

## SIWI World Water Week 2015

### Results of the work of the Poster Jury

On 27 August 2015, the Poster Jury met to conclude their assignment to judge the posters submitted for the SIWI World Water Week 2015.

The Poster Jury consisted of four Young Water Professionals:

Françoise Bichai, Canada

Safa Fanaian, India

Janina Murta, Australia

Kanika Thakar, Canada

and was chaired by Robert Bos, Senior Advisor, International Water Association, Netherlands.

Following extended and challenging deliberations, the Jury agreed to award the 2015 Poster Prize in the category Information Technology, to

*Distributed monitoring of shallow aquifer level using community handpumps,*

By Patrick Thomson, Heloise Greeff, Farah Colchester and David Clifton -- Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, Institute of Biomedical Engineering, University of Oxford, UK

The motivation of the Poster Jury highlights the following aspects of the work by Mr Thomson and his colleagues in the UK and Kenya:

**Relevance** – the Jury considers the research question highly relevant in the context of rising concerns about shallow ground water quantities in many countries, and therefore also relevant to the sustainable development of drinking water supply in rural areas in many parts of the world, in line with the SDG6 targets. This poster is also considered highly relevant to the theme of the 2015 SIWI World Water Week *Water and Development*.

**Innovation** – the Jury lauds the innovative thinking behind the research question and the way new opportunities resulting from the introduction of information technology in hand pump management are seized, to come to a novel way of intensifying and enhancing the resolution of shallow ground water monitoring in a sustainable manner.

**Simplicity** – the simplicity of the concept and the research carried out reflect an elegant way of addressing a research question that focuses on developing low-cost technology, piggy-backing on already on-going innovations through information technology with distinct benefits for the rural poor.

**Applicability** – the Jury sees important opportunities for the research results to be applied and scaled up in a way that will significantly enhance the evidence base for the shallow ground water resources, in addition to the pump maintenance functions of the information technology installed.

The Jury congratulates Mr Thomson and his team on the research they performed, and on the outstanding poster presentation that brought the methods, results and conclusions to the water professionals attending the SIWI World Water Week.

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