



THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

1994 BLUE PLANET PRIZE: ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD WINNERS

Academic Award:

Professor Dr. Eugen Seibold, professor emeritus at the University of Kiel

Development and Implementation Award:

Lester R. Brown, founder and president of the Worldwatch Institute

Tokyo, July 25, 1994—The Asahi Glass Foundation, chaired by Hideaki Yamashita, has selected the recipients of the Third Blue Planet Prize, an international award first presented in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. The prize is presented annually by the Foundation to commend individuals, groups and organizations whose achievements have contributed to solving global environmental problems.

The **1994 Blue Planet Prize Academic Award**, which recognizes truly outstanding research achievements, goes to **Professor Dr. Eugen Seibold**, professor emeritus at the University of Kiel. Dr. Seibold has conducted research ranging from coastal to deep-sea zones in many areas of the world, accumulating experience and knowledge enabling hypotheses about future climatic changes.

The **1994 Blue Planet Prize Development and Implementation Award**, which acknowledges active involvement in and exceptional contributions to solving global environmental problems, is awarded to **Lester R. Brown**, founder and president of the Worldwatch Institute. The Institute is one of the world's leading private-sector think tanks focusing on global environmental problems.

In addition to public recognition, each winner will receive ¥50 million. An awards ceremony will be held in Tokyo on November 2, 1994.

Selection Rationale

Professor Dr. Eugen Seibold

Since being appointed in 1958 as professor and director of the Geological-Paleontological Institute at the University of Kiel, Dr. Seibold has investigated seafloors from the coast to the deep sea and the processes shaping them. The results of his work have contributed to informed speculations about future climates. Examples of his work include

- clarification of transport routes and sedimentation processes in the Baltic and North seas, enabling predictions about sand and mud dispersion and deposits;
- studies of the formation of carbonate deposits and observations of biodiversity of foraminifera;
- research into carbon dioxide exchange between the oceans and the atmosphere and its relationship to global warming;
- analysis of oceanic sedimentary processes off the coast of West Africa and their relationships to climatic changes in the Sahara Desert, important data for understanding desertification in North Africa; and

- clarification of the relationship between atmospheric circulation and terrestrial environmental changes based on investigations of the dispersion of aeolian deposits.

Dr. Seibold's work is highly acclaimed in academic circles because of its early application of an interdisciplinary approach to marine geology, combining geophysics, geochemistry, marine biology, soil engineering and environmental science. Dr. Seibold has also been instrumental in teaching and inspiring researchers working with him and in promoting this field of study throughout the world.

Lester R. Brown

In 1965, while working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, Mr. Brown predicted a poor harvest in India and advised the U.S. and Indian governments to formulate strategies to soften the effects on the population. He was also one of the first to alert the world to the severity of famine in Africa. Since founding the Worldwatch Institute in 1974, Mr. Brown has drawn attention to such problems as the population explosion, the food crisis and the destruction of the earth's biodiversity, thereby raising global awareness about environmental conservation issues.

Since 1984, Mr. Brown has published *State of the World*, an annual report containing data on global environmental problems. Read by politicians, business leaders and environmental activists, it is the most influential publication of its kind. The 1992 edition discusses the environmental revolution, placing it alongside the agricultural revolution and industrial revolution in importance, and explains the need for a shift from fossil and nuclear fuel sources to renewable, natural energy sources. The 1993 edition focuses on ways industry can make its activities economically sustainable. The 1994 *State of the World* report warns of overpopulation and its link with food shortages.

Renowned for his untiring zeal for environmental issues, Mr. Brown is currently preparing for the United Nations' World Conference on Population and Development to be held for the first time in ten years in Cairo this September.

Remarks from the prizewinners upon being notified of their selection

Dr. Seibold, Freiburg, Germany

"I am grateful that you have acknowledged the geosciences, and especially my central field of research activities, marine geology. Since the beginning of my research work, I have looked upon the sea as a crucial element in our global environment. The hydrosphere and the lithosphere, the oceans and the continents, are indeed key, for there is no other planet with oceans. They characterize our earth as the blue planet."

