

INTRODUCTION TO THE JOHANNES LINNEBORN PRIZE AND THE 2015 WINNER LAUDATION

Wim P.M. van Swaaij
Chairman of the Nomination 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. In exceptional cases the award can be granted to a non-European. It is not a reward for scientific excellence only but also technical and managerial merits are appreciated. This prestigious award was connected to the name of Johannes Linneborn, a German biomass pioneer and businessman and the manufacturer of more than 500,000 Imbert small-scale wood gasifiers used to fuel cars, when fossil liquid fuels were scarce. His ideal was a world in which mankind lives in harmony with nature with optimal exploiting of biomass for energy and materials.

From a long list of excellent candidates the Prize Committee selected as winner of the Linneborn Prize 2015:

*Professor André Faaij
Academic Director of the Energy Academy Europe
and Distinguished Professor Energy System Analysis
Groningen University, The Netherlands*

The prize is awarded to him for his outstanding contribution and leadership for over 23 years in research and promotion of large scale deployment of sustainable biomass for energy and products. He proved to be an excellent scientist, teacher and a highly valued advisor for governments, international agencies and organizations as well as the bio-industry. He participated in a wide range of international studies where he often took the lead.

André Faaij (1969) studied Chemistry and Environmental Sciences at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands where he became employed as a Research Scientist (1991) in the section Science, Technology and Society (STS) and where he collaborated among others with Prof. Wim Turkenburg. In these early years he was also visiting researcher at King's college-London University and at the Centre for Energy and Environmental Studies-Princeton University.

After obtaining his PhD (1997) he became associate professor in the area Energy Supply and System Studies. Later he was nominated full professor and in 2011 chair of STS and head of the unit Energy & Recourses of the well-known Copernicus Institute in Utrecht.

In 2014 he became Scientific Director of the Energy Academy Europe and Distinguished Professor at the Groningen University.

André Faaij is a truly remarkable and highly cited scientist with an extremely large output at an impressive rate of high class research mainly in the Bio-energy area. (over 180 peer reviewed journal publications, 120 reports on (often international) studies, 8 books and special journal issues, 200 conference papers etc.). As a professor he is highly appreciated by his PhD students. (24 to date, 20 ongoing) because of his broad knowledge, enthusiasm and stimulating leadership and the new and

original courses he introduced. His research (>100 projects and programs) has been supported by EC, NWO (Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research) governments, international bodies and by the private sector (\pm 30M euro research to date). His interest in energy research is wider than biomass, his competence areas include among others Carbon Capture and Storage, Energy System Analysis, decarbonisation of fossil fuels, technological learning and innovation and policies in energy systems etc. His activities in bioenergy and biofuels in sustainable supply and utilization chains and in bio-based economy drew most of the international attention and admiration.

Due to its advantages, large scale biomass energy as a sustainable source gained support from governments, industries and many international organizations. However it also generated fierce public debates originating from different sides, where emotions sometimes ran high. It is of utmost importance that these discussion can be based on solid arguments and well proven scientific facts. André Faaij has provided the field with many convincing studies, data and methodologies. He never hesitated in engaging in discussions on the subject in interviews or debates.

He is board member and works as guest editor several key energy journals is a much asked reviewer for a variety of journals, scientific (including the National Science Foundation and the Royal Academy) and government bodies. He (co-)organized a range of international conferences and workshops. André Faaij is frequently lecturing across the globe and his authoritative reviews are well received.

His participation in international activities is impressive.

He is a member of variety of experts group in bio-energy and energy policy, research and strategic planning. He works as an advisor for governments, the EC, IEA, the UN system, GEF, OECD, WEF, the energy sector & industry, strategic consultancy, NGO's, etc. Between 2003 and 2013, he was Task Leader of Task 40 under the Bio-energy Agreement of the International Energy Agency on 'Sustainable International Bio-energy Trade'; an international network with 14 countries represented which he also initiated. In the same framework, he acted as national representative in several other tasks. He is advisor to UN bio-energy activities (UNEP, FAO, UNIDO) and global Bio-energy Partnership. He is appointed Young Global Leader at the World Economic Forum and a member of the Global Agenda Council on Alternative Energies for the same organization.

Earlier, he was Lead Author for the World Energy Assessment of the United Nations (published in 2000), as well as the new Global Energy Assessment (GEA) (published in 2012), the WorldWatch Institute's book on Biofuels for the 21st Century, IEA's World Energy Outlook, the IPCC 4th assessment report . Convening Lead Author for the Special Report on Renewable Energy Currently, Lead Author on Energy Systems for the IPCC 5th assessment report and Agriculture, Forestry

and other land use. Being part of IPCC, he was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

Professor André Faaij, you are still relatively young for such a life time achievement award as the Johannes Linneborn Prize, but you truly deserve it and we hope that you will continue the good work on biomass and its interaction with other renewable and sustainable resources.

I am sure that the whole biomass community in Europe and worldwide will join the Linneborn committee in their warmest congratulation with this prestigious Linneborn Price 2015!