

Environment Prize for EAWAG

The EAWAG research group "Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries" (Sandec) has been awarded the Energy Globe Special Prize 2004. Martin Wegelin received the prize on 27 April 2005 at EXPO 05 – the world exhibition in Aichi/Japan. The prize was awarded for the SODIS Project, a simple but ingenious method of solar disinfection using common PET bottles. The Energy Globe is one of the world's most prestigious environment prizes and, thanks to the high level of media attention, will help greatly in spreading the SODIS method.



EAWAG

Greater security of drinking water supplies

High quality drinking water is taken for granted in Switzerland. However, bacteriological contamination of water supplies still represents a hazard to consumers. A new method has been developed at EAWAG to test the microbial quality of drinking water faster, more reliably and more cheaply than has been previously possible. Instead of waiting up to 12 days for the growth of cell cultures, the first results are available within 6–24 hours using the EAWAG technique. EAWAG has taken out patent protection on this invention and is looking for a manufacturer for the new instrument. Since the components are already being used in other applications, no costly development is required. The marketing potential worldwide is enormous. Along with drinking water management, the EAWAG method is also interesting for mineral water manufacturers.



EAWAG

RUMBA: Promoting Sustainability

In 1999 the Swiss Federal Parliament decided to introduce RUMBA Resource and Environmental Management in all federal administration, including the ETH domain. Under the guidance of the appointed EAWAG environmental manager, Herbert Güttinger, this four-year project is coming to a close. Already since April 2003 RUMBA is in use at EAWAG. The project involved the formulation of a new environmental policy, adaptation of management procedures, allocation of responsibilities and the definition of targets. EAWAG is attempting to reduce the consumption of non-renewable energy by 80% in the period between 1990 and 2025. A large step has been made towards achieving this target with the decision to construct a new building, Forum Chriesbach, a "MinergieP" House.

The final project report "RUMBA and the ETH domain" (only in German) and further information can be obtained from www.ethrat.ch (link Environment Management) and www.umwelt.eawag.ch.

The construction of "Forum Chriesbach" is advancing

Following the laying of the foundation stone in October of last year, on 2 June 2005 the topping-out ceremony was held for the new EAWAG building "Forum Chriesbach". The building, to house around 120 EAWAG staff, sets new benchmarks for sustainable development and will be completed in 2006. In the foundation stone were placed architectural designs, a daily newspaper, an EAWAG Annual Report, a microsensor for the detection of arsenic in water, as well as a water sample from the Greifen Lake from 16 August 1999 (the day of the great whitefish kill) for later generations to find.



EAWAG

Swiss Fishery Advisory Office FIBER opened

Since July 2004, the Swiss Fishery Advisory Office (FIBER) is active to answer the needs of fishermen. This office continues the valuable information platform for all matters concerning fish and waters established during the "Fishnet" project. FIBER is the outcome of a collaboration between EAWAG, FOEFL and the Swiss Fisheries Association (SFA). Susanne Haertel-Borer and Guy Périat are managing the advisory office located at EAWAG in Kastanienbaum.

www.fischereiberatung.ch