



PRESS RELEASE: FUTURE POLICY AWARD 2023 CELEBRATES FOUR POLICIES FOR A TOXIC-FREE WORLD FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

Bonn, 29 September 2023 - Yesterday, on the 28th of September, four inspiring, effective policies to protect against hazardous chemicals were honoured with the Future Policy Award 2023 during a high-level award ceremony in context of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) in Bonn, Germany. Also known as the Oscar on best policies, the award recognises laws that promote better living conditions for current and future generations. Each year, a policy field is selected in which innovative solutions are particularly important. In 2023, the prize is dedicated to policies for a pollution free world, regulating the use of hazardous chemicals in products, with a focus on children and their environment. Out of 40 nominated laws from 5 continents, one winner was awarded for each of the product categories toys, amalgam fillings, cosmetics and food packaging. The following policies were awarded:

Toys

Vietnam: Comprehensive regulation establishing safety standards and limiting the concentration of various hazardous hazardous chemicals in toys

Cosmetics

Rwanda: Comprehensive policy on ban and regulate the use of all of all cosmetics containing substances hazardous to humans, with particular attention to skin whitening creams

Food Packaging

Denmark: Preventive ban on all everlasting chemicals, so-called PFAS, for paper and cardboard food packaging

Amalgam Fillings

Nepal: First law in Asia to protect children and pregnant and breastfeeding women from contamination with mercury amalgam and with the aim of a complete phase-out

The award has been organised by the World Future Council Foundation since 2009 and this year the World Future Council is working with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) as well as the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)

and the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) , to highlight policies for a toxic-free world that regulate the use of hazardous chemicals in products, with a focus on children and their environment.

"As a society, we face a multitude of crises, especially climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The problem of pollution is exacerbated by the fact that harmful substances are present in almost all the products we rely on in our daily lives, including toys for our children. It is crucial that we address this issue with great seriousness and, above all, prioritise the protection of children from these harmful substances," says **Alexandra Wandel**, Chair of the Board of the World Future Council.

"Chemicals hold undeniable significance within our society. Their indispensability becomes evident when we acknowledge the myriad of vital advantages they offer across various domains, notably in the realms of medical advancements and consumer goods. However, it is imperative to recognize that the judicious and conscientious employment of these substances is of utmost importance. By doing so, we can effectively mitigate the potential hazards they pose to human well-being and the environment.", explains **Nikhil Seth**, Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Steffi Lemke, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany: "The Future Policy Award 2023 is of great importance as it shines a spotlight on policies aimed at creating a pollution-free world by regulating the use of hazardous chemicals in products, with a particular emphasis on safeguarding children and their surroundings. Responsible use of chemicals remains paramount in mitigating potential hazards and averting severe repercussions for the health of people, especially children and their environment."



Chairwoman of the Management Board of the World Future Council, Alexandra Wandel, with Youth:Present Representative Jeffrey Opoku.



Youth:Present Representatives and Moderators of the Future Policy Award 2023, Jeffrey Opoku (l.) and Bea Albermann (r.)



Mr. Pham Huy Nam Son, Deputy Director General of Vietnam Chemicals Gency, received the award from Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).



H.E. Mr. Igor Cesar, Ambassador of Rwanda to the Federal Republic of Germany, received the award from Mr. Nikhil Seth, UN Assistant Secretary General and Executive Director of UNITAR.



H.E. Uffe Grøn-Sørensen, Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of Denmark to Germany, was given the award by Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.



H.E. Ram Kaji Kadhka, Ambassador of Nepal to the Federal Republic of Germany, received the award for H.E. Mohan Bahadur Basnet, Minister of Health and Population from Ms. Stankiewicz, Minamata Convention.



Group Picture of the distinguished award winners from Vietnam, Rwanda, Denmark and Nepal.

About the Future Policy Award 2023

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About the World Future Council

The World Future Council envisions a healthy planet with just and peaceful societies – now and in the future. To achieve this, we identify, develop, highlight, and spread future-just solutions for current challenges humanity is facing and award them with our unique Future Policy Award. Our Council consists of 50 eminent global changemakers from civil society, science, politics, and business.

They meet annually at the World Future Forum to discuss the most urgent challenges and policy solutions to them. Jakob von Uexkull, the Founder of the Alternative Nobel Prize, launched the World Future Council in 2007.

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<https://www.bmu.de/>

About the Umweltbundesamt (UBA):

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/>

About the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR):

<https://www.unitar.org/>

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