



GLOBAL 500 FORUM

Newsletter of the UNEP Global 500 Laureates

October 2004

NEW GLOBAL 500 MESSAGE CENTER INAUGURATED

Through the dedicated efforts of two employees of the Laurel Springs School in Ojai, California, the Global 500 Laureates will now be able to enjoy a Message Center.

For those unfamiliar with the concept, message boards are Internet applications that allow people to log in to a central site to converse with other message board members in an open forum. Conversations are organized by topic and threads, which are a series of connected messages on a topic.

It is our hope that the Message Center will allow Laureates to communicate more effectively and frequently with one another. Eventually, Laureates will be able to upload their information right to the site. This, in turn, will keep the community viable and current. Mary Ann Maybaum of Laurel Springs School

will serve as the Center's moderator, distributing usernames and passwords and monitoring threads.

The Message Center is the result of nearly 18 months of work. Vern Green, Laurel Springs School Information Technology (IT) Director, built the Center using Web Wiz Forms software. When asked about this process, Green said that the buttons, background and colour scheme were changed to make it compatible with the design of the Global 500 web site. The Laureate Search feature took about two weeks to build. The directory of Laureates can be searched by name, by organization, by country, by year of the award, or by category: adult or youth. A list will pop up with the search criteria. "This was most rewarding and enjoyable to build," added Green, "because the design and scheme were both good. There weren't any 'bugs' in the software, so that makes the end result so much easier. In the future we'll design a search feature for news articles".

In order for the Message Center to reach as many Laureates as possible, all of their contact information first had to be updated. That entailed reviewing

almost 1,000 entries in the database, covering the years 1987 through 2003. Mary Ann Maybaum took on the daunting task of hunting the Internet for missing Laureates.

In her detective work, Maybaum discovered that she is a great admirer of the Laureates. "It's wonderful...I've learned so much. There are so many NGOs out there raising money on their own. And there's such a need, particularly in the area of deforestation. We desperately need the vegetation back, and these groups just take the work on."

The search has had its challenges for Mary Ann: for example, finding a website for a country that has been going through civil strife; or finding a good search engine to translate websites written in a number of different languages; or discovering that some Laureates, she noted, "were actually deceased, but that their legacies continue in foundations and endowments."

Maybaum's next project for the Global 500 Forum will be updating Laureate biographies. The Message Center will prove invaluable in this capacity.

Inside this issue:

UNEP Launches New Award

Global 500 Interactive Message Center Launched

Letter from The President

Global 500 Directory Now Available

Clean Up the World – A Continuing Success for Ian Kiernan

Farewell to a Staunch Global 500 Supporter

Najib Saab Receives Book Award

Dr. Pathak Receives Yet Another Award

Barbara Pyle Films Win Prestigious Telly Awards

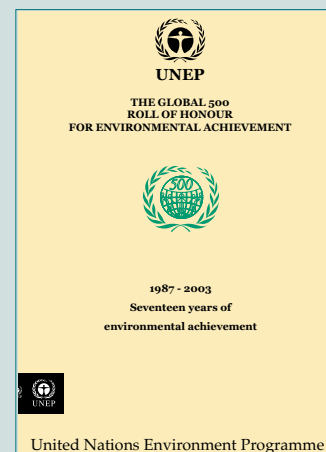
A Miracle in Senegal

Anne Mearns, Dedicated Environmentalist, Writes Books for Children

Kudos for MEDASSET – Sea Turtle Symposium Breaks Records

GLOBAL 500 DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

UNEP is pleased to announce that the long-awaited Global 500 Directory is now available electronically. The Global 500 Forum will soon make it available on-line through the website at <www.global500.org>. In the interim, should you like to have a copy sent to you by e-mail, please contact Ms. Rajinder K. Sian, Information Assistant, Outreach and Special Events, Division of Communications & Public Information, UNEP at: <rajinder.sian@unep.org>.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Laureates,

In June we celebrated the 17th anniversary of the Global 500 programme. This event is an important benchmark for us as our members continue their environmental work so essential to protecting, preserving and supporting our earth and its species.

Our Laureates' actions serve as a testimonial to the Global 500 award process. Members are hard at work, living their vision and proving that this award continues on through their achievements. All over the world our Laureates have demonstrated a

steadfast focus on their ideals and their mission. Laureates in Africa were very busy planning for and implementing the First Global 500 African Network Congress, and our Swedish friends at Globetree worked directly with the Children's Garden Center to bring environmental awareness to the children of Nairobi, Kenya. In Beirut, Najib Saab (one of our newest Laureates) inspired us with his dedication when he, as co-founder of the Sea of Lebanon association, signed an agreement with Monaco to protect the Lebanese coast, and received Best Book Award in design and production for his **Nature Book** illustrating 22 nature sites in the Arab countries. In America, one of our longest standing Laureates, Barbara Pyle, continued her work to bring awareness of the struggle and triumph of the women of Senegal through her documentary series **People Count**. And there were many more: Cubasolar held its first environmental conference in Cuba on 12-16 April; Verna Simpson persisted in her environmental campaign for a land clearing solution in Australia; Medasset took dramatic action to preserve the turtle species; and Jan van der Leun chaired the making of a brilliant UNEP report assessing the environmental effects of ozone depletion. Our stunning group of Laureates moved ahead with

a determination that gives credence to the Global 500 Award, and they make us proud to be part of the Global 500 community.

The goals of the Global 500 Forum are to document the work being done by our members, to serve as a networking arm for UNEP and our Laureates, and to provide our Laureates with information and support. Your regular updates and photographs are published on our website <www.global500.org> and in our newsletter. Please take advantage of these publications and of our new Laureate Message Center which was inaugurated on 1 April of this year.

I am truly honored to be part of an organization that supports the work of the Global 500 laureates worldwide. Documenting your ongoing triumphs has been a gift. Our group of 735 Laureates is affecting the lives of millions of people, animals, plants and the earth.

Warmly,

Marilyn Mosley
President
Global 500 Environmental Forum

HOW TO USE THE NEW MESSAGE BOARD

Below are instructions for accessing the Message Center and using the Message Board

The Global 500 Message Board – a much-needed communication tool – will allow laureates to stay in touch with fellow members around the world. For the first time in the history of the Forum, laureates can come together to discuss relevant issues, provide support and learn more about each other's projects.

The Board is very easy to use. Here is how to do it:

1. Go to (<http://www.global500.org>) and click on the Laureate Message Center link.
2. Register an account on the message board. You will be asked to sign a short Terms of Use
3. In response, you will receive an e-mail that will ask you to click on a link to activate your account.
4. The next step is to make a post on the "Post For Access" forum. This will notify the Message Board Coordinator that you want access to the Message Board.
5. The coordinator, Mary Ann Maybaum, will check the directory for your name (or name of your organization) and grant you access to all the message board items.
6. You are now registered and ready to post your first message!

We would like your help in updating your biography, which is included in our online directory. Please take a minute to review your information at (<http://www.global500.org/Search.asp>).

Your latest updates, e-mail and website addresses, and even a photo to accompany your biography can be sent to Mary Ann Maybaum at <maryann@laurelsprings.com>.

We look forward to your participation and welcome this opportunity to come together online!

UNEP LAUNCHES NEW AWARD – CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH

Letter from UNEP Executive Director to Laureates

Because you are an integral part of the UNEP family, I wanted to personally advise you that UNEP has launched a new global environment award entitled *Champions of the Earth*.

This new award is a continuation of the Global 500 Roll of Honour for Environmental Achievement, which, as you know, was launched in 1987 to recognize the achievements of individuals and organizations, such as yourself, in protecting the environment.

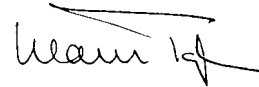
UNEP is very proud of your achievements and will maintain a close relationship with all of the laureates, and the Global 500 Forum will continue to play a special role.

The *Champions of the Earth* award will be presented every year to six outstanding environmental achievers and leaders, one from each region of the world, who have made a significant contribution, regionally and beyond, to the protection and sustainable management of the Earth's environment and natural resources.

You have great credibility for us and I invite you to nominate suitable candidates online at <www.unep.org/champions> or by completing the form and returning it to the Secretary of Champions of the Earth by the new deadline of 1 December 2004.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your own commitment to

the protection of the environment and to the work of UNEP, and I look forward to our continued collaboration.



