicate this possibility globally.



## Solar Power for Night Fishing in Sri Lanka

Finalist among more than 170 projects competing for the Award in 2016, the project developed by the Nagenahiru Foundation aims at replacing the use of harmful kerosene lamps with LED lanterns for night fishing. The project is



still running and has improved the technology and increased its visibility through media.

"Following the recognition of our project by the WAFA Award Committee we increased visibility through media. The Nagenahiru Team and our beneficiaries were motivated to step forward our innovation. Furthermore, with the motivation we achieved, we were able to improve our technology using this Solar LED lamping system for night fishing"in Sri Lanka.

## The problem

Due to growing demand for their product, traditional fishing communities were fishing at night with kerosene lamps and other fossil-fuel lighting. These tools polluted the air and aquatic ecosystem. They also impacted community health and cost families up to a third of their income.

## The Solution

The Sri Lankan <u>Nagenahira Foundation</u> focuses on environmental conservation, climate change and capacity building among communities in sensitive environmental locations. Identifying kerosene lighting as an urgent environmental and community issue. the Foundation introduced an effective, reliable, and affordable replacement: solar-based lighting.

The technology consists of an affordable LED lanterns powered by a rechargeable 12 volt 46 ampere lithium iron phosphate battery with a threeyear lifespan. The low-energy system provides improved lighting for up to 16 hours. The lanterns are recharged cheaply with 30 watt photo-voltaic (PV) panels, minimizing the environmental footprint. The lightweight lanterns are also easy to maintain.

## Worldwide Benefits

This low-maintenance LED technology is affordable, effective, and environmentally friendly. It is immediately applicable to artisanal fishing communities worldwide.

Read more on their website <u>www.nagenahiru.org</u>





### **SPOUTS of Water**

#### The Problem

The majority of Ugandans lack what so many of us take for granted – clean water. As a result, water-borne illnesses, like diarrhea, are the number one cause of death for children under five. To protect themselves, most people boil their water. Unfortunately, the wood consumed to boil water has led to massive deforestation.

In addition, fetching and boiling water are laborious tasks. The burden falls largely on women and children who are thereby hindered from going to school or attending to other important responsibilities.

#### Appropriate, Affordable Technology

In response to these problems, a group of Harvard University undergraduates founded <u>Spouts of Water</u> in 2011. Working to develop technology suitable for an emerging market, they created Purifaaya, an affordable ceramic filter made from local materials. The device is easy to use and maintain; unlike other devices, Purifaaya requires no replacement filters. The one-time \$20 outlay can be financed through local microfinance institutions.

#### A Successful Startup

In 2011, the developers moved to Uganda to start up Spouts of Water (Spouts). After establishing a factory, they set up a distribution process through multiple channels: NGOs, government agencies, and supermarkets. In 2014, Spouts established a second factory in Uganda; production tripled to 600 filters a month. By 2015, Spouts had installed 3,800 Purifaaya filters,



including 2,000 filters in public institutions, like schools, hospitals, prisons, and refugee camps.

To date, over 44,000 persons are using this innovative, affordable technology, and Spouts staff are seeing users' health improve. Spouts has also begun the process of quantified impact assessment with a local partner, Innovations for Poverty Action.

## Growing Success

Demand continues to exceed capacity! Spouts is now working to build a larger factory that can produce 2000 filters a month. The next steps are to optimize the current operations and scale up to keep improving Ugandans' lives.

## 2017:

### Award Celebrations

Covered by local media, Awards Celebrations were held on locations of Award Winners: Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, Wardha District, Maharashtra State, India: Reviving Farmers' lifeline through water resource development; Nichant Bioenergy, District Mohali, Punjab, India: Setting up sustainable green enterprises in rural India; Tellspec, Canada: Bringing food analysis in the hands of the consumers. Their success stories were disseminated globally via social media.

## **Public Voting**

These 3 winners were selected by and international expert jury among 175 applicants from 5 continents receiving a total of 183,571 unique votes.

## Sustainability Entrepreneurs Catalogue

Presenting winners, finalists and other high-ranking award applicants eligible for investments, impact investors, universities and corporations are catching interest for WAFA Sustainability Entrepreneurs Catalogue. Having passed a rigorous selection process, they are low risk investment.



