



GLOBAL 500 ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNEP GLOBAL 500 LAUREATES - WINTER 2010

UN Climate Change Conference 2009

COPENHAGEN
SEAL THE DEAL!

Power Green Growth, Protect the Planet

UNEP LAUNCHES SEAL THE DEAL CAMPAIGN

The United Nations, with UNEP taking a leadership role, launched its Seal the Deal campaign to spur governments and people throughout the world to adopt an aggressive, balanced, and fair climate agreement when they met in Copenhagen, December 7–18. “Opportunity is knocking. It’s up to you to open the door,” UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said during a 2-day preliminary meeting in the Danish capital.

The primary goal of the conference is to find effective solutions that both protect our planet and create a global, green, and sustainable economy. Reaching an agreement will require both complex political negotiations and public pressure from around the world. More than 400 climate change negotiators, corporate leaders, and environmental activists traveled together on the Climate Express train to Copenhagen to demonstrate the depth and diversity of global support for the agreement. Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, will be onboard, as was Franny Armstrong, the producer and director of the film *The Age of Stupid*; Luo Hong, the UNEP Climate Hero and wildlife photographer; Apa Sherpa, a WWF Climate Witness who holds the world record for most ascents of Mount Everest; Yoshio Ishida, UIC Chairman and Vice Chairman of East Japan Railways; and Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, the Director General of the International Union of Railways (IUC). UNEP asked all laureates of the Global 500 Forum to join and support the journey to Copenhagen.

By drawing power from sources entirely CO₂ free, the journey of the Climate Express train symbolized the reduced carbon emissions choice of transportation that railroads present. En route, passengers debated the climate talks ahead and participated in roundtable discussions. To emphasize what railroads have to offer, a Global Rail Position Paper was delivered to the conference via another train from Moscow.

Each day brings more news about the upcoming fight for the future of the environment. Global 500 Laureates and the new UNEP Champions of the Earth are asked to make every effort to convince their countries to Seal the Deal. Ask everyone you know to go to www.sealthedeal.org and sign the petition supporting the effort for climate change. You can see who has signed up from all around the world. Signees are asked to upload photographs and videos to the site supporting the cause and showcasing the need and the efforts undertaken to address global climate change. Let’s all work together to Seal the Deal! —SATINDER BINDRA - satinder.bindra@unep.org <http://www.sealthedeal2009.org>

FLASH: LAUREATE IN HAITI — Anitra Thorhaug (1987 Laureate), President of the Greater Caribbean Energy & Environment Foundation (GCEEF), and President of the USA Club of Rome, has launched a drive in response to the Haitian earthquake emergency. The GCEEF is already saving lives with four doctors (from Wyoming, North Carolina, Texas, and Sri Lanka!) being jockeyed around in private volunteered planes and a physician in Haiti with a clinic. GCEEF also has two trucks on site with a staff of 10 distributing water, taking injured to the clinic for emergency care, and distributing other necessities.

Thorhaug has been peppering the Global Forum website with her updates on the effects of aftershocks, when rescue teams are supposed to arrive, and how the United Nations’ staff has been coordinating their three clinics and a church turned into a hospital.

Their physicians and nurses are working under very difficult conditions and treating hundreds of patients per day. Money is desperately needed to buy fuel to transport physicians around Haiti, as well as to pay for security guards. Without fuel, their teams won’t be able to reach everyone they can.

While Thorhaug’s teams are working so feverishly to help the injured, they are also recruiting the Haitians themselves to work alongside them and be trained as paramedics and nurses. “We are attempting to leave behind a lot more capacity than before our teams went to Haiti,” Thorhaug says. “We expect to be there healing injuries for months in the future.”

Thorhaug asks all Laureates to help. Donations of any size in any currency are welcome and will be applied immediately to the relief effort. Please visit their website (gceef.org), and click on the Contribute button. One \$25 donation will fund 1/10 of a volunteer doctor, who can treat many hundreds of patients. \$250 will buy gas for four trips to clinics and hospitals for a group of medical teams or send a doctor out into the villages.