Yours sincerely,
Klaus Toepfer
Executive Director



FAREWELL TO A STAUNCH GLOBAL 500 SUPPORTER

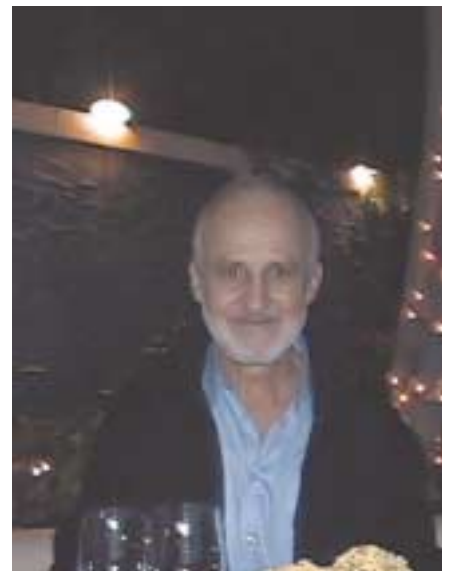
Laurel Springs Director and Husband of Forum President Passes

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of Lee Gordanier, dedicated and loving husband to the President of the Forum, Marilyn Mosley. Mr. Gordanier attended all of the Global 500 international functions with Ms. Mosley, and he supported Marilyn in her role as President by serving as donor and advisor to the Forum.

Lee was an inspirational visionary to everyone he knew and with whom he worked – encouraging them to pursue new adventures and new possibilities. He loved travel, international politics, creating new businesses, learning and inventing. As co-founder and co-director of Laurel Springs School, an accredited independent study programme for home schooling families, he saw the genius inherent in all students.

In 1997, Lee created and became CEO of The Learning Springs, which brought the Laurel Springs online curriculum to an international audience. His great affinity for the ocean and its creatures led him to rescuing and cleaning baby otters during the Exxon-Valdez oil spill. His strong commitment to education led him to guide the groundbreaking technology programmes designed at Laurel Springs and Learning Springs and used in the work of the Global 500 Environmental Forum.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Marilyn Mosley and to Mr. Gordanier's entire family. His contributions will be greatly missed at the international events of UNEP.



LAUREATES IN ACTION



Clean Up The World members in Dubai doing their part to promote World Environment Day 2004

Clean Up The World – A Continuing Success For 1993 Laureate Ian Kiernan

In 1993, Ian Kiernan was elected to UNEP's Global 500 Roll of Honour for his work and leadership in the local and global environment.

Ian is Chairman and Founder of Clean Up Australia and Clean Up the World (CUW), a community-based not-for-profit organization that co-ordinates Clean Up Australia Day and the global CUW campaign held in conjunction with UNEP.

CUW is an environmental campaign that inspires and empowers individuals and communities from every corner of the globe to clean up, fix up and conserve the environment.

Now in its 12th year, the campaign is active in more than 100 countries and motivates 40 million people each year to volunteer and make their environment a cleaner, healthier place to live.

Promoting community action is the key to long-term environmental change and brings together businesses, community groups, schools, governments and individuals in a range of activities and programmes that positively improve local environments.

Activities range from planting trees in a local park, removing noxious weeds to holding lessons about environmental responsibility in schools.

It might be an entire country banding together for a national day of action or a small group of friends and neighbours cleaning up their local waterway, park or forest.

As part of the campaign in Pakistan, a staggering one million people were mobilized by the Human Resource Social Welfare Society International in Shabqadar for a 'Mega Clean-up Event' running from 20 April to 5 June 2004. Residents and organizations beautified their local environment and received prizes and certificates for their commitment to improving where they live.

In Hamburg, Germany, the Stadreinigung mobilized 40,000 volunteers to remove rubbish from public places as part of 'Hamburg Cleans Up'. Similar activities will take place during the year in communities around the globe culminating in the CUW weekend on 17-19 September 2004.

Those interested in learning more about Clean Up the World and becoming a free member should visit <www.cleanuptheworld.org> or phone +61 2 9692 0700 for a registration form.

