

Green Talents 2015 awarded in Berlin

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Two South Africans were honoured today in Berlin amongst a group of 27 winning young scientists from across the globe by Mr Wilfried Kraus, Head of the BMBF Directorate “Sustainability, Climate, Energy” at the award ceremony of the 7th “Green Talents – International Forum for High Potentials in Sustainable Development”...

This year’s Green Talents competition attracted over 550 applicants from more than 90 countries. The jury of experts selected 27 winners from this pool of talented researchers. From urban planning, biodiversity, renewables energy and resource management to the sociopolitical implications of new technologies, the winners covered an impressively broad range of academic research with diverse achievements.

South African PhD graduate Dr. Kapil Moothi, whose field of interest encompasses Sustainable Technology and Nanotechnology Waste Water Treatment, and South African PhD candidate Ms. Geraldine Brennan, whose area of expertise encompasses Clean Production and Management, Humanities and Climate Change were both honoured as up-and-coming international scientists.

This year’s awardees were invited to participate in the two-week Science Forum during which they visited top locations for sustainability research in Germany. Against the background of the current Year of Science “**City of the Future**”, urban issues in particular were brought into focus. The Green

Talents gained a deeper insight into the country's innovation system, learned about state-of-the-art approaches and technologies, and exchanged ideas with the country's leading experts in individual meetings.

In his laudation, Mr Kraus emphasized the relevance of the Green Talents Programme for future international science cooperation: "We need international collaboration to tackle the challenges of our times. The Green Talents belong to a network consisting of 158 young researchers from all over the world striving for sustainability who are passionate about the work of science in Germany. Such international networks are essential for us to see the bigger picture, to develop new ideas and strong partnerships, and to enhance the transfer of technology from research into practical application."

Please visit **www.greentalents.de** for more information about the background of the programme as well as this year's competition and awardees.