The Greater Caribbean Energy and Environment Foundation is a 30-year-old tax deductible 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. It is on the ground in Haiti. Its partners include the International Commission for the Development of Haiti and its affiliate Sevol Kredto.

CHECKS CAN BE MAILED TO:

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GLOBAL 500 ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

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CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS AUSTRALIA



(2000 LAUREATE) SHARES 2008 AUSTRALIAN TOURISM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

For the second consecutive year, the dynamic Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA), in conjunction with the New South Wales Parks and Wildlife Service, has been awarded the Australian Tourism Award, Ecotourism Category, for their Montague Island Naturewise program.

Montague Island was known as Baranguba by the Aboriginal people. Its fertile hunting grounds and archaeological sites indicate the area has had continuing cultural significance for thousands of years. Local people maintain this connection today. Montague was first operated as a lighthouse in the late 1800s, and after more than 125 years it is still operating today. Overnight visitation to the island has been restricted for many years. Montague Island overnight tours provide the exclusive opportunity to stay in the middle of a nature reserve and explore this special place. This program is operated by Conservation Volunteers Australia and the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service.



This multiple-award winning eco-tour experience is truly unforgettable. Visitors to Montague Island Nature Reserve support crucial wildlife conservation and research projects. The award again recognizes that tourism can play an important role in conservation efforts. CVA was also a finalist for the 2008 Australian Sustainable Tourism Award.

CVA offers unique opportunities to individuals and groups to contribute in a practical way to the conservation of the Australian environment. All projects undertaken are carefully reviewed to make certain of their positive environmental impact. Program participants are doubly rewarded—both by improving the Australian environment and through gaining a direct, hands-on, and fulfilling experience while Down Under.

CVA's newest program, Action for Climate Change, is a range of initiatives aimed at helping individuals and groups reduce their impact on the environment. Based on practical, simple actions in which anyone can participate, CVA's programs are directed toward actually getting something constructive done at the ground level.

info@conservationvolunteers.com.au

Letter from the President

Dear Laureates,

Come join us! Become a Facebook fan of the Global 500 Forum. Share your latest activities, and link with UNEP, fellow Laureates, and friends

Facebook is an open online Forum. Please invite your environmental colleagues to become our friends.



DIRECTIONS:

If you are a Facebook member simply visit: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Global-500-Environmental-Forum/93783919491>

IF YOU ARE NEW TO FACEBOOK GO TO:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Global-500-Environmental-Forum/93783919491>

1. Click the green "sign up" button. This button will appear in the link below if they are not yet members.
2. They should then become "fans" of the Global 500 Facebook page.

HOW TO CREATE AN UPDATE OR DISCUSSION:

1. Click on the "discussion" tab.
2. Click the grey button "start new topic".
3. Fill in appropriate topic and post/description section.
4. Click the "post new topic" button.

HOW TO COMMENT ON AN EXISTING DISCUSSION:

1. Click on the "discussion" tab.
2. Select a topic to read about by clicking on the title that appears in blue bold type.
3. In the white "reply" box at the bottom of the screen, type in your response.
4. Click the blue "post reply" button.

The Global 500 Forum was founded in 1992 to serve the needs of our Global 500 Laureates. We hold the distinction of being UNEP's most active Laureates and longest running Forum. Congratulations on your ongoing commitment to our environment!

WARMLY,

Marilyn Mosley Gordanier

PRESIDENT
GLOBAL 500 ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM
marilyn@laurelsprings.com



GLOBAL 500 ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNEP GLOBAL 500 LAUREATES

CALESTOUS JUMA ESTABLISHES AFRICAN YOUTH EDUCATION



PROFESSOR CALESTOUS JUMA
(1993 LAUREATE)

Professor Calestous Juma (1993 laureate) has established the Victoria Institute of Science and Technology (VIST), a multimedia institute, to provide technologically disadvantaged youths the skills they need to not only get, but help create jobs. "Young people are the torchbearers of

the world of information and communication technologies, and the centre will help them combine scientific knowledge and entrepreneur skills," says Martin Oduor Otieno, VIST chairman.

