

Prof. Mohan Munasinghe to receive premier global award

- He was selected for the award for having made significant contributions to the resolution of global environmental problems



Sri Lankan physicist, economist and Founder Chairman of Institute for Development (MIND) Prof. Mohan Munasinghe has been selected as a recipient for this year's Blue Planet Prize, the top international award considered to be equivalent to an "Environmental Nobel Prize".

This year marks the 30th awarding of the Blue Planet Prize, sponsored by the Asahi Glass Foundation of Japan. The Board of Directors has selected two awardees for 2021: Prof. Mohan Munasinghe from Sri Lanka and Prof. V. Ramanathan from the USA, for having made significant contributions to the resolution of global environmental problems. Born in Sri Lanka, Professor Munasinghe pioneered innovative concepts like the integrative, transdisciplinary 'Sustainomics' framework, sustainable development triangle (environment, economy and society), 'balanced inclusive green growth (BIGG)' and 'millennium consumption goals (MCGS)'.

As Vice-chair of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), he shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 -- becoming the first Sri Lankan to do so. His ideas have contributed to several key global treaties on environment and sustainable development.

He is an old boy of Royal College, Colombo, and obtained his BA honours in Engineering, and MA from Cambridge University, UK. Prof. Munasinghe also holds the SM and Professional EE degrees in Electrical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, a PHD degree in Solid State Physics from McGill University, Canada, an MA degree in Development Economics from Concordia University, Canada, and several honorary doctorates. Prof. Munasinghe is the author of over one hundred scholarly books, and about four hundred technical papers in well-known scientific journals, and fellow of several leading global academies of science.