



Press Release

## **Presentation of the 5th One World Award**

**Festive award gala for the winners from around the world**

Legau, September 8, 2017 *On the occasion of the Rapunzel Naturkost One World Festival the five winners of the 5th One World Award – in short OWA – were presented in a festive gala on September 8. For this event, nearly 700 guests from all parts of the world came to Legau in the Allgäu region. This year, two outstanding projects shared the OWA Grand Prix and the 30,000 Euro prize money: State Prime Minister Shri Pawan Chamling from India who managed to convert the Indian federal state Sikkim together with 65,000 farmers to organic agriculture in only twelve years. The United World Colleges (UWC) from Freiburg/Germany and Pune/India with their social and sustainable educational programs that correspond remarkably well with the OWA goals.*

Only within a few years, the OWA established itself to the most important award of the global organic movement. Joseph Wilhelm, founder and managing director of Rapunzel Naturkost and initiator of the OWA, describes the award in his opening address as an “encourager award that honours people and initiatives that promote fair and equitable globalization.” The award that is presented by Rapunzel and IFOAM – Organics International is awarded every three years.

The German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Dr. Gerd Müller and Joseph Wilhelm presented the awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award that went to the Ethiopian scientist and environmental activist Dr. Tewolde Berhan and his wife Dr. Sue Edwards who are the first married couple to receive this award for their profound life’s work. The laudatory speech for this honorary award gave Markus Arbenz, executive director of IFOAM – Organics International.

Short film clips and interviews showed the audience the great commitment of the winners. The host of the evening was journalist and book author Dr. Tanja Busse who found empathetic words for a moving and emotional award ceremony. The well-known guitar soloist Walter Abt performed the suitable background music.

The prize money of 5,000 Euro each and an OWA medal went to Professor Amin Babayev from Azerbaijan, Nasser Abufarha (Canaan Project) from Palestine and Martha-Jean Shamiso Mungwashu from Zimbabwe. Roberto Ugas (World Board IFOAM – Organics International,





Peru), Steffen Reese (Naturland Deutschland) and Helmy Abouleish (Sekem, Egypt) gave the laudatory speeches.

The highlight of the gala was the presentation of the OWA Grand Prix to two winners: State Prime Minister Shri Pawan Chamling from India and the representatives of the United World Colleges (UWC) from Freiburg/Germany and Pune/India. Each of the two winners received a prize money of 15,000 Euro and an OWA statue created by the Vietnamese-German artist Dao Droste for their outstanding commitment and their extraordinary initiatives. The laudatory speech for the two Grand Prix winners held Right Livelihood Award laureate, Dr. Vandana Shiva, the globally recognized environmental activist and eco-feminist.

The concluding group picture with all the winners and participants was impressive proof how diverse „one world“ can be and what impact the activities of individual people can have.

Joseph Wilhelm and the OWA coordinator Bernward Geier (coordinator and chairman of the OWA jury) were excited about the great success of the 5th One World Award and were already looking forward to the nominations from around the world for the next OWA that will be awarded in the year 2020.

### **About the One World Award (OWA)**

Making our world better and more equitable and conserving the livelihood of our planet for everybody has moved Joseph Wilhelm, the German organic pioneer and founder of Rapunzel Naturkost for a long time. This notion finally inspired him to initiate an international award – the so-called One World Award. Since 2008, the One World Award honours people and projects at the international level who create future in the sense of positive globalization for the people in their respective home countries.

Today, humankind faces the challenge to utilize the opportunities of globalization in such a way that globalization is more than just profit maximization at the cost of the vast majority of the global population. Therefore, the goals of the OWA are basing on the four pillars of sustainability: ecology, economy, social and cultural aspects.

IOFAM – Organics International, the global umbrella association of the global organic agricultural movement (800 member organizations and institutions in 120 countries) is the ideal partner for Rapunzel for the organization of the award event.

For more information: [www.one-world-award.de](http://www.one-world-award.de)

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