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**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS  
BY  
H.E. DR. SALIM A. SALIM  
OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL  
ON THE OCCASION OF AWARDING GOLD  
MEDALS TO  
THE BEST AFRICAN INVENTORS**

**Algiers, 12 July, 1999**

*Your Excellency Mr. A. Bouteflika,*  
*President of the People's Democratic*  
*Republic of Algeria,*  
*Chairman, OAU Summit,*  
*Excellencies Heads of State & Government,*  
*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is my honour and privilege to, once again, introduce the OAU/WIPO Gold Medal Award to you, within the context of promoting Science & Technology as one of the main instruments for the socio-economic development and integration of our Continent through the encouragement of inventions and innovations. In this regard, the OAU, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), has come together to implement a biennial joint programme of awarding Gold Medals to the best African inventors/innovators, including women and youth categories.

The fact that this Award ceremony is being witnessed by the African Heads of State and Government constitute a testimony of the support, at the highest level, to upgrading Science and Technology in Africa. This programme is put in place to promote innovation and invention as they relate to Health Care, Food and Energy Technologies. Today, we are witnessing the Sixth Awards Ceremony.

This year, the Jury Panel met in Addis Ababa and considered all the entries received from all the regions of the Continent and recommended two winners; one in the adult category and one in the junior category. ~~Unfortunately, none of the applications from women inventors/innovators submitted was found suitable for award.~~

I have the pleasure, therefore, to present the results of this year's contest as follows : -

- **DR. ENG. MOHAMED ABDEL-MONEM ALI**  
**IN THE ADULT CATEGORY, FOR HIS**  
**INNOVATION TITLED :**  
*“RENEWABLE ENERGY STAND ALONG WATER*  
*DISTILATION/DESALINATION SYSTEM”.*
  
- **MR. CLAUDE JEROME CARCASSE**  
**IN THE JUNIOR CATEGORY, FOR HIS**  
**INNOVATION TITLED:**  
*“MECHANISM AND PROCESS OF A MECHANICAL*  
*ENERGY ACCUMULATOR”.*

It is, therefore, my great honour and privilege to invite the Chairman of the Assembly, H.E. President A. Bouteflika, to kindly bestow the medals to our distinguished winners.

I thank you.