

Introduction to the Johannes Linneborn Prize and the 2023 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 2023:

Prof. dr. Suani T. Coelho
Institute of Energy and Environment
University of São Paulo
Brazil

The prize is awarded to Professor Coelho for her consisted excellence for over 25 years in studies of sustainable energy processes including biological, chemical and thermochemical conversion processes of biomass, biomass waste and municipal solid waste. Moreover she was active in the area of implementation and energy policies research and national and international overview studies on renewable and sustainable energy production from biomass and waste. Specially her work on different generations of sugar cane conversion to ethanol and the (co)production of other energy carriers such as bio-methane, bio-diesel charcoal, hydrogen, syngas etc. were highly significant both for Brazil and worldwide. She showed a deep understanding of and clear visions on the potential but equally on the environmental impact and limits of bioenergy. She used her competence and knowledge to the benefit of São Paulo, Brazil and worldwide including important attention for developing countries.

Especially of importance in this respect were her comparative studies on the influence of different energy polices in various countries and regions. Suani is highly valued as a consultant/ member of important committees, national and international advisory boards, working groups and large projects.

Suani Coelho graduated in 1992 at the university of São Paulo where she also obtained her PhD on energy generation and environmental impact. Over the years Prof. Coelho

expanded her activities and responsibilities and presently she is a very successful thesis advisor, PD supervisor and coordinator of the Research Group on Bioenergy. (GBIO/former CENBIO) of IEE/USP. Also Counselor of the Graduate Program in Energy and Post Graduate Program in Bioenergy USP/UNICAMP/UNESP. She is coordinator of a large series of projects supported by the Funding Agency of São Paulo, by the Regulatory Agency on Electro Energy and the Federal Council of Research etc.

She and her co-authors/collaborators produced > 350 publications of which a large part in peer-reviewed Scientific Journals like Energy Policy, Journal of Cleaner Production, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews (RSER), textbooks, textbook chapters, authoritative overviews and lectures on international conferences (including those of the EUBCE) etc..

Suani Coelho was in the boards of scientific papers herself, 2015- present: Associate editor on Renewable and Sustainable Reviews and also on the Journal del Biomassa BR. She acted as a very welcome expert/adviser in national and international committees. For example Suani was a member of the UN Secretary General Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change (AGECC) and was deputy Secretary for environment of São Paulo where she was responsible for international agreements of this Secretariat of State. She has worked several times as an expert/ consultant in bioenergy for UNEP and UNIDO projects.

Among many other projects Prof. Coelho is now coordinator of the project "Perspectives for the contribution of biomethane on natural gas offer in São Paulo State" (Project N.27, in the Research Centre of Gas Innovation- RCGI- Polytechnic School of the University of São Paulo funded by FAPESP and Shell Co.)

She is also the coordinator of the new Atlas of Bioenergy for São Paulo State in a R&D CES/ANEEL project together with the Polytechnic School of USP and UNSP.

Suani Coelho in your career so far you made an exceptional contribution to the field of studies of sustainable energy processes including biological, chemical and thermochemical conversion processes of biomass, biomass waste and municipal solid waste and on sustainable energy policies.

After the EPA Climate Protection Award you already received in 1998 there followed a long list of awards and recognitions and now you will receive the prestigious European Linneborn Prize. We hope and trust that in the future for a long time to come we still can enjoy your power and leadership in your personal style in the field of sustainable energy and products from Biomass. We are certain that the whole biomass community in Brazil, in Europe and the entire world will join the Linneborn committee in their warmest congratulation on this prestigious Award