

About B-IWA

Some history

In 1947 the International Water Supply Association (IWSA) was created in order to defend the interests of drinking water suppliers worldwide. A similar association was created in 1965 for the waste water sector, the International Association on Water Pollution Research (I.A.W.P.R.). Over the years, and with a number of changes in their names, both undertook to encompass the entire sector of drinking water and waste water.

In 1999 a merger took place between both organisations to form [I.W.A.](#) (International Water Association).

In Belgium separate national committees had existed for both associations, the IWSA national committee, being a [BELGAQUA](#) committee without independent structure, and the IAWPR (and later IAWQ) committee being an independent non-profit making association first patronaged by the Belgian Ministry of Health and since the seventies being given logistical and financial support by [BELGAQUA](#). Both entities also merged on 10th October 2000 to form B-IWA, the Belgian Committee of the International Water Association, remaining a non-profit making association under Belgian law.

The former Belgian Committee of IAWQ

A Belgian national committee of I.A.W.P.R., the International Association on Water Pollution Research, was created on 15/1/1971 at the initiative and with the support of the Belgian Ministry of Public Health. It was hosted by this ministry and chaired by Prof. Edmond Leclerc (University of Liège) from 1971 until 1977.

Chairmanship was then taken over by Prof. André Van Haute (University of Louvain) and the secretariat was transferred to the offices of the Belgian association of drinking water companies NAVewa/ANSEAU, later to become BELGAQUA.

From then on the secretariat was assumed by BELGAQUA personnel (first Gilbert Bury, then Francis Rillaerts, now Nicole Van Eylen). Prof. Van Haute remained President until his death in 1989 when Dr. Willy Masschelein took over for a period of 10 years. Since 1999 Prof. Willy Verstraete (University of Ghent) chaired the Belgian Committee and, as from 2000, also the merged committee now named B-IWA.

Goals

The Belgian national committee of I.A.W.P.R.'s major goal was to promote scientific research in the field of waste water treatment in Belgium. This was achieved by organising seminars and awarding a biennial prize for students. In the early years one seminar was held every year, later two, and even sometimes a two or three day conference, such as the international specialised conference on micropollutants in 1981. A biennial Prize, named after the founding President, "Prize Edmond Leclerc", was awarded to students of Belgian universities presenting a thesis in the field of water. The initial amount of the prize was 50.000 Belgian francs. It was awarded until 1980 and then interrupted for economical reasons until 1992, when it was reinstored and the amount

increased to 100.000 Belgian francs. The name was changed into "Prize E. Leclerc - A. Van Haute", in memory of its two late Presidents.

Data on prize winners still in our possession :

1980 (ex aequo) :

- Daniel Tyteca (UCL) - "Modélisation et optimisation économique des stations d'épuration d'eaux résiduaires"
- J. Houtmeyers (LISEC) - "Relations between substrate feeding pattern and development of filamentous bacteria in activated sludge processes"

1991 : Pascale Renard (UCL) - "Épuration anaérobie des eaux usées: utilisation de stratégies de contrôle adaptatif"

1995 : Bernard Tychon (Fondation Univ. Luxembourgeoise - Arlon) - "Etude du transfert d'eau et d'azote dans les sols d'un micro-bassin agricole"

1995 : J. Vandenaabeele (RUG) - "Mangaanverwijdering door microbiële consortia uit snelle zandfilters die Mn²⁺ -en NH₄⁺ -houdend water behandelen"

1997 : Michel Verbanck (ULB) - "Transferts de la charge particulaire dans l'égout principal de la ville de Bruxelles"

1999 : Stefan Van Poucke (RUG) - "Ontwikkeling en evaluatie van enzymatische methoden voor de snelle detectie van totaal coliformen en escherichia coli in drinkwater"

After that, in the newly merged B-IWA, the formula was changed into a Poster Prize of 20.000 Belgian francs/500 euro awarded three times a year (link to [Poster Prize](#)).