

Laudation 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to present a laudation for Mr. István Weeber and his team, the Winner of the 2018 Gran Prize of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Hungary, for their achievements in roof cooling methods, especially for their advancements in climate optimisation of industrial halls, WaterFilm Technology.

The Board this year selected WaterFilm Technology and as one of the two winners of the prize that satisfied all criteria of the award. The Board of Judges shortlisted 5 applications, but selected projects addressed one of the major concern of our society, carbon footprint by translating their research to revolutionary methods.

István Weeber, agricultural irrigation engineer and inventor, and his team have found a revolutionary solution for the summer heat in factories and other industrial halls.

During summer heat waves the roof of an industrial building may reach 75°C and warms up the ceiling and the air inside the building to 35-45°C which is far beyond the level when people or even sophisticated machines can work efficiently.

Currently, there are two ways to reduce the temperature. First, insulation can only delay the warm up and it keeps all technological heat inside. Second, air conditioning devices may work well during an average summer day, but during heat waves, will stop working or perform below 50% efficiency level.

The result: higher investment in air conditioning, increasing energy costs, more frequent production stoppages and employees fainted at work.

The real solution is not to cool down the air, but prevent it to be heated.

Mr. Weeber invented an environmental friendly and economic system to create a thin evaporative water foil above the roof that will keep the temperature of the roof at a maximum of 32-33°C. This enables the traditional air conditionings to operate efficiently.

It debuted successfully at an Opel factory where the stoppages and faints disappeared immediately and the return on investment was less than few days.

István Weeber - managing director and owner of Tetőhűtés LTD, inventor was graduated as agricultural engineer, in Gödöllő. As a Jesuit novice he lived for two years in the first Hungarian residential home for handicapped people, in L'Arche community, Dunaharaszti.

In 2000 Mr. Weeber founded Öntözés.hu Ltd. in the year 2000, a company engaged in design, implementation and trade of agricultural and industrial irrigation systems. In 2002, to the request of BME's Laboratory of Thermophysics working to find solutions for the summer heat problems of a Csepel paper mill, he started to work and explore in the fields of evaporative cooling of large, flat industrial roofs.

Besides managing the company and his continuous research of the roof cooling technology, he lives and works with young handicapped people, exclusively from his own material resources. For 8 years on, with his wife and their own 5 children they are living with 10 children and young people with mental, physical or multiple disabilities . They strive to provide them the caring, vital and personalized background until the end of their lives.

By awarding Mr. Weeber and his development team with this award, the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Hungary pays its deepest respect for his work.

I would like to thank you again on behalf of the Gran Prize Board of Judges ! Congratulations!