

Announcement: Award-winning papers in 2009

Papers published in *Municipal Engineer* are eligible for awards from the Institution of Civil Engineers. Papers from any of the ICE journals can be nominated for several awards. In addition, each journal has awards dedicated to their specific subject area.

On Friday 8 October 2010, ICE president Paul Jowitt presented an award to the following papers published in *Municipal Engineer* in 2009. The editorial panel nominated their best papers and an awards committee chaired by Barry Clark allocated the awards.

The James Hill Fund award was presented to: Doody D, Harrington R, Johnson M, Hofmann O and McEntee D (2009) Sewerage treatment in an integrated constructed wetland. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Municipal Engineer* **162(4)**: 199–205, doi: 10.1680/muen.2009.162.4.199.



Photo caption: ICE president Paul Jowitt presents the James Hill Fund award to the winners

Abstract

An integrated constructed wetland was constructed in 2006/2007 to treat combined sewage from the village of Glaslough in North Monaghan, Ireland. With a design capacity of 1750 population equivalent, the plant became operational in October 2007 and the current load is around 800 population equivalent. Untreated influent is pumped directly to a receiving sludge pond; the liquid then flows by gravity through five sequential vegetated ponds and the effluent discharges directly to the Mountain Water River. The banks of the ponds feature equestrian riding trails. Monitoring equipment has been installed in each pond and early results are very encouraging. In the first year of operation, effluent quality consistently surpassed the quality of the receiving river. The system can robustly cope with large variations in volumetric and biological oxygen demand loadings of the influent. The construction and maintenance of the wetland show significant cost savings compared with traditional sewage treatment plants in the county. The extensive monitoring work being undertaken at Glaslough wetland will help promote the wetland concept and its application to a range of water quality management issues such as leachate (from landfills), sewage sludges, drinking water source protection and flood amelioration.

The Overseas Prize was awarded to: Zhu L and Goethert R (2009) Upgrading historic cities by integrated and innovative solutions. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Municipal Engineer* **162(2)**: 87–94, doi: 10.1680/muen.2009.162.2.87.

Abstract

During the ongoing rapid urbanisation process, many Chinese cities have redeveloped their inner city with large-scale demolition and relocation. Yangzhou has adopted a different approach, and is actively taking measures to save and improve its historic centre. A substantial historical area of 5.1 km² with about 110 000 residents, characterised by one- to two-storey traditional courtyard buildings and narrow lanes, remains. The old city is a rich heritage resource attractive to both tourists and residents. However, the houses are in disrepair, the infrastructure is insufficient and the historic area is facing an increasing risk of deterioration. To link heritage preservation with the improvement of living conditions, the Yangzhou municipal government, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the Cities Alliance have embarked on a programme of sustainable urban conservation by upgrading traditional urban neighbourhoods and supporting self-help initiatives. In a pilot block, integrated concepts were developed. Innovative technical solutions appropriate to the

narrow lanes were designed and tested. Infrastructure was installed and standards were developed. Concepts and measures of ecological water cycle management were introduced at the municipal level. Residents were involved through a community action planning (CAP) approach. They agreed on

appropriate standards and became involved in upgrading their houses and lane façades. The initial successful experience is being planned for use throughout the entire historical area. Expanding the process as a model for other historic cities in China is also being considered.