

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
נ'איש נשיונל פאנד ארה"ב אשר תמיכתה בפרויקט מוקדשת לזכרו של זאבי כהנוב ז"ל
בתמיכת קרן ראקל ומנואל קלצקי

Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Israel 2025: Finals Summary and Award Announcement



SJWP in Israel is held annually under the auspices of the Fleischman Faculty of Engineering of TAU, with the support of the Jewish National Fund - USA (in memory of Zevi Kahanov) and the Raquel & Manuel Klachky endowment, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Water Authority and others. It is administrated by a national organizer (Helen Tanenbaum), with Prof. Emeritus Gedeon Dagan serving as the Academic Director.



This year 42 water related projects from all over Israel were submitted their nomination to the competition. Around 125 pupils from 25 Israeli high-schools (some of which have participated in the competition for the first time) conducted water related research on two levels: (1) a small-scale research project and (2) an expanded research project in three categories: (a) Research and Development; (b) Technology and Entrepreneurship, and (c) Humanities and Social Sciences.



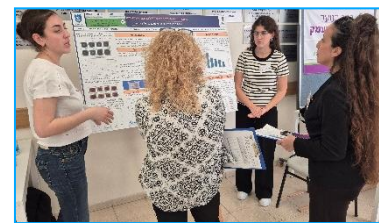
During the first stage of the competition, a team of professionals from the Water Authority and Water Research Center in TAU evaluated all the projects. This is an opportunity to thank Mr. Uri Schor and Dr. Gefen Ronen-Eliraz, who evaluated the projects thoroughly, on a volunteer basis. Eleven leading projects according to the preliminary evaluation were invited to present their work to the jury at TAU on Tuesday May 6th

The finalists had the opportunity to present their studies to the jury. The students prepared scientific posters, oral presentations for their study and answered questions posed by the jury of specialists. This year's jury panel consisted of:

1. Samia Abu-Hayat, Ministry of Education
2. Prof. (emeritus) Avner Adin, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
3. Dr. Orna Bergerzon, (former) Ministry of Environment
4. Prof. (emeritus) Gedeon Dagan, Tel Aviv University
5. Prof. Alex Furman, The Technion
6. Mrs. Michal Relevi, Ministry of Education
7. Dr. Gefen Ronen-Eliraz, Water Research Center TAU
8. Mr. Uri Schor, Water Authority
9. Dr. Sigal Talker, Ministry of Education

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Sigal Talker and Mrs. Michal Relevi, who have joined the jury committee for the first time and contributed significantly to the grading of the projects.

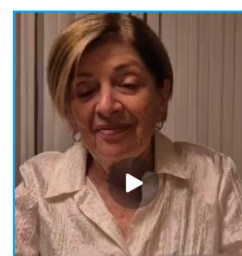
After the interviews by the jury, the students had the opportunity to present their research in English to HE Ms. Alexandra Rydmark, the Ambassador of Sweden in Israel.



The award ceremony was held in the presence of HE Ms. Alexandra Rydmark, the Ambassador of Sweden; Prof. Noam Eliaz, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Tel Aviv University and other distinguished guests. During the ceremony, guests of honor congratulated the participants for their impressive, thorough and original research works and encouraged them to continue conducting water related research. They also thanked the jury panel members for their dedication. Prof. Dagan recalled the process leading to the establishment of the prize in Israel 25 years ago and thanked all the sponsors, especially JNF USA for their generous support in the name of Zevi Kahanov. It makes possible the continuation and success of the project in recent years. Prof. Eliaz invited the participants to come back to the faculty as students.

In a moving video clip Mrs. Esti Kahanov, the wife of the late Zevi Kahanov, whose enthusiasm and effort has contributed to the continuous financial support for the project by the JNF, addressed the audience. She recalled his vision, his belief in the enrollment of the young generation, followed by broadcast of a beautiful song written by Zevi and composed by his good friend:

<https://youtu.be/KkY25fMaDoA?si=f0j70nmsmotU0MEZ>.