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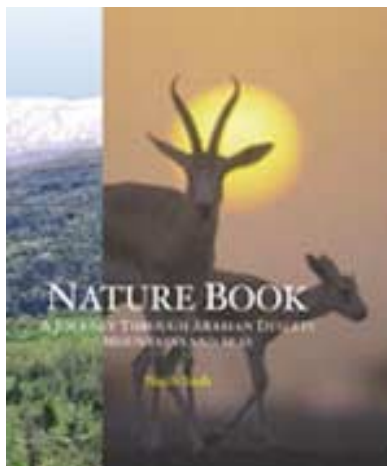
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2004 WAS HELD IN BARCELONA, SPAIN

The international World Environment Day (WED) celebrations took place in Barcelona in 2004 under the theme 'seas and oceans'. This important United Nations day was part of the Universal Forum of Cultures taking place from 9 May to 26 September 2004, and was organized with the support of the Barcelona City Council, the Catalan Regional Government and the Spanish Government.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - 5 JUNE 2004



Najib Saab Receives Nature Book Award



The 47th annual Arab-International Book Fair has awarded Najib Saab (2003 Laureate) the top prize in design and production for his *Nature Book*. Through breathtaking photography, the book explores 22 nature sites in the Arab countries. Design honours went to Mohammad Hamade and production to Beirut printer Chemaly & Chemaly.



Najib Saab receives the award from representative of Lebanese PM Rafik Hariri, minister of finance Fouad Seniora and minister of culture Ghazi Aridi

Najib Saab is the creator of *Al-Bia Wal-Tanmia* (Environment and Development) magazine, a publication dedicated to promoting environmental awareness among Arab nations. His efforts to raise consciousness regarding environmental issues in the Middle East have had a powerful impact. Visit his writings at

<www.mediamonitors.net/saab1.html> and *Al-Bia Wal-Tanmia* online: <www.mectat.com.lb>.

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Dr. Pathak Receives UN-Habitat Scroll Of Honour Award

Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak (2003 laureate) was presented with the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award in October 2003 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The founder of the Sulabh International Social Service Organization and the Sulabh Sanitation Movement in New Delhi, India, Dr. Pathak is a social scientist, a great humanist and environmentalist, a social reformer and an international expert on cost-effective sanitation systems. He modified and developed the technology for the twin-pit, pour-flush toilet, of which 1.1 million have been constructed. Its main contribution to a healthier environment has been the production of biogas from human excreta for the use of lighting and cooking, and the use of effluent as rich fertilizer; the treated water from the effluent is pollution-free and fit for discharge into any body of water.



Dr. Pathak lighting the lamp by biogas based energy

In addition to the many awards that have been given to Dr. Pathak for his work on behalf of the environment, he has been nominated as a member of the Task Force on Problems of Scavenging by the Planning Commission of the Government of India, as well as serving on many other national and international panels. The Governments of Afghanistan, Brazil, Nepal, South Africa, Kenya and other countries have invited him for consultation due to his expertise in sanitation issues.

Dr. Pathak has been made Special Adviser to the Geneva-based Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), in which capacity he goes around the world wherever the problem of bad sanitation exists – to offer advice – making the world a healthier and cleaner place to live.

To learn more about the Sulabh International Social Service Organization and Dr. Pathak's work with the Sulabh Sanitation Movement, please visit:

<[http:// www.sulabhinternational.org/](http://www.sulabhinternational.org/)>
<<http://www.sulabhtoiletmuseum.org/>>
<<http://www.sulabhinternational.org/>>
<<http://www.sulabhtoiletmuseum.org/>>

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Inner view of the superstructure of the Sulabh Toilet System - Dr. Pathak opening the door to sanitation

Barbara Pyle Films Receive Telly Awards

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, the Telly Awards held a special one-time competition, entitled **Classic Telly**

Awards, to honour film, video and TV commercials of timeless quality over the past 25 years.

The Golden **Telly** went to a dozen Barbara Pyle films, including 10 episodes of the series **People Count**,

as well as her favorites **One Child – One Voice** and **Without Borders**.

Thousands of entries from all 50 states in the United States of America (USA) and many countries around the world were received. The judging panel was overseen by David Carter, a past Clio and seven-time Emmy Award winner, who said, "Over the years, we have seen great work and it was exciting to have such an accomplished group of entries. The entries represented the very best work in the last 25 years, so earning recognition as a winner is a great accomplishment."

From Nepal, India, Jordan and the Philippines to the USA and Jamaica, Pyle journeyed to meet remarkable women who are paving the way to a better future for all women. These women have taken control of their own lives, including decisions about their family size, and prove that change is possible for women the world over.

All of Pyle's films were produced to coincide with the historic United Nations Conferences and Summits of the last decade including the Cairo Population Conference, the Women's Conference in Beijing, the Year of Six Billion, the Climate Change Negotiations and the Year of the Oceans.

