

## IEMA Awards Celebrate “Engaging” Young Environmentalists at Industry Event

**Three young environmentalists were awarded top industry accolades by the premier body for environmental professionals this week at a central London ceremony.**

Students Daniel Spencer and Rudra Kapila were awarded the IEMA Student Essay Awards in the Undergraduate and Postgraduate categories respectively during a drinks reception on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, held at Central Hall in Westminster to mark the 10 year anniversary of the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA).

Rachael Gill, Environmental Manager for Jaspers (Treburley) Ltd, was then awarded the top award of the evening; IEMA Graduate of the Year Award.

The Student Essay Awards, sponsored by the University of Bath, celebrate the most innovative, creative, effective and thought-provoking environmental essay submitted during IEMA's awards campaign. Daniel Spencer, an Undergraduate in International Management and Modern Languages at the University of Bath, was awarded the winning prize (a trophy, £600 cash and free attendance to IEMA's Lean and Green Conference) for his essay entitled 'How can spirituality help invoke the mindset shift needed to overcome the current eco-crisis and ensure the survival of future generations of all life on earth'. Rudra Kapila, a Postgraduate student at University of Edinburgh where she is studying for a PhD in 'Sites, regulations and policies for the geological storage of carbon dioxide in India' won the Postgraduate award category. For her essay, 'Another Elephant in the Room' which focussed on the population and the plight of rural women in impoverished areas of the globe, Rudra won a trophy, £800 and attendance to Lean and Green.

John Brady, Managing Editor of 'the environmentalist' and a member of the Judging Panel for the Student Essay Awards declared both winning essays as "engaging". *"Daniel's essay on spirituality was a rare reading experience for me but one greatly valued. He reminded me of the life-long challenge of restoring the unity of human beings and nature. Rudra wrote about the 'Elephant in the Room', and how environmentalists observe this detached-from reality experience from time to time. It will be a pleasure to include both essays in the pages of 'the environmentalist.'"*

The Graduate of the Year Award, sponsored by Land Securities identifies the Graduate employee who has made significant, effective and original environmental improvements to their organisation. Rachael Gill, a Graduate from the University of Plymouth, faced a difficult task in her role at Jaspers, a beef abattoir in Devon but has since implemented a robust environmental management system (EMS) and steered the company towards achieving the BS8 555 standard and International standard, ISO 14001.

Sarah Beattie, from sponsor Land Securities and member of the Judging Panel says that Rachael was the strongest nomination out of many outstanding entries. *"The judges were impressed by this year's entries, but Rachel's entry stood out and was quickly nominated as the winner by a majority of the panel. We felt that Rachel had been given a difficult task, to implement an EMS and achieve BS8555 from scratch in a working environment that was quite alien to her. That she not only accomplished her task but went further, in attaining certification to ISO14001 and even receiving a letter of praise from the Environment Agency, proved to the judges that she was demonstrating exactly the qualities expected from the award winner."*

Rachel wins a trophy, £2000 in cash and free attendance at Lean and Green.

For more information on IEMA and Lean and Green, including the theme, speakers, awards and for comment on environmental skills and development in the low carbon and resource efficient economy, simply contact Katrina Pierce at [k.pierce@iema.net](mailto:k.pierce@iema.net) or visit [www.iema.net](http://www.iema.net).

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1. The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) is a leading not-for-profit membership organisation established to promote best practice standards in environmental management, auditing and assessment.
2. The Institute offers support to environmental professionals and aims to promote sustainability through improved environmental practice and performance.
3. With over 14,500 individual and corporate members, the IEMA is now a leading international membership-based organisation, dedicated to the promotion of sustainable development and to the professional development of individuals involved in the environmental sectors across many industrial sectors.
4. Lean and Green: How Environmental Practitioners Can Help Business Survive and Thrive is IEMA's Conference for 2009. It was held at Central Hall in Westminster on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009. The Drinks Reception held after the main conference proceedings marked the 10 Year Anniversary of IEMA since its formation in 1999.
5. The IEMA Student Essay Award has been awarded annually since 2003.
6. The IEMA Graduate of the Year Award is only in its second year, having been introduced in 2008.
7. For more information on the IEMA, its events, services, membership, training and publications, please visit [www.iema.net](http://www.iema.net).

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