

Press release: 15 July 2012
For immediate release



Science and Development Network

SciDev.Net honoured at the Association of British Science Writers

David Dickson, editor and founder of the Science and Development Network (SciDev.Net) has been awarded a lifetime achievement award by the UK's top science writing body.

The prize was presented to David Dickson by the Association of British Science Writers (ABSW) for his pioneering work in establishing SciDev.Net in December 2001.

David Dickson said that he was thrilled and honoured to receive recognition of his work by the ABSW. "I would like to thank all of those who contributed to this achievement, which demonstrates that one can combine good science journalism, the new possibilities opened up by the Internet, and a commitment to improving people's lives," he said.

SciDev.Net originated from a project set up by news staff at the journal Nature (with financial assistance from the Wellcome Trust, United Kingdom) to report on the World Conference on Science, held in Budapest in 1999. This was warmly received, leading to discussions about creating a permanent website devoted to reporting on, and analysing the role of, science and technology in development. The SciDev.Net website was officially launched on 3 December 2001.

Also at the 2012 ABSW science writing awards Mico Tatalovic, deputy news editor at SciDev.Net, was shortlisted for the article Forecasters 'warned of Horn of Africa drought' last year published on SciDev.Net in July 2011. This was part of SciDev.Net's continued high-quality disaster coverage and showed how the drought had been predicted months in advance but the warning was ignored. The article sparked similar stories in the science media and was eventually quoted in an Oxfam report on the issue.

Link to ABSW Science Writers' Awards 2012: <http://www.absw.org.uk/jobs-awards/awards>

Notes to Editors

SciDev.Net

SciDev.Net – the Science and Development Network – is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing reliable and authoritative information about science and technology for the developing world. Through our website www.scidev.net we give policymakers, researchers, the media and civil society information and a platform to explore how science and technology can reduce poverty, improve health and raise standards of living around the world. We also build developing countries' capacity for communicating science and technology through our regional networks of committed individuals and organisations, practical guidance and specialist workshops. Our main office is based in London but we have a worldwide network of registered users, advisors, consultants and freelance journalists, predominantly from developing countries, who drive our activities and vision.

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