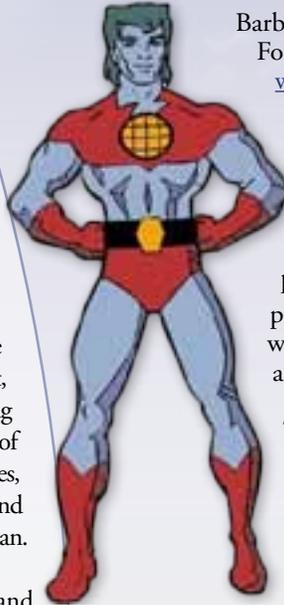
Sub-Saharan Africa's continued rise in education and economic development is key to increasing prosperity in the region; however, global climate change threatens to ruin its hopes. Twenty African nations are currently experiencing severe water shortages, and 12 more countries are destined to join their ranks in the next 25 years. Lake Chad (bordered by Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger) has shrunk by over 80% in the last three decades. At a time when much of Africa has lost its traditional crops, the projected increase in rain variability also threatens wheat and other crops now cultivated. An additional 2° Celsius increase in temperature could wipe out 15% of all African life forms and destroy the very biological resources needed to adapt to climate change.

Yet behind this veil of ominous portents, Africa is uniquely poised to successfully meet these challenges. Unlike their more industrial counterparts, African nations are not yet committed to high-carbon economies. They have the opportunity to develop climate-smart economies that take advantage of the rapidly increasing scientific and technological knowledge available, now estimated to be doubling every 14 months. Increased investment in four areas will be critical: infrastructure, technical education, business development, and international diplomacy. Professor Juma and VIST are now seeing to it that young Africans receive the education and technical skills necessary for them to play the leading role in creating solutions to the problems by which they are most directly affected.

CALESTOUS JUMA
calestous_juma@harvard.edu

CAPTAIN PLANET ONLINE

Barbara Pyle (1987 Laureate) and the Captain Planet Foundation are now online, and can be visited at www.turner.com/planet/index_splash.html. The Captain Planet educational series, underwritten by Ted Turner, focused on teaching children and young adults how to become actively involved in hands-on environmental projects.



All 113 episodes are now available online. Each one focuses on an issue, such as population control; or highlights a champion like the Cousteau Society; or presents other critical environmental concerns—all of which can be seen again by interested individuals or as a part of children's K-12 educational curriculum.

Turner has often described the Captain Planet Foundation as the best environmental project he has ever taken on. With Barbara Pyle's help, this important and entertaining series is once again able to be accessed as a means of educating and inspiring our environmental leaders of tomorrow.
BARBARA PYLE - barbarapyle@bellsouth.net

UPDATE FROM KRUTI PAREKH (1999 LAUREATE)



KRUTI IS INDIA'S FIRST TEST-TUBE BABY BY BIRTH, AN IT ENGINEER BY EDUCATION, THE WORLD'S YOUNGEST ARTISTIC ILLUSIONIST, AND INDIA'S YOUNG MIND GENIUS.

Recently Kruti Parekh (1999 Laureate) performed at a huge event in South India called GREEN. The event was aimed at helping common people learn about environmental problems and what each individual can do to contribute to the protection of the environment and the conservation of resources. There were many politicians, businessmen, and artists there who together pledged to make a difference.

Miss Parekh is also bringing her Environmental Magic to many schools in the United Arab Emirates, where she plans to reach more than 55,000 children.

Apart from the environmental front, Miss Parekh is actively involved in training corporations, doctors, engineers, lawyers, and other professionals using a special programme called Mind Power and Beyond. She has specially developed this program based on the ancient religious texts: the Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, Holy Bible, and the Holy Quran. The program includes practical mind training techniques based on these great books.

