



International Erosion Control Association

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International Erosion Control Association

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California Erosion Control Expert Wins International Award for Work in Erosion and Sediment Control Industry

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo. – Michael Harding, CPESC, a technical consultant, who has been evaluating, developing and applying cost-effective materials and techniques to control soil erosion and sediment for more than 30 years, has received the 2007 *Sustained Contributor Award* from the International Erosion Control Association (IECA).

The award will be presented to Harding during formal ceremonies February 13, 2007, at Environmental Connection, IECA's annual conference in Reno, Nev.

Harding, a principal in Great Circle International, LLC, San Diego, has contributed significantly to the effectiveness of alternative approaches to erosion control through field and laboratory testing programs. His work, both in the U.S. and overseas, has involved projects ranging from construction sites and mined land reclamation to habitat development and environmental studies.

He played a key role in protecting slopes from erosion following wildfires in Oakland, Calif. (1991), in 22 fire-affected areas in Southern California (1993) and in the San Diego Cedar and Paradise Fires (2003). Internationally, he has directed research, planning and implementation of erosion control and revegetation projects in Canada, Italy, Indonesia and Taiwan.

Harding, who served three terms as president of IECA, has written many articles on erosion and sediment control, resource management and post-fire hazard mitigation for national publications. He frequently teaches seminars and workshops and has been the invited speaker at the National Academy of Sciences, the National Transportation Research Board. He was a contributing author to the book, *Environmental Restoration, Science and Strategies for Restoring the Earth*, edited by John Berger (Island Press).

Harding's previous awards include the Outstanding Achievement Award for Applied Innovation by the Peabody Coal Company for developing innovative, cost-effective practices for constructed wetlands and wildlife habitat to comply with water quality regulations. His work with his late wife Carol Forrest, CPESC, CPSWQ, PE – a past *Sustained Contributor Award* winner – and her company, Woodward-Clyde Consultants, helped that company receive the Engineering Excellence Merit Award from the Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors of California.

Harding is the past director and current technical advisor to the San Diego State University Soil Erosion Research Laboratory in San Diego.

He is also expedition leader for the Flight of Discovery, a team of pilots and scientists who re-traced the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail from 2004-2006 to compare 200 years of environmental and cultural change along the route of the Corps of Discovery during the National Bicentennial.

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About IECA

The International Erosion Control Association (IECA) is the world's oldest and largest association devoted entirely to helping members solve the problems caused by erosion and its byproduct – sediment. Founded in 1972, IECA is a non-profit organization that serves as the premier global resource for the prevention and control of erosion.

This is the 16th year of the annual IECA *Awards of Environmental Excellence* program. The *Sustained Contributor Award* recognizes a person who has demonstrated a significant and long-term contribution to the erosion control industry through education, government involvement, research or development of technology.

For more information about state-of-the-art educational events and materials, please visit our web site at www.ieca.org.