The Award for the Advancement of Surface Irrigation seeks to recognize an individual, group, or project that successfully demonstrates and publicizes the effective use of surface irrigation. It is anticipated that the award and associated publicity will further the recognition of surface irrigation methods as practical, efficient, economical, and not labor intensive when properly applied in conjunction with an adequately large flexible water supply, adequate equipment, and adapted condition.

The Award for the Advancement of Surface irrigation is sponsored by the Fund for Furthering Flexible Irrigation (4FI) under the Merriam Endowment for flexible water supply, adequate equipment, and adapted condition.

Previous Award for the Advancement of Surface Irrigation Award Winners

2000 ................................................. Allen R. Rider
2001 ................................................. Theodor S. Strelkhoff
2002 ............................................... Glen E. Stringham
2003 ............................................... Jack Keller
2004 ............................................... Robert E. Sojkal
2005 ............................................... Rodrick D. Lentz
2006 ............................................... Phil L. Tacker
2007 ............................................... Wynn R. Wlaker
2008 ............................................... Keith E. Admire
2009 ............................................... Doyle Burch
2010 ............................................... John Hester
2011 ............................................... Dennis K. Carman
2012 ............................................... Jack Keller
2013 ............................................... Guy Fipps
2014 ............................................... No Recipient
2015 ............................................... No Recipient
2016 ............................................... No Recipient
2017 ............................................... No Recipient
2018 ............................................... No Recipient
2019 ............................................... No Recipient
2020 ............................................... László G. Hayde

László G. Hayde is the recipient of the 2020 Award for the Advancement of Surface Irrigation for his work promoting surface irrigation and efficient irrigation engineering and management through graduate education, consulting, and professional involvement around the world.

Hayde is a senior lecturer in irrigation engineering at the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education in Delft, the Netherlands since 2002. There, he is also the managing coordinator of the Water Science and Engineering Master of Science program. Besides teaching the engineering aspects of irrigation and drainage to hundreds of international graduate students, Hayde conducts research in irrigation, agricultural water management structures, hydraulic engineering structures and irrigation system hydraulics. He is also an expert in environmental impact assessment, the history of hydraulic engineering and water management.

Throughout his career, Hayde has made a tremendous impact on surface irrigation in a variety of ways, ranging from graduate student education to consulting. Hayde worked on a design team for the Duhok reservoir and its structures, especially on a unique broken-axis stilling basin system. This system is located in Iraq and provides water for irrigation and continues to be in operation to this day. Hayde has also worked on environmental impact assessments, detailed construction design projects in the Lake Balaton region in Hungary on shore protection and port developments. Hayde also worked as expert investigating expected effects of the European Water Framework Directive and measures required for its introduction in agricultural water management, for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Hungary.

In 2019, Hayde was invited to become a member of the Scientific Water Council of the General Directorate of Water Management, an advisory body for the Minister, responsible for water management issues in Hungary.

Hayde maintains a number of professional memberships including the International Water History Association and he is Vice President Honorary of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage. Hayde is also an associate editor for Irrigation and Drainage, Journal of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage.

Hayde has authored or coauthored several peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and conference proceeding papers. He also coedited the book Danube Valley, History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control (2004). Throughout his career, Hayde’s expertise has been recognized with awards including the Bolyai Janos Research Fellowship awarded by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He was also made an honorary associate professor in the Faculty of Civil Engineering at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics.