

INTRODUCTION TO THE LINNEBORN AWARD AND LAUDATIO FOR THE AWARDEE 2009

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Chairman of the Linneborn Prize Committee

The Johannes Linneborn Prize was established in 1994 on behalf of the European Commission by Dr. Wolfgang Palz to honor an European individual for an exceptional life-time contribution to the field of sustainable energy from biomass. This prestigious award was connected to the name of Johannes Linneborn, a German biomass pioneer and business man. He was the manufacturer of more than 500,000 Imbert small scale wood gasifiers used to fuel cars, trucks and lorries when fossil liquid fuels were scarce. I met this great man in person, somewhere in the 1980ies and could experience his enthusiasm, energy and wisdom. His ideal was a world in which mankind lives in harmony with nature with optimal exploiting of biomass for energy and materials. On the picture you see Mr. Linneborn together with the young Dr. Palz when he paid him a visit probably in the early 80ies or late 70ies.

In exceptional cases the Linneborn Prize may be awarded to a non-European. From a long list of excellent candidates the Prize Committee selected the winner of the Linneborn Prize 2009:

*Prof. Bryan M. Jenkins
University of California (Davis)
United States of America*

Over more than 30 years Prof. Jenkins had an exceptional contribution to the development and promotion of production of biomass and bioenergy, while passing from junior faculty to distinguished Professor of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

In his research, development and fostering activities he considered the whole chain of biomass utilization including logistics.

He attracted students from different areas, including developing countries and many of them subsequently had an important influence on biomass development elsewhere. Bryan's research focus was on the contribution of agriculture to bioenergy with special attention to wastes like rice straw and bargasse, transforming these pollution sources to energy sources.

Like Linneborn his early contributions were on biomass gasification but also combustion, fluid bed combustion and many other biological and thermo chemical processes were studied, leading to over 130 publications, textbooks contributions and many influential reports. Prof. Jenkins clearly understood that for these types of techniques the devil is in details. Tar formation, ashes, mineral evaporation, slagging, etc. were intensively studied on lab scale but also on full-scale boiler operation. The findings and theories derived from his work are therefore of exceptional interest for those who really want to make progress in the application of bioenergy.

As it became clear that the global and environmental situation required strategic action Bryan Jenkins was the driving force towards the California Biomass Collaborative created in 2003 and now under Prof.

Jenkins direction. In this institution a successful and effective statewide partnership is realized between government, industry, academia, and environmental organizations. The Collaborative provides an integrated approach of technology, entrepreneurship and politics to all of California's biomass and biomass waste resources and opportunities. Under the effective and inspiring leadership of Bryan Jenkins, all the important stakeholders work together to formulate a roadmap and realize a transition towards a targeted less fossil carbon intensive state of California with substantial input of biomass. Productions of the institution such as data bases like the biomass facilities reporting system, assessment of biomass resources, a nationwide biomass power generation, the famous energy cost generator, data bases on harvesting techniques, etc. raised interest all over the world and are fine examples of effective integral approaches.

Moreover, Bryan Jenkins has personally contributed to biomass and bioenergy development in the Philippines and SE Asia and had an important contribution to the formulation of the US position in bioenergy.

Prof. Bryan Jenkins you really deserve the 10th Johannes Linneborn Prize and all participants of the 17th European Biomass Conference will join us in our congratulations.