

12-21-2006 14:01:27

COpyright 2006 By The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.

France - **Dan David Prize**

U.S. scientists, French composer and historian, Indian conductor win Dan David prizes

PARIS (AP) - Three American scientists, an Indian conductor and a historian and composer from France have won awards each worth US\$1 million (euro759,550), France's culture minister said Thursday.

The Dan David awards, in their sixth year, go to nominees whose achievements have made a scientific, technological, cultural or social impact on the world in three categories: past, present and future. French Culture Minister Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres announced the winners.

The "Future" prize was awarded to three American scientists: Dr. James Hansen of New York's Goddard Institute of Space Studies and Dr. Jerry Olson & Dr. Sarah Kurtz of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado. Hansen won for what the jury called his "exceptional" work on climate change, while Olson and Kurtz were honored for their research on solar power technology.

French composer Pascal Dusapin and Indian conductor Zubin Mehta will share US\$1 million (euro759,550) for their achievements in the "Present" category. In a statement, the jury praised Mehta, who conducted the New York Philharmonic for 13 years, for his "flamboyant direction."

The "Past" prize went to French historian Jacques Le Goff, author of more than 30 books on the Middle Ages.

The awards are named after Israeli Dan David, a native of Romania who made his fortune inventing, patenting, developing and marketing photographic technologies, including automatic photo booths.

The prizes, which were announced in Paris, are funded by a US\$100 million (euro75 million) endowment administered by Tel Aviv University. Winners can use US\$900,000 (euro682,000) as they please, but must give US\$100,000 (euro75,800) away in grants to young researchers. The prizes will be handed out at a ceremony at Paris' Garnier Palace, in May.

On the Net:

Dan David Prize: <http://www.dandavidprize.org>