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PRESS RELEASE

The 1st Inter-American Prize for Educational Innovation in Higher Education awarded to Philippe Poullaouec-Gonidec

September 15th 2016 – Following a call for proposals from the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (OUI-IOHE), Philippe Poullaouec-Gonidec, professor at the University of Montreal, was awarded the 1st Inter-American Prize for Educational Innovation 2016 for the project titled WAT_UNESCO of the UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environmental Design (CUPEUM).

WAT_UNESCO, an innovative educational model

WAT_UNESCO is a strategic support activity for urban development that builds on the expertise of a university network of international cooperation. Built around the implementation of intensive workshop in urban design, results from this single reflection provide pragmatic solutions to urban problems and challenges. This pedagogical initiative in higher education is supported by UNESCO and serves local communities in search of preservation, enhancement and innovative development of their territories and landscapes.

As highlighted by Prof. Philippe Poullaouec-Gonidec, "*receiving the first prize of this international competition is a great honor, but it is primarily the recognition of a team invested in this educational (and research) project which included, in recent years, my colleagues Patrick Marmen (research fellow) and Sylvain Paquette (professor) as well as of the involvement of UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environmental Design's international cooperation network which is strongly committed to the development of cities around the world.*"

The first edition of the Inter-American Prize for Educational Innovation in Higher Education

The Inter-American Prize for Educational Innovation rewards the best teaching practices in higher education coming from the 345 academic institutions that are a member of the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (OUI-IOHE) and that represent 35 countries (Central America, Brazil, Canada, Caribbean, Colombia, southern Cone, United States, Mexico and Andean countries).

Following a preselection of 35 projects coming from different academic institutions from fifteen countries, the jury selected 10 best practices in higher education and then named the three winners.

Be noted that this nomination was proposed and seconded by Mr. Guy Lefebvre, Vice-Rector for International Affairs, the Francophonie, philanthropy and alumni relations at the University of Montreal. Laureates will receive their awards during a ceremony to be hold in Mexico on November 25th during the XXXVI General Assembly of the OUI-IOHE and the Guadalajara international Book Fair.

UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environmental Design (CUPEUM)

Created in 2003, CUPEUM is a scientific body that applies research and higher education to the development of cities and their landscapes. To address issues relating to the preservation, enhancement and development of urban landscapes in various regions throughout the world, CUPEUM is involved in a variety of scientific activities (research/education) in partnership with local communities. Given the complexity of urban development issues, CUPEUM promotes platforms for international reflection to envision creative solutions most likely to promote quality urban environments, showcase cities' identities, and resolve environmental, social as well as economic problems. These solutions are contingent first and foremost on sharing, dialogue and cooperation among cultures. CUPEUM focuses all of its activities on the internationalization of knowledge in the areas of architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, urban planning, and ecology through academic solidarity, professor and student mobility and the commitment of local and national governments. All CUPEUM's activities contribute to educating, awareness-building and guiding elected officials and municipal experts, governments and citizens for the future of their territory. The CUPEUM thus promotes the sharing of knowledge, teaching experiences and bilateral and multilateral research (seminars and projects) with the active support of all its partners, particularly the countries of five global regions (North and South America, Europe, North Africa, Middle East, and Asia)

WAT_UNESCO are made possible through the support from UNESCO, the Canadian and Quebec governments and the University of Montreal, specifically the Office for International Affairs, the Faculty of Environmental Design and the School of Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture as well as the active participation of its international network of scientific cooperation.

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