## **CSR** Platform

Among other efforts, in 2017 WAFA partnered, for long term, with UBM Asia ASEAN (United Business Media). Covered by Malaysia's main national media, the first joint project was the conference "CSR Beyond Corporate Image". It included the of WAFA's forth patron, His Highness Crown Prince Tengku Amir Shah ibni Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah of Selangor Malaysia, panel sessions with academics, business executives, and WAFA winners who shared how their initiatives have transformed communities and restored hundreds of thousands of livelihoods: Permaculture Research Institute – represented by Co-director Rhamis Kent – and the Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation (KJBF) – represented by Chairman Shishir Bajaj. All expenses were covered by corporate sponsors.

Download link to highlights video: https://we.tl/h53jhjwGiE

## Awards Applications for 2018

For our 2018 nominations, we have received 171 applications from around the world: 80 from Africa, 30 from Asia, 25 from South America, 7 from Central America, 5 from North America, 5 from Europe, 4 from the Middle East, and 3 from Oceania.

Selections of 10 finalists for Awards Celebrations in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia September 2018 was completed in February 2018.

## Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

WAFA has been developing and has increased its following, positioning and visibility at an international level. Indicators to measure the outcomes of the work of the association cannot be simply listed. However, the increase of its activities, invitation to present at CIID (Copenhagen Impact Investing Days) at Copenhagen Business School, increase in quality of award applicants and the large number of voters from all around the world definitely show a growing interest and need for WAFA to continue.

As a result, universities in Malaysia, Ghana and Copenhagen wish to apply their research to WAFA approved award applicants, and thereby increase their scalability and replicability. Therefore, we are collaborating regarding



establishing WAFA Incubation and Innovation Centres on campus. We will invite award winners, finalists and other approved applicants to come and exchange knowledge and experience with students and researchers. Being an award-winning university of UN PRME (Principles for Responsible Management Education), introduced by UN Global Compact, the first university to establish a centre is tentatively Copenhagen Business School

We should also highlight that WAFA's Asia chapter, based in Malaysia Kuala Lumpur, has lead to collaboration with world's second largest exhibition and event organiser, and largest in Asia. Inspired by, and co-organizer of WAFA's 2017 CSR Conference in Kuala Lumpur, UBM (United Business Media) has proposed a long-term partnership. It will include taking WAFA Awards to countries in ASEAN. This clearly illustrates the need and interest to promote and encourage sustainable practice in the fields of clean water, air and food security in this part of the world.

Another major outcome of WAFA's work to promote best practice from a young age is the second award celebration for WAFA Youth. It took place on location of the winning project - Convent of Mercy Girls National School, Ireland. It was covered by media and filmed for a WAFA documentary.



Pupils from Convent of Mercy National School, Kanturk, have won the Water Air and Food Youth Award 2016 which was presented at the school on Monday 20th March. This award has never been won in Ireland before. Included in photo are Mary Stack (Green Schools Officer Cork County Council), Michael Twohig and Nuala Riordan (IRD Duhallow), Ayrton Cable (multi-ward winning SOCIAL ACTIVIST), Grainne Ryan (Water Explorers Dublin), and the girls Eacher Una Meehan. Photo by Sheila Fitzgeral





Michael Twohig, Paul Cable, Social Activist Ayrton Cable, Melissa O'Connor, Nuala Riordan, Una Meehan, and Derval Vaughan pictured at the presentation of the Water Air and Food Youth Award 2016 at Convent of Mercy National School, Kanturk.

Lastly, the Air category, started in 2015, has proven to attract high potential award applicants. Getting exposure and recognition, will help them attract support to scale and replicate their solutions. More effort is being planned to attract the highest quality with potential to contribute significantly to solve our global air pollution challenges.

As a result of the high quality of our award winners, finalists and other highranking award applicants we experience a growing interest from impact investors and universities.

Other indicators of the outcomes of the activities of the Association is the active participation of WAFA at international events such as:

- Italy: WAFA Global and WAFA Youth were exhibiting award winners and giving speeches at Seeds & Chips Global Food Innovation Summit in 2016 and 2017. While President Obama gave the keynote speech in 2017, WAFA President was also giving a speech from the same stage.
- China: At the invitation of WAFA Patron Professor Virginia Li, WAFA visited the Tobacco Crop Substitution Project and the School Sanitation Project in rural Yunnan. As a result, the Tobacco Crop Substitution project submitted their application and ended up among the Award finalist 2016, hence getting global exposure.

#### WAFA - WATER AIR FOOD AWARDS

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