



LEE KUAN YEW
WATER PRIZE 2026

HONOURING THE BEST MINDS OF OUR GENERATION

The Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize honours outstanding contributions by individuals or organisations towards solving the world's water challenges by developing or applying innovative technologies, policies or programmes which benefit humanity.

This prestigious international award is named after Singapore's first Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, whose foresight and leadership have enabled Singapore to attain a sustainable water supply.

THE GAME CHANGERS IN WATER SOLUTIONS

Since its inception in 2008, the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize has gained a standing in the global water arena as the premier Water Prize amongst its peers, by focusing on innovative water technologies, policies or programmes that have been game-changers in their real-world applications.

The Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize 2026 laureate will receive S\$300,000, a certificate, and a gold medallion at the award ceremony during the Singapore International Water Week 2026 to be held from 15-19 June 2026.



Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize Medallion

TWO-STAGE NOMINATION PROCESS



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Opening Date:
16 April 2025, Wednesday
8am (+8 GMT)

Closing Date:
15 August 2025, Friday
6pm (+8 GMT)

Nomination Portal:
<https://go.gov.sg/lkywp2026nomination>



Nomination Guidelines:
<https://www.siww.com.sg/landing-page/nomination-guidelines>

LEE KUAN YEW WATER PRIZE LAUREATES

The honour roll for the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize commemorates ten laureates for their ground-breaking solutions in wastewater-based epidemiology, membrane technology, used water treatment and holistic water policies and management which have improved the lives of many globally. Their achievements represent the pinnacle in sustainable water solutions that have made a difference to cities and people around the world.

2024



“It is a great honour and privilege to receive the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize. I also see it as recognition for the hard work of many people in the water sector worldwide, who collect COVID-19 data from wastewater to help our society respond to the pandemic. It strengthens the relationships between the water and health sectors. In the current post-pandemic world, sewage monitoring is now firmly established as a tool for public health surveillance for an increasing number of diseases.”

PROFESSOR GERTJAN MEDEMA
Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize 2024 Laureate

Professor Gertjan Medema from the KWR Water Research Institute was awarded the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize for 2024 for his significant contributions in the field of wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE in short). His timely research breakthrough has global impact and enabled the use of wastewater surveillance during the COVID-19 pandemic to fight the spread of the virus.

2020

PROFESSOR KAZUO YAMAMOTO



Pioneered the development of the submerged membrane bioreactor (MBR), a technology that has since revolutionised sewage treatment globally, benefiting hundreds of millions of people.

2018

PROFESSOR RITA COLWELL



Pioneered the use of novel molecular methods for accurate and comprehensive diagnostics of water pathogens, and microbial water quality surveillance.

2016

PROFESSOR JOHN ANTHONY CHERRY



Revolutionised groundwater science and technologies, and developed a better scientific framework for policies and best practices globally.

2014

THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT



Pioneered the production and use of recycled water, and developed innovative groundwater management and outreach programmes.

2012

PROFESSOR MARK VAN LOOSDRECHT



Developed the completely autotrophic nitrogen removal process, Anammox.

2011

DR JAMES BARNARD



Invented an eco-friendly method of nutrient removal for used water.

2010

YELLOW RIVER CONSERVANCY COMMISSION



Integrated river basin management through innovative policies and solutions leading to widespread and sustainable social, economic, and environmental benefits.

2009

PROFESSOR GATZE LETTINGA



Pioneered the treatment of used water using anaerobic technology to purify used water cost-effectively.

2008

DR ANDREW BENEDEK



Pioneered the development of low-pressure membranes in water treatment.

VIEW ALL THE PRIZE LAUREATES



The Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize is presented in partnership with

TEMASEK FOUNDATION

Temasek Foundation supports a diverse range of programmes that uplift lives and communities in Singapore and beyond. Temasek Foundation's programmes are made possible through philanthropic endowments gifted by Temasek, as well as gifts and other contributions from other donors. These programmes strive towards achieving positive outcomes for individuals and communities now, and for generations to come. Collectively, Temasek Foundation's programmes strengthen social resilience, foster international exchange and regional capabilities, advance science, and protect the planet.

For more information, please visit www.temasekfoundation.org.sg.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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For more information on Singapore International Water Week, please visit: www.siww.com.sg

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