"None of these films would have been possible without the support of many United Nations Agencies over the years" said Pyle, a 1989 laureate. "I would particularly like to thank the David and Lucille Packard Foundation and the Teresa and H. John Heinz III Foundation for their farsighted and ongoing support of the interwoven issues of population, environment and sustainable development; and of course, Counterpart International and Intelsat for their tireless distribution of **One Child – One Voice**," added Pyle.

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Barbara Pyle with a group of Indigenous women leaders in El Salvador, who teach the value of medicinal plants and sustainable agriculture



Post civil war El Salvador is the second most environmentally ravaged country in the Americas. Barbara Pyle photographs a group of Marta Benavides' rural students learning simple techniques of sustainable agriculture. In this photograph, they are learning terracing techniques that help prevent erosion.

A Miracle In Senegal

TOSTAN means breakthrough in the Senegalese dialect of Wolof.

For Barbara Pyle, a superb filmmaker, the word means “miracle” because that is what she saw in Senegal.

At the United Nations, Pyle met Molly Melching who has been organizing basic education and human rights classes in Senegal for over two decades. When she added a course about female genital circumcision/cutting (FGC) – a tradition imbedded in the culture – it sparked a social revolution that is sweeping the country.

Miracle in Senegal: 600,000 Voluntarily Stop Female Genital Circumcision is a film about this social revolution and is Ms Pyle's latest creation. It tells a grassroots story of hope and success. Distribution of the film to 5,000 TV stations worldwide via satellite is planned for late 2004 to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Beijing Women's Conference and the Cairo Population Conference.

If you would like more information about the film, go to: <http://www.peoplecounttv.com>.



Demba Djawara, a village Imam in rural Senegal with Oureye Sall, a former traditional cutter and another volunteer walk from village to village to talk to the people about the dangers of Female Genital Cutting as part of the TOSTAN project founded by Molly Melching

New Discussion Forum for Wild Animal Lovers

The Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand (WAR) has set up a discussion forum. Leonie Vejjajiva, 1994 Laureate, encourages anyone who is interested in wild animals to visit their website: www.warthai.org/forum. WAR is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the welfare and preservation of native species.

Anne Mearns Writes Books For Children

Anne Mearns (1998 Laureate) is an active caretaker of her homeland in Benoni, Gauteng Province, South Africa. A teacher, a writer of books for children about the conservation of wetlands, and a manager of environmental programmes, she is a role model for many in the way she lives her day-to-day life.

The biggest priority for Mearns is to provide fruit trees and vegetables for people in underprivileged areas, a project she began in 1989. “All over people plant their own vegetables in their little yards and they feed their families,” said Mearns. “If the people eat well they are happy.” At present, she has planted over 45,000 trees (fruit trees, shade trees and shrubs) in rural areas and schools, and her goal is to reach one million before she retires.



Barbara Pyle begins interview with Mrs. Kapandura in western Zimbabwe. She remembers life in the Zambezi Valley before it was drowned by the Kariba Dam. The story of her people, the Tonga, is a metaphor for all of Africa, people forced to live on marginal land

Recognizing the great need for environmental education, Mearns has written books for primary school children about preserving the animals, birds, plants and wildlife that live in the wetlands. The children are very interested in these natural areas and she wants to share the books with teachers and students around the world.

Mearns is well known for rescuing the unique bullfrogs that are endemic to South Africa. On the verge of extinction, these large frogs have permeable skins and are very sensitive to polluted water areas; therefore, where lots of these frogs gather, there is no pollution.

Ms. Mearns has established seven conservancies in the Benoni area for the protection of wetlands, dams, pans, marshes and grasslands, and she has written a management plan unique to each conservancy so that all aspects of the environment can prosper. She enjoys what she does so much that she says, "Once in conservation, you will stay there to the end of your life."

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Verna Simpson Makes Progress In Fight Against Australian Land Clearing

Verna Simpson, Director of Humane Society International and a 1999 Laureate, informs us that the Government of New South Wales has edged closer to reaching an agreement for implementing solutions to land clearing and protecting Australia's rich biological diversity. The Prime Minister has pledged millions toward this goal. In a letter to Prime Minister John Howard, dated 9 September 2003, Simpson writes:

"We are well aware that your country is one of only a dozen biologically mega-diverse countries on the face of this

Earth, and the only developed nation with that title. The array of natural ecosystems and their component species is simply breathtaking, making Australia one of the most important and exciting places in the world for the long-term conservation of biological diversity.

