



## Announcement

# Honorary Doctorate from Göteborg University, Sweden conferred on, Dr. Mohiuddin Munawar, Chief Editor of AEHM

It is a great pleasure for us to inform the readers of this journal that its Chief Editor, Dr. M. Munawar, received the degree of *Doctor Honoris Causa* from the Faculty of Science, Göteborg University, Sweden, on 20 October 2007.

For those of us, among many, who have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Munawar as he communicates and stimulates the practice of Aquatic Ecosystem Health around the globe, this comes with great satisfaction but not complete surprise. The highlights of Dr. Munawar's highly productive career are described by Dr. Goran Dave. Nonetheless, in addition to Dr. Munawar's long term research efforts in the North American and other Great Lakes of the world, recognition is due to the high quality of the intellectual environment within the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) over the years that provided not only the opportunity to conduct world-class research, but also to pursue innovative thinking and global action. One colleague, in particular, had a large influence on Dr. Munawar beginning in the late 1980s. In 1987, the late Dr. Jack Vallentyne had articulated the "ecosystem approach" that focused on the management of people, society, and economics as the key components in addressing the environmental problems of the day. Dr. Munawar's inspiration was to expand the "ecosystem approach" by launching a more compelling, integrated and human related concept of "ecosystem health" to the assessment and restoration of aquatic ecosystems by founding the International Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society (AEHMS) in 1989 and later initiating its primary journal (Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management: AEHM) published by the well known publishers: Taylor & Francis, USA. The AEHM is now ranked by ISI and covered by Thomson scientific products (Science Citation Index, Current Contents and Journal citation reports). Soon after the initiation of the journal, Dr. Munawar launched the publication of peer reviewed books under the Ecovision World Monograph Series.

Here we attest to Dr. Munawar's energetic and dedicated leadership and his work over decades to encourage aquatic science and ecosystem health. He brings a unique combination of vision, infectious enthusiasm, patience, and perseverance to the promotion of excellent, multi-disciplinary science and environmental management and the communication of these. Through effective conferences, symposia, chapters and working groups convened in and accessible to local professionals in many regions of the world, followed by timely, high quality, peer-reviewed publications including special issues and books, Dr. Munawar ensures that the scientific and technical results are widely and reliably available.

Particular acknowledgement is also warranted for those who assist with AEHMS's global scientific activities and publications and who share the delight of this award with Dr. Munawar, his wife Iftekhara Fatima Munawar as its managing editor, and children: Saberina, Nabila, and Ahmad who also assist in the editing of manuscripts as needed. Also assisting Dr. Munawar has been a team of dedicated AEHMS

executive-staff members, especially Jennifer Lorimer, the Editorial-Advisory Board members, guest editors, and a network of colleagues and reviewers world wide.

*Diane F. Malley (Canada), Renato Baudo (Italy), Chris Goddard (U.S.A),  
Marc Gaden (U.S.A.), Robert Heath (U.S.A), Waleed Hamza (U.A.E),  
Martin van der Knaap (The Netherlands), Sharon Lawrence (Canada),  
Joe Leach (Canada), Ed Mills (U.S.A), Charles Ken Minns (Canada),  
Frits Roest (The Netherlands), A.R. Zafar (India)*

***Executive and Editorial Advisory Board members  
Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management Society***

## GÖTEBORG UNIVERSITY

### *Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences*

I am pleased to inform the members of the Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management Society, that Dr. Mohiuddin Munawar received an honorary doctorate (*Doctor Honoris Causa*) from the Faculty of Science, Göteborg University, Sweden. The degree was conferred to acknowledge Dr. Munawar's accomplishments as given in the commendation from Dr. David Turner, Dean of Science:

“This is in recognition of your comprehensive and recognized research on limnology of large aquatic systems including the Great Lakes and your outstanding contributions to the development of the concept of ecosystem health through development of the Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management Society and its journal, and your dedicated work in the arrangement of international symposia and conferences, not least in developing countries.”

An excerpt from the Doktorspromotion booklet containing Dr. Munawar's biography is reprinted on the following page along with pictures of the occasion.

The ceremony was held on October 20, 2007, at the Göteborg Congress Centre (Svenska Mässan). Dr. Munawar's wife, Fatima, and daughter, Nabila, were also present at the ceremony and at the following dinner reception.

During his visit to Göteborg and its University, a Mini-symposium on *Ecosystem Health: Assessment and Management* was held at the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Munawar's keynote presentation was “Ecosystem Health and Management: A journey through the Great Lakes”. Also a lunch meeting was given by the Dean's office for the honorary doctorates recipients of our Faculty.

For me it was a great pleasure and honour to act as a host for Dr. Munawar during his stay in Göteborg, and I'm also very pleased to know that we are now not only colleagues and friends, but also doctors at the same university.

January 2, 2008

*Göran Dave*

Professor

Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences

University of Göteborg

## **Biography**

**Dr. Mohiuddin Munawar, Ph.D.**

**2007 Honorary Doctorate, Göteborg University, Sweden**

Dr. Mohiuddin Munawar earned a Ph.D. (Phycology/Physiological Ecology of phytoplankton) from the eminent Hydrobiological Laboratory, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India in 1968. He then proceeded to the United States (Southern Illinois University-SIU, Carbondale, Illinois) and took up a postdoctoral research assignment with Prof. Jacob Verduin, well known for his research on the primary productivity. Dr. Munawar worked at SIU on the productivity of Illinois lakes as well as Lake Erie. Later he moved to Canada and joined the University of Saskatchewan as a lecturer and researcher in phycology. This was followed by a 3 year National Research Council's postdoctoral research position with the renowned Dr. R.A. Vollenweider on the phytoplankton and primary productivity of the Laurentian Great Lakes at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters in Burlington, Ontario. In 1972, Dr. Munawar joined Fisheries & Oceans Canada as a Research Scientist. Since then he has been actively involved in Great Lakes plankton research and has published more than 200 papers and given more than 300 presentations, with several invited papers and plenaries. He is recognized internationally for his contributions to phycology, physiological ecology, food-web dynamics, ecotoxicology, and ecosystem health. His work includes a set of monographs on the structure and function of Great Lakes phytoplankton. His interests have expanded into comparative studies of large and Great Lakes of the world.

Dr. Munawar initiated the concept of Ecosystem Health, founded the Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management Society in 1989 for which he serves as its founder president. He was invited to launch the Society's primary journal as its chief editor: *Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management*, published quarterly by Taylor and Francis, Philadelphia, USA. The journal is now ranked by ISI and is covered by Thompson Scientific Products. Due to the need for holistic ecological books dealing with the "total ecosystem" (air-water-land-biotic interactions), the *Ecovision World Monograph Series* was initiated by him, as its Series Editor, and more than 20 books have since been published. He organized, convened and chaired numerous international symposia, conferences, forums, chapters and working groups (e.g. *Sediment Quality Assessment-SQA*, *Great Lakes of the World-GLOW*) on important topics such as ecosystem health, plankton structure/function, food web dynamics, microbial food web, and aquatic ecosystem conservation. He has received several Awards and distinctions such as the Chandler-Misner Award for best scientific manuscript of the year (1980), Canadian Public Service Commission Award (1996) and the prestigious Anderson-Everett Award for life time contribution to Great Lakes Science (1998).



**Figure 1.** *Top:* Honorary doctorate citation being read for Dr. M. Munawar at the promotion ceremony. *Middle:* Dr. Kerstin Johansson, promoter, conferring the honorary doctorate. *Bottom:* Prof. Goran Dave and Dr. Munawar after the ceremony.