

PINOCCHIO AWARD PRESENTED TO VEOLIA IN NAGPUR



About the awards: The Sustainable Development Pinocchio Awards, organized by Friends of the Earth (Les Amis de la Terre) - France, in partnership with Peuples Solidaires - Action Aid France and CRID aims at denouncing some multinational companies on the social or environmental impacts of their activities, in complete contradiction with the sustainable development concept they claim to respect.

The awards are given under three categories:-

1. **Category “Greener than green”:** awarded to the company which has led the most abusive and misleading communication campaign in regard to its actual activities. *Companies like to surf on the wave of sustainable development to legitimize their activities. But reality is often a lot less green!*
2. **Category “One for all, all for me!”:** awarded to the company which has the most aggressive policy in terms of appropriation, exploitation or destruction of natural resources. *1 planet/7 billions of human beings, the equation seems simple. Yet, some companies take an excessive piece of the cake and devour others’ as well. Their goal? Gorge a minority at the expense of the majority.*
3. **Category “Dirty hands, full wallet”:** awarded to the company which has the most opaque policy at the financial level (tax evasion, corruption, etc), in terms of lobbying or in its supply

chain. Some companies have a lot of imagination when it comes to weakened or circumvent environmental and social norms. Their aim? Always gain more profit, at the expense of environment and human rights.

Veolia presented the award under ‘one for all, all for me’: Veolia received the Pinocchio Award in the category "One for all, all for me" (2) with 39% of the votes, for its implication in water privatization projects in India, and more particularly in Nagpur. While the multinational pretends to be the hero bringing water to the poor, in the field, the reality is a lot different: price increases, opacity of the public-private partnership contracts, delays in work, conflicts with the communities and the local officials. If Veolia seems to succeed in getting profit from these projects, water, when it does reach the populations, is still delivered in tanker trucks.

Award Presented in Nagpur: As a corollary to the main award ceremony held in Paris, five organizations - Nagpur Municipal Corporation Employees Association, Joint Committee of Unorganized Employees, New Delhi-based National Platform Against Water Privatization (NPAWP), Indian Action Social Forum and Public Services International organized an award presentation ceremony in Nagpur on the 25th of January, 2014.

The speakers in the occasion included, Jammu Anand, President of NMCEA, S.A. Naqvi, National Coordinator of NPAWP and Manoranjan Pegu, project coordinator of Public Services International, South Asia. While Jammu Anand explained the awards to the participants, thereby highlighting the ill impacts of the Nagpur 24 x 7 water supply project, Naqvi, talked about the water scenario in Delhi. Manoranjan Pegu, focused on the newly emerging trend of Re-municipalisation.

The house dedicated the award also to the leader Nitin Gadkari for vehemently supporting the Nagpur project and even highlighting it as a model project.

News item on the same has been published in TOI: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2014-01-26/nagpur/46636134_1_city-water-private-limited-aap-water-supply