Your Government's recent initiatives, including the setting of *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001 – 2005*, the *2001 State of the Environment Report*, the *2002 working group report to PMSEIC, Sustaining Our Natural Systems and Biodiversity*, and the National Land and Water Audit's *2002 Australian Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment*, have succinctly highlighted the pressures facing your nation's natural resources, and laid out solutions and goals, for going much of the way towards attaining true ecologically sustainable development."

Verna's campaign has met with very positive media response. To read the full text of the letter and to learn more of this exciting progress, go to: < http://www.global500.org/news_101.html>.

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Bald Eagle Activist Ketchum Honoured At Festival

Photographer and 1991 laureate Robert Glenn Ketchum was an honoree at the American Bald Eagle Foundation's 2003 festival. This annual event, held in Haines, Alaska, USA



Bald Eagle

celebrates the presence of the 3,000 bald eagles that make their home along the Chilkat River. Ketchum, an avid environmental activist, was the keynote speaker.

He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award in Photography and Conservation. His photography is both art and a tool for raising environmental consciousness.

Visit Ketchum's breathtaking work at <www.robertglennketchum.com>. He may be contacted via e-mail at <metro@mediaone.net>.

For information about Haines's dense eagle population, rich biodiversity and details about the festival, go to <www.haines.ak.us>.

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Cubasolar International Workshop On Solar Energy

The International Workshop on Solar Energy or CUBASOLAR, entitled "Let's Globalize Sustainable Development," was held in Guantanamo, Cuba, from 12 – 16 April 2004. Sponsored by Cubasolar, a 2001 laureate, the international conference summit focused on current environmental problems and proposed solutions. A series of round-table discussions and small workshops provided an excellent opportunity to address social problems, international cooperation, the efficient use of energy, and ecology in Cuba and around the world. Subjects included:

- Renewable sources of energy and rural energization;
- Renewable energy in the fight against desertification;
- Solar energy, agriculture and agro-industry;
- The hydrographical basins and

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- their energy potential;
- Solutions in bio-climatic architecture;
- Ecotourism;
- Culture and energy conscience - general and specialized training; and
- Research, technology and equipment production for the use of renewable energy sources.

For more information about the Workshop, go to http://www.global500.org/news_104.html or www.cubasolar.cu.

Harmony Foundation Reports Progress



The Harmony Foundation has released its Annual Activity Report, available for download in PDF format at www.harmonyfdn.ca.

Founder Michael Bloomfield has made great efforts to create and implement educational programmes. The Foundation's activities include fostering relationships between government, corporate and community interests, with the aim of working together and educating to build a better environment, and in turn, a better society. The Foundation offers a variety of educational programmes geared toward these goals.

The Foundation is the recipient of a Global 500 Award, with Bloomfield, Founder and Executive Director of Harmony Foundation, Canada, honoured as a laureate in 1992. Reprinted here is the graceful and erudite introduction to the Activity Report, which showcases Bloomfield's environmental commitment:

"Over the past 18 years, Harmony's programmes have made excellent contributions towards improved environmental practices, helping thousands of people take positive action in their personal and professional lives. And yet many harmful practices persist. Our culture is so addicted to consumption that we far too often celebrate what is selfish and short-sighted. As a consequence, we often fail to meet our responsibilities to others. Our failure to grasp how profoundly our values influence our behaviour has enormous consequences for other people, other species and future generations.

Continuing to indulge ourselves means further damage to the environment and ongoing denial of the needs and rights of others. Everything we do, the transportation we choose, the food we eat, the investments we make, the clothing we buy, makes a difference. Responsible choices require knowledge of the issues and a commitment to doing better. Despite the challenges, we will continue to offer and promote education which encourages a constructive examination of our goals and values and leads to practices which are life affirming. It is our privilege to help people from all walks of life better understand how they can work together to take positive action. We proudly continue this important work thanks to the support of our generous donors. For their foresight we are grateful."

Thank you.
Michael Bloomfield

The Foundation is also the recipient of the Ethics in Action Award, and the Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship. To learn more and find ways to offer your support, visit the website or contact:

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Kudos For Medasset – Sea Turtle Symposium Breaks Records!