Lester R. Brown, Worldwatch Institute

"I am flattered. Although this award has been presented to me, I would like to accept it for the staff of Worldwatch Institute, its directors, and the foundations that have supported us over the years. In launching an award of this scale, the Asahi Glass Foundation provides encouraging evidence that Japan is assuming a more prominent leadership role in international environmental affairs."

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1994 Blue Planet Prize Academic Award Winner Profile:**Professor Dr. Eugen Seibold**

Dr. Seibold is a geologist with a broad background in natural sciences. Most of his life has been devoted to marine geology and its development. According to Dr. Seibold, the sea is a part of our environment about which our knowledge is still very limited. Its study needs both interdisciplinary and international cooperation.

Dr. Seibold's first study concerned sedimentation and pollution in the Baltic Sea. His next work investigated the comparatively dry environments surrounding the Persian and Arabian gulfs. Results of this 1965 study helped planners formulate measures to deal with the extensive oil pollution that occurred during the Gulf War. His next research took place in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of West Africa. Though exposed to the open ocean, this region has an arid climate, as well. The main findings of this study related to sedimentary processes and the evolution of the climate around the Sahara Desert.

Following his appointment as co-chief scientist on the drill ship *Glomar Challenger*, which undertook studies between Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and Malaga, Spain, Dr. Seibold gathered data that, when compared with data on the eastern margin of the North American continent, fostered understanding of the geological history of continental separation and the creation of the Atlantic Ocean in the Jurassic period.

Following the end of World War II, Dr. Seibold became the pioneer of marine geology in Germany. He has developed the Geological-Paleontological Institute at the University of Kiel into the largest and most prestigious institution in its field in Germany. From 1980 to 1985, Dr. Seibold served as president of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Germany's most important agency for funding fundamental research, and from 1984 to 1990 he served as president of the European Science Foundation. Also, from 1980 to 1984 he was the chairman of the International Union of Geological Sciences and in this capacity cooperated with the International Geological Correlation Program. These positions allowed Dr. Seibold to promote national and international projects in the marine sciences and geology, including international ocean drilling, German deep-continental drilling and European geotraverse activities. Many of Dr. Seibold's research strategies live on in former students and collaborators exploring such new fields as polar seas.

Education and Academic and Professional Activities

1918	Born in Stuttgart, Germany
1948	Received doctor of natural sciences from the University of Tübingen
1951	Appointed assistant professor at the Technical University of Karlsruhe
1954	Appointed associate professor at the University of Tübingen
1958	Appointed full professor and director of the Geological-Paleontological Institute at the University of Kiel
1964–1970	Served as chairman of the Geological Association (“Geologische Verbindung”)
1967	Chaired Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research's (SCOR's) 19th meeting on Micropaleontology in Cambridge, England
1970	Chaired SCOR's 31st meeting on Geology of the East Atlantic Continental Margin in Cambridge, England
1974	Chaired SCOR's 37th meeting on Marine Plankton and Sediments in Kiel, Germany
1980–1984	Served as chairman of the International Union of Geological Sciences

1980–1985 Served as president of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Bonn
1984–1990 Served as president of the European Science Foundation (ESF), Strasbourg, France
1986– Honorary professor at the University of Freiburg

1994 Blue Planet Prize Development and Implementation Award Winner Profile:

Lester R. Brown

Described by the *Washington Post* as “one of the world’s most influential thinkers” and lauded in *The Telegraph* of Calcutta as “the guru of the global environmental movement,” Mr. Brown started his career as a farmer, growing tomatoes in southern New Jersey with his younger brother during high school and college. Shortly after earning a degree in agricultural science from Rutgers University in 1955, he spent six months living in rural India. In 1959, Mr. Brown left farming to join the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service as an agricultural analyst working on the world food-population balance.

