

## Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Israel

Under the auspices of the Iby and Aladar Fleischman Faculty of Engineering,  
Tel Aviv University and the Jewish National Fund – USA in memory of Zevi Kahanov  
With the Support of the Raquel and Manuel Klachky Fund

## תחרות פרס המים של שטוקהולם לנוער בישראל

בחסות הפקולטה להנדסה ע"ש איבי ואלדר פליישמן, אוניברסיטת תל אביב  
ניו איש נשיונל פאנד ארה"ב אשר תמיכתה בפרויקט מוקדשת לזכרו של זאבי כהנוב ז"ל  
בתמיכת קרן ראקל ומנואל קלצ'קי



Stockholm Junior Water Prize 2024 – International Summary Stockholm Junior Water Prize is an international competition that brings together creative and ambitious young pupils from all over the world, encouraging their continued interests in water and sustainability issues. In 2024, 40 finalists from 30 countries attended World Water Week in Stockholm and presented their creative solutions to broad aspects of water and sustainability issues.



**Nitzan Ezra from Mekif Aleph high school in Beer Sheba** has represented Israel in the International competition of 2024. Her research "Increasing the Use of Brackish Water for Irrigation by Enhancing Plant Salinity Stress Tolerance" conducted under academic guidance of Prof. Zeev Ronen and Ms. Damiana Diez-Rack as a part of Alpha program at Ben Gurion University has shown that using plant growth promoting bacteria found in Bushy-Bean Caper, a naturally growing plant in the Negev desert in Israel, we can deal with both food and water scarcity, by prolong irrigation with brackish water without losing crops. According to Dr Andrea Rinaldo 2023 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate and a judge in the international jury in the **face-to-face interviews** Nitzan "proved intense, articulate and capable

of responding with insight and accuracy" young scientist, dilligently researching one of the key topics in today's water research field.



During the intensive week in which Nitzan has stayed in Stockholm she met imaginative young researchers from all over the world and exchanged ideas with water professionals, who exhibited their work at the exhibition and the conference. Together with other finalists, she has enjoyed several social and educational activities organized by SIWI (Stockholm International Water Institute) team: visited the headquarters of Xylem Inc., the global sponsor of the competition, enjoyed a guided tour at Skansen Museum and, of course, roamed the streets of Stockholm day and night.



At the most exciting moment for the finalists, they were honored by the presence of H.R.H. Crown-Princess Victoria of Sweden, the patron of the prize. Nitzan had the opportunity to meet HRH prior to the award ceremony.

At the ceremony the 2024 SJWP winners were announced:

**WINNERS 2024**

<p><b>STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE</b> <b>Christopher Whitfeld and Wenqi (Jonathan) Zhao, United Kingdom</b> PFASolve: An integrated framework for the detection and filtration of perfluoroalkyl substances from surface water in the Thames Basin</p>	<p><b>DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE</b> <b>Shanni Valeria Mora Fajardo and Rosa Mendoza, Mexico</b> Reuse of Inked Water with Homemade Filtration to Produce Veggie Gardens</p>	<p><b>PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD</b> <b>Manoel José Nunes Neto, Brazil</b> Aquatic Rover: An autonomous vehicle for water quality: A low-cost portable tool</p>
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As a part of a long-time tradition, the Israeli team has been invited to the Embassy of Israel in Sweden. Mr. Ziv Nevo Kulman, the current Ambassador and Mrs. Arezoo Hersel-Rohila Deputy Chief of Mission, have made the Israeli team feel (literally) at home abroad and gave Nitzan the opportunity to present her project in Hebrew.

From left to right: Mr. Ziv Nevo Kulman, Nitzan Ezra, Ms. Helena Tenenbaum and Mrs. Arezoo Hersel-Rohila (hostess) Dr. Gefen Ronen-Eliraz and Ms. Neomi Ronen Eliraz near the Israeli Embassy

The SJWP finalists were also invited to the Royal Banquet at the famous Stockholm City Hall where HM King Carl XVI Gustaf awarded Professor Taikan Oki from Japan with the 2024 Water Prize. The 2024 SJWP finalists at the Royal Banquet and Water Prize ceremony.



Though Nitzan did not receive an international prize this year, she has represented Israel in a very honorable manner. Besides, as Nitzan has said, it has been a once in a lifetime experience, with a chance to meet interesting talented colleagues and now she has a place to stay at in 29 countries around the world. <https://studioadapt.solidtango.com/live/30002-stockholm-junior-water-prize-royal-award-ceremony> (Israeli flag reigns high at 3:00)



This was also a very fruitful week for the national organizers, academic advisors, accompanying people and teachers. A network of international cooperations was established during several social and professional gatherings: a Welcome Reception for

national organizers at Scandic Klara Hotel and later during the week at the Mexican Embassy and at an event organized by The Brazilian Chamber of Commerce in Sweden. The tour Skansen Museum followed by dinner with Xylem sponsors team and international jury allowed for professional discussions in a more informal way. Much was discussed during preparations for the ceremony and national organizers Seminar concentrating on generating new realistic ideas for improving SJWP.

The Stockholm Water Prize in Israel team would like to express thanks to international SIWI team, the Faculty of Engineering of Tel-Aviv University, the Raquel and Manuel Klachky Fund, the Jewish National Fund USA (in memory of Zevi Kahanov), for their continuous support. The support of Water Research Center at TAU, Israel Water Authority and the Ministry of Education is also heartfully acknowledged.

Reported by: Helena Tenenbaum, National Organizer of SJWP in Israel