MEDASSET, the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles, has been honoured by the Athens Academy. For its efforts toward preserving sea turtles and conserving the health of their Mediterranean environment, MEDASSET received a Natural Sciences Commendation.

Lily Venizelos, a 1987 Global 500 Laureate, is the founder and president of MEDASSET. She reports that the 24th International Sea Turtle Symposium, held in San Jose, Costa Rica on 23 – 27 February 2004, was attended by more than 1,000 turtle biologists and conservationists from 78 countries. In his opening address, the President of Costa Rica, Mr. Abel Pacheco, said, "The human species has much to learn from sea turtles – about how to adjust our own behaviour to ensure that the planet survives."

With the theme Sea Turtle Lifescapes, more than 350 scientific oral and poster presentations dealt with: sea turtles in Costa Rica, sea turtles and socio-economics, assessment and



Lily Venizelos

monitoring, modelling and prediction, global and regional conservation and research, technology and sea turtles, and novel insights. All highlighting a recurrent emphasis on global co-operation. In addition, there were workshops on reducing sea turtle fisheries by catch and fundraising techniques.

On the final day, the members of the International Sea Turtle Society Symposium unanimously approved two resolutions. One to encourage the Ecuadorian Government to continue to implement its programme to evaluate and mitigate bycatch in Ecuadorian waters and to congratulate them. The other to the President of Ecuador, urging peaceful resolution of the current conflicts in the Galapagos Islands and the implementation of the Ley Especial de Galapagos.

Next year's Symposium will return to the USA in Savannah, Georgia under the Presidency of Thane Wibbels. It was decided that the Symposium in 2006 would be held in Greece, under President-elect Dimitris Margaritoulis.

For more information, please visit <www.euroturtle.org> – a website MEDASSET developed with the goal of educating the public about the plight of sea turtles.

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Children Take Action To Save The Earth

A Letter from Kajsa Dahlström

Dear Friends,

I'm amazed...so much has happened in just a few months, since the last Newsletter!

"The Mother Tree" – the Children's Meeting Place at the United Nations, in Nairobi – has now six beautiful children, six trees close to the City Halls of Kisumu in Kenya, Mwanza in Tanzania and Kampala, Entebbe, Mukono and Busia in Uganda.

The mayors of each city took great care in selecting the tree and the inauguration ceremonies united the deep voice of heritage, culture and symbolism with the young voices of the future. The Children's Meeting Place will spread. Borlänge, Värmdö and Sundsvall in Sweden have started. Homa Bay in Kenya, Strängnäs and Kalmar in Sweden are on their way.

The Children's Meeting Place will be an important venue for children and leaders in each city to meet, supported by Elders. The mayors of Kalmar, Strängnäs and Haninge, Sweden sent letters of congratulations and inviting cooperation, which were read and presented by the young participants from Sweden.

The Sukuma Elder, Mr. Lubasa in Mwanza inspired our preparation for an International Roots Meeting, which will take place around the Mother Tree at the United Nations in Nairobi in November. If you wish to join, let us know!

The Children's Meeting Place and Networking in the Lake Victoria Region was planned in cooperation with the Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Corporation (LVRLAC). The outcome of the 14-day study tour and the seminar can be described as an explosion of ideas, commitments, cooperation and – A LOT OF FUN. I wonder what will become of this amazing network between cities and municipalities in the Lake Victoria and the Baltic Sea Regions?

The idea of a World Championship in Cooperation was presented at the Globetree Yearly Globeday in October. I recall the hours I sat in a working group together with children - this initiative defiantly opens up a flood of the most amazing ideas!



The Children's Meeting Place at the United Nations in Nairobi

The Children's Garden has developed into a wonderful place of learning overcoming boundaries of age, gender, nations and cultures! The Department of Biotechnology at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden, will find ways on how to get clean water.

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Yawa Founder Receives Highest Malaysian Award

Khadijah Abdul Rahman, Founder and Director of 2001 Youth Laureate Yayasan Anak Warisan Alam (YAWA), received the Langkawi Award in April 2004 – the highest Malaysian acknowledgement for individual achievement in the field of the environment.

YAWA, or the Children's Environmental Heritage Foundation, is an organization committed to changing young people's attitudes towards the environment. Under Khadijah's leadership, YAWA recently established a campsite as an official management office for its many projects and workshops, including eco-youth activities, a new composting

programme, and a "Green Shop" that will serve as a recycling center, a loan and exchange book center for the community, and a store for selling new and used items. You can learn more about YAWA's activities on their website at www.yawa.org.

