

## **Dr. Mints's Speech, 16/5/2019**

Good afternoon, Dear Colleagues,

From the day of establishment of our Institute, We have paid great attention to the challenges of purification and limit of freshwater - one of the most important resources towards the sustainable living of all of the humanity. We have worked on this issue throughout almost all of our sessions. One of them we even dedicated to it completely. Today, BMI cooperates with different research institutions globally on the challenge of water. That is why with a great pleasure I want to introduce to you the 2019 BMI prize laureate Dr. Peter H. Gleick, Co-Founder and President Emeritus of the Pacific Institute for studies in Development, Environment and Security in Oakland, California. Dr. Gleick was chosen due to his expertise, remarkable achievements and contribution to water research, understanding and facing the challenge of freshwater - a challenge that is at the heart of BMI's vision and mission.

Dr. Gleick is a scientist, policy advocate and public communicator around the global challenge of freshwater. He has made a very big contribution to academic studies in the field of water science and policy over many years, reshaping and even initiating debates around the strategic challenges of water provision. Dr. Gleick has changed how we think about and manage our water and offered the world a sustainable vision for water that respects the needs of people and the environment.

Dr. Gleick was one of the earliest academics understanding and addressing growing conflicts over water resources on different levels, and has worked on these issues in Central America, Israel, Jordan, and Palestine, South Africa, and Eastern Europe. His Water Conflict Chronology is the most comprehensive open-source database in the world on water as trigger, weapon, and casualty of conflict, and it has been used by both academic researchers and top policymakers in the United Nations - most recently in a report prepared for the United Nations Secretary General.

Awarding of the prize to Dr. Gleick foreshadowed a very thoughtful process carried out by the BMI Prize Committee. In congratulating Dr. Gleick, we admire the fact that it was him, who filled the line

of the outstanding researchers, who have received Prize, starting with Prof. Jeffrey Sachs and Prof. Michael Kremer.

Thank you!