The Key Note Speakers of the ceremony were the 2017 SJWPI laureate Noah Gedalia Golani and 2024 laureate Nitzan Ezra, who briefly presented the audience with their research and focused mainly on their unforgettable experience in

representing Israel at the international competition. The speakers addressed the future laureate and stressed the importance of representing Israel with honor, no matter the results of the competition. Besides, they emphasized that "It's one in a life time experience and you should enjoy it as much as possible. It allows you to meet people from all over the world and stay in touch with them for years".

2025 School Water Prize for investing in research related to water issues and of prolonged participation in the competition to **Western Galilee Comprehensive School** in Naharia. This year the school has participated in the competition for the 7th time.



2025 SJWP Laureate of Israel is Hadasa Garunov from Tamar Ariel high school in Netanya for "Developing a Chemo-Electric Chip for Fast Detection of Water Pollution. The jury mentioned the depth of the scientific research that deals with an acute and relevant problem. The jury also emphasized the student's knowledge and professionalism which led to her selection. Consequently, she was supposed to travel to Stockholm in August this year to represent Israel at the international SJWP and to receive a year scholarship, if she chooses to study at TAU in the future.

Amir Aronovitch, pupil of the Levi Eshkol high school in Ramat HaSharon, part of the educational complex Green Youth Village (Hakfar HaYarok) was proclaimed as the winner among the full-scale research projects in the “**Technology and Entrepreneurship**” category. His project "Making Water Out of Thin Air: Atmospheric Water Generation Using Thermoelectric Cooling Technology: Performance Analysis Under Varying Environmental Conditions" **was** conducted at Tel Aviv University in the laboratory of Prof. Ines Zucker under the guidance of Dr. Guy Tel-Zur from Ben Gurion University. The jury noted the innovative idea and the potential of this research for saving lives in the future.



Haim Or Elmakias, Western Galilee Comprehensive School in Naharia was announced as a winner among the full-scale research projects in the “**Social and Humanities**” category for his project "The Israel State Activity to Implement UN Water Goals between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority" under the academic direction of Mr. Tamir Sabag. The jury stressed the importance of the research project especially in view of the complicated relations among the involved parties. Uri Schor, the Head of Education and Communication at Water

Authority emphasized the importance of continuing the research, while widening the database sources.

Both students will receive a 1000NIS cash prize and half a year tuition scholarship, if they choose to study at the Faculty of the Engineering at TAU in the future.

Among the **small-scale research projects** **Artiom Grigoriev, Kirill Sak, Daniel Breinman and Sergey Yanovitch** from Naale Program at Hadasa Neurim high school in Beit Yanay were announced as winners for their "Rain Water Gathering Technological Solution". The school will receive a 500 NIS cash prize for the students and a diploma.

All the participants, the finalists, the winners and their schools will receive diplomas accordingly.



For personal reasons the 2025 SJWPI laureate – Hadasa Garunov – has decided to step down in representing Israel at the international competition and the honor moved to Amir Aronovitch, who took up the challenge and in a very short period has prepared his project to meet the international criteria and also created a video to be presented for the People's Choice Award that were submitted to the international competition. However, although his project was developed and completed in high school, it turned out later on that according to the competition updated rules, Amir couldn't present his project to the jury because he became an university student in the meantime.

Nevertheless, for his commitment and exceptional effort to **represent** Israel in the international competition, **Amir will be held as 2025 SJWPI Laureate** and receive the year scholarship, if he chooses to study at TAU in the future. **Hadasa Garunov**, on the other hand, will receive the title of a **winner** among full-scale research projects in the "**Research & Development**" category, and receive a 1000NIS cash prize.

In spite of the mentioned above technical disqualification, as a token of appreciation for his efforts, the international management of the competition decided to allow Amir participate in the intensive Stockholm Junior Water Prize activities and unofficially represent Israel including participation in the flag parade during the SJWP ceremony and **presentation of** his project to the public prior to that.

We would like to thank Amir for the decision to join the above activities in Sweden albeit unofficially.

Written by: Helen Tenenbaum, SJWPI National Organizer