Miss Parekh has also prepared a video of her Environmental Magic. She hopes to use it as a part of a programme with UNEP. "In this way," she says, "we can reach a larger group of people and make a greater difference."

KRUTI PAREKH - littlemagician50@hotmail.com



GLOBAL 500 ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

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KIDS LOOK AT A TURTLE FITTED WITH AN RADIO ANTENNA FOR TRACKING.

FIRST SATELLITE TRACKING OF SEA TURTLES IN ALBANIA



MEDASSET
Mediterranean Association
to Save the Sea Turtles

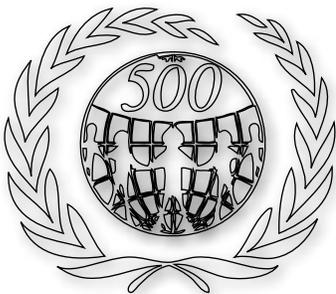
MEDASSET recently launched a project to monitor and conserve important sea turtle feeding grounds in the Patok area of Albania. Guximtari (brave and courageous), Patoku (the research location), and Shpresa (hope) are the names of the three loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) carrying satellite tracking devices that were released by MEDASSET's lead researcher Dr. Michael White and Prof. Idriz Haxhiu of Tirana University, in order to follow their migration routes during 2009-2010.

The goal is to better understand sea turtles' foraging ecology, study their migration routes within the Mediterranean Sea, and locate possible overwintering and mating areas. This knowledge will help researchers, conservationists, and policy makers to take necessary decisions for sea turtle conservation, enhance regional strategies and partnerships, and create awareness at a regional, national, and international level.

Albanian University students, local fishermen, local biologists, members of the Patok community, and tourists, attended the release.

The project is developed by MEDASSET in close collaboration with the Albanian Herpetofauna Society and the University of Tirana, with the endorsement of the Albanian Ministry of Environment. Cofunding for 2009 was granted from the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP), the United Nations Environment Programme—Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) of UNEP/MAP, and the British Chelonia Group. The 3-year project aims to contribute to sea turtle and habitat conservation, migratory routes monitoring, capacity building, environmental education, and awareness raising in Albania.

VISIT TURTLE TRACKING AT WWW.MEDASSET.ORG TO VIEW UPDATES ON THE TURTLES' ROUTES.



Global 500 Forum on Facebook

The Global 500 Environmental Forum is now on Facebook! All laureates are encouraged to sign up on Facebook to connect with the Global 500 Environmental Forum.

When our Forum began in 1992, Laureates communicated by mail, phone, and fax—then finally came e-mail. Now technology has made it possible once again to expand our global community. The Global 500 Laureates are now more than ever able to be sources of inspiration for

each other and the world. If you are a Facebook member simply go to this address on the

WEB: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Global-500-Environmental-Forum/93783919491>

If you are not yet a member of Facebook, see the Letter from the President in this issue of the Forum for instructions on how to sign up.





GLOBAL 500 ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

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INSPIRING EACH OTHER: JEFF WITH SOME OF THE MANY YOUNG PEOPLE WHOM HE HAS HELPED IMPROVE THEIR ABILITY TO SUSTAIN THEMSELVES.

CONTINUING TO INSPIRE

Jeff Gibbs (1993 Laureate) is not one to rest on his laurels. During a visit as a teenager to the Haida Gwaii old-growth rainforests on the Pacific coast of Canada, Jeff realized how disconnected from natural and healthy ecosystems people had become. Reconnecting people to natural environments and protecting pristine ecosystems became his life's work.

Upon returning from the Haida Gwaii, Jeff formed the Teenager's Response to Endangered Ecosystems Club, and through it helped to protect the Haida Gwaii forests from commercial logging. Although he and his fellow club members' contribution was relatively minor, they felt empowered by their involvement, and Jeff's life has since been marked by equally effective and proactive environmental adventures.

He was invited to Brazil to witness a gathering of indigenous tribes brought together by their desire