

Swedish Award Honours Polish Initiatives to Reduce Nutrient Transport to the Baltic Sea

Visby, Sweden (2010-07-05) – The 2010 Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award goes to Prof. Maciej Nowicki and Prof. Marek Gromiec. The two winners will receive the award in recognition of their respective efforts to reduce the Polish nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea. The announcement was made today in Visby by Mr. Joakim Stymne, Sweden's State Secretary for International Development Cooperation.

For translations, photos and background information see: www.siwi.org/baltic_award_2010

When naming the winners of the 2010 Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award, Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs have chosen to highlight the initiatives of two Poles whose respective work have contributed to improvement of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea. Nutrients from wastewater and agricultural activities have a strong negative impact on the water quality of the Baltic Sea. During the last decade, Poland has made considerable investments in new and modernised sewage treatment, which has led to a significant decrease in the concentration of nutrients being transported to the Baltic Sea.

In its official motivation, the award committee points out that Prof. Maciej Nowicki and Prof. Marek Gromiec have managed to link science, management and politics in successful programmes for reducing the Polish nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea.

Professor **Maciej Nowicki** is the founder of EcoFund, an independent non-profit institution which channels foreign financial resources into environmental protection projects in Poland. Since its establishment in 1992, EcoFund has subsidized initiatives of both national and international significance. Prof Nowicki served as Eco Fund's president until 2007.

Professor **Marek Gromiec** has led a number of national and international projects on water management which has led to the development of a national water policy and pollution control strategies. As the Chairman of the Polish National Council for Water Management, he has significantly contributed to reduction of Poland's pollution into the Baltic Sea.

Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs will present the two winners with the award on September 7 during the 2010 World Water Week in Stockholm. The award ceremony will be open to the public.

About the Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award

Established in 1999, the Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award honours innovation, commitment and new methods that help protect the Baltic Sea water environment. The Award is presented annually by Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs and is administrated by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). The prize sum was increased this year from 100,000 SEK to 250,000 SEK. For more info about the award and previous winners see: <http://www.siwi.org/swedishbalticseawateraward>