

GPD's chairman Jorma Vitkala honored during the opening ceremony for the 25-year anniversary of Glass Performance Days 2017 in Tampere, Finland

There was a great deal of emotion and surprise when **Jorma Vitkala** received a superb stand-up ovation in appreciation of everything he has accomplished for the international glass industry since its inception some 25 years ago. Vitkala was recognized on behalf of the whole glass industry, the platinum sponsors represented by **Jean-Paul Hautekeer** for Dow Corning, and **Jonathan Cohen**, from Kuraray.

"Sometimes, we just need to step back and say THANK YOU," said Jean-Paul Hautekeer, Global Marketing Director for High Performance Building at Dow Corning. "What Jorma has accomplished for the glass industry is unparalleled. Nothing would be possible without the human element that Jorma is personalizing so much."

Last but not least, in recognition of his overall work, Jorma Vitkala was awarded a trophy entitled "Jorma Vitkala Award of Merit" for 2017 by Jean-Paul and Jonathan, on behalf of the global glass industry.

"This award was created for this 25-year anniversary and will continue to be awarded at future GPD conferences to recognize individuals for their contribution to the glass industry."

During the same ceremony, Jorma was also awarded an honorary membership from GANA, the Glass Association of North America, given in person by Stanley Yee, President of GANA. He also received a special award from HKFA, Hong Kong Façade Association, given by Sammy Hui, Vice-President — and from KAFA, Korean Architect Façade Association, by Bruce Park, Board Member, giving this special tribute a truly international dimension.



Jorma Vitkala was handed the "Jorma Vitkala Award of Merit" for 2017" by Dow Corning's Jean-Paul Hautekeer and Kuraray's Jonathan Cohen.