Mr. Brown received an M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Maryland and an M.P.A. from Harvard University. In addition, he holds 16 honorary degrees from universities in North America and Europe.

In 1964, Mr. Brown became an adviser to then Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman on foreign agricultural policy. In 1966, the Secretary appointed him administrator of the department’s International Agricultural Development Service. At the beginning of 1969, he left government to help James Grant, now the head of UNICEF, establish the Overseas Development Council.

In 1974, with the support of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Mr. Brown founded the Worldwatch Institute, a private nonprofit research institute devoted to the analysis of global environmental issues. Based in Washington, D.C., the Institute is widely known for its careful analysis of global environmental issues in a wide range of fields, as well as for its publications and lectures concerning the environment and its promotion of environmental awareness to the general public.

In 1984, a decade after founding the Institute, Mr. Brown launched the *State of the World* reports. These annual assessments have become the Bible of the global environmental movement. Translated into all of the world’s major languages, the *State of the World* report has achieved semi-official status.

In 1988, Mr. Brown expanded Worldwatch’s publication list by launching *World Watch*, a bimonthly magazine featuring articles on the Institute’s research. In 1991, the Institute inaugurated the Environmental Alert book series, with a book Mr. Brown coauthored entitled *Saving the Planet: How to Shape an Environmentally Sustainable Global Economy*. In 1992, he launched and coauthored a new annual, *Vital Signs: The Trends That Are Shaping Our Future*. In 1994, Mr. Brown coauthored a book on the food-population situation, entitled *Full House: Reassessing the Earth’s Population Carrying Capacity*.

The Library of Congress has requested Mr. Brown’s personal papers and manuscripts in recognition of the role of his work and that of the Institute under his direction in shaping the global environmental movement of the late twentieth century. Currently, he is enthusiastically preparing for the United Nations’ World Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in early September this year.

Major Awards Received

1965 Superior Service Award
1965 Arthur S. Flemming Award

- 1981 A. H. Boerma Award
- 1982 Environmental Leadership Medal (United Nations Environment Programme)
- 1982 Special Conservation Award (National Wildlife Federation)
- 1985 Lorax Award (Global Tomorrow Coalition)
- 1986 MacArthur Fellow "Genius" Award (John D. and Catherine I. MacArthur Foundation)
- 1989 World Wide Fund for Nature Gold Medal
- 1989 UN Environment Prize
- 1990 A. Bizzozero Award (Parma University)
- 1991 Humanist of the Year Award
- 1991 Pro Mundo Habitabili Medal (King Carl Gustav XVI of Sweden)
- 1992 Environmentalist of the Year (Tokyo Jaycees)

APPENDIX 2

The Blue Planet Prize

The Blue Planet Prize was established in 1991 by the Asahi Glass Foundation to express our sincere appreciation for the achievements of individuals, groups and organizations conducting noteworthy research and activities leading to the solution of environmental problems. As well, the Foundation hopes to raise interest in and awareness of environmental issues, which affect all of us equally. The Blue Planet Prize is an international award recognizing environmental research and related activities and comprises two annual awards—the Academic Award and the Development and Implementation Award. The Academic Award recognizes outstanding research results, while the Development and Implementation Award endorses contributions to environmental conservation and raising environmental consciousness through practical programs and activities. Each award includes a certificate of merit, a commemorative gift and a supplementary prize of ¥50 million.

Between August and October of each year, candidates for the Blue Planet Prize are nominated from around the world. Following several meetings of the selection committee, the opinions of overseas advisers are solicited to ensure impartiality. The prizewinners are determined by the Board of Directors in consultation with the presentation committee.

Past Prizewinners

1992 Academic Award:

Dr. Syukuro Manabe, Member of the Senior Executive Service of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (U.S.A.)

Development and Implementation Award:

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) (U.K.)

1993 Academic Award:

Dr. Charles D. Keeling, Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego (U.S.A.)

Development and Implementation Award:

IUCN—The World Conservation Union (Headquartered in Switzerland)