

The National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA) had its name sounded on the international market as Grenada was the only country in the region to be nominated for the Global Water Leaders Award.

The global water leader award looks at dramatic performance improvement in a water utility in the developing world. At the center of this achievement was the NAWASA Water Warz Secondary School's Quiz Competition.

In 2015, the Authority successfully launched this unique customer outreach programme as part of its efforts of engaging young people and ensuring an understanding of the value of water services across the generations. This landmark televised gameshow for schoolchildren under the leadership of its general manager, Christopher Husbands, in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) gave the Authority the nod for recognition last month.

NAWASA's unique customer outreach campaign took the form of a televised gameshow, fashioned after the show 'Jeopardy!' and designed to test students' knowledge of water facts and myths, including climate change and water sustainability. The programme was launched in conjunction with World Water Day 2015.

The first series, in June 2015, saw fierce competition between eleven participating schools over three rounds of competition. The grand finale was broadcast live on local television, while each episode has since been uploaded to YouTube. The decision to push water issues on the national entertainment stage has given the topics of water and wastewater management prominence in the national media and has effectively tapped into the youth demographic.

As the world's utilities search for more cutting-edge methods of engaging with the public, NAWASA found a brilliant new way to mobilise mass media, while still maintaining a close connection with the community.

The Award Ceremony was held in Abu Dhabi & presented by Felipe Calderón, former President of Mexico (2006 - 2012) and Chairman of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate.

NAWASA's General Manager Mr. Christopher Husbands attended the award. Although the award was snatched up by another country Mr. Husbands says that he is not despaired for even the nomination is congratulatory, ***'Grenada is a small country and NAWASA is a small organisation, but being nominated for an award by a global body and being recognised in an event where dozens of international water companies are represented, is plenty to celebrate. NAWASA Grenada is now on the map as an organisation that strives to disseminate pertinent information water-wise to the general public, which was the aim of Water Warz.'***

Mr. Husbands lauded the organisers of the Jeopardy! styled competition, ***'The Communications Unit is responsible for spearheading all World Water Activities and they hit the jackpot with Water Warz. Along with their planning committee the Unit created an historical event, a quiz that indeed raised the bar! Congratulations is therefore extended to the Unit, the planning committee and everyone who had a part to play in the successful staging of the first season of NAWASA Water Warz. We are immensely***

grateful for the support of GIZ through its Head in Grenada Mr. Dieter Rothenberger. He believed in our vision and provided financial and other support to make it a reality."

The Global Water Leaders Group is active in the water sector. The Water Leaders Award is the only non-profit Global Water Award and it rewards performance improvements in public water utilities in the developing world over the past year.

This year's winner Rwanda received receive international acclaim for their utility's performance improvements, including presentation of the iconic Global Water Award crystal trophy in front of at least 600 of the world's foremost leaders in the water sector during the Gala Dinner on 19th April, 2016 in Abu Dhabi.