Khadijah recently returned from meeting with several youth in Indonesia to form a draft structure for an Asian Youth Environmental Network; it is expected to be launched in July during the Asian official annual meeting with teams of other Asian youth leaders.

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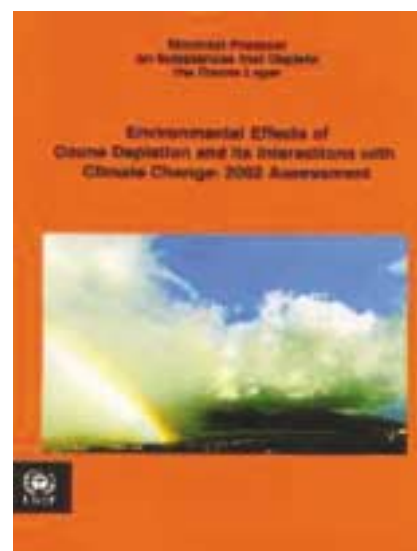


Khadijah Abdul Rahman receiving her award from the Environment Minister of Malaysia



Khadijah Abdul Rahman and her children and husband admiring the plaque given for efforts to promote environmental awareness in young people

Environmental Panel Report On Effects Of Ozone Depletion



Environmental Effects of Ozone Depletion and its Interactions with Climate Change: 2002 Assessment has been published by UNEP and written by the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel, one of three panels of experts initiated by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Jan C. van der Leun, a 1997 laureate, has served as co-chair on the panel since 1988, and is an editor of the report.

Chapter titles cover areas of changes in ultraviolet radiation and the consequences for human health, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, biogeochemical cycles, air quality and materials. At present, 191 countries are parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. By working effectively together, 90 per cent of the substances that deplete the ozone layer have been taken out of production, and the Parties are attending to the remaining 10 per cent.

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Annelisa Kilbourn with one of her beloved orangutans.

SOS Rhino Announces Community Outreach Programme In Borneo

The late Dr. Annelisa Kilbourn a 2003 laureate, (1967-2002) took on the task for SOS Rhino of helping to protect the last remaining rhinos in Borneo. Hope for the survival of the rhino in Borneo has been due in great part to Dr. Kilbourn's tireless and successful efforts to bring all of the stakeholders to the same table to help implement a plan.

SOS RHINO, a non-profit foundation dedicated to protecting rhinos with a focus on the critically endangered Sumatran Rhino, is collaborating with Sabah's Department of Tourism, Environment, Science and Technology

(TEST) and the Singapore Zoological Gardens (SZG) to establish a community outreach programme in Sabah, Borneo. Villagers along the border of the Tabin Wildlife Reserve, an area believed to be home to the last remaining wild population of Sumatran rhinos in Sabah, are encouraged to establish tourism-related activities within their villages and surrounding areas.

Datuk Karim Bujang, Assistant Minister of TEST, met with the people of Kampung Parit, a village north of Tabin reserve, to discuss the community outreach programme and ways of making it successful. The programmes will be designed so that visitors and volunteers will benefit from the field and cultural experience by walking away with a strong sense of the need to preserve and protect the Sumatran rhino and promote Tabin and surrounding areas as tourist destinations.

The Singapore Zoological Gardens (SZG) is donating funds specifically for



building materials. These materials will enable the villagers to create and run Education and Research Visitor Centers.

For the past 20 years, SOS Rhino has provided funding and technical assistance to rhino conservation research, education, and public awareness programmes and events worldwide. More information on the organization can be found on the website: <www.sosrhino.org>.



Volvo Adventure Award For Young Environmentalists

JEA or Ecological Youth of Angola (2002 Laureate) received an Honour Diploma from the Volvo Car Corporation for its participation in the Volvo Adventure Award for Young Environmentalists in 2003, through its submission of the Environment Olympics of Angola: a 1999 multi-stakeholder (Government, NGOs and Business) environmental education competition linking young students at schools and communities in Luanda, Benguela and Huila provinces.

The Volvo Adventure award, a UNEP collaboration and a web-based global environmental education programme, encourages young people to take on practical projects and demonstrate that they can make a difference to the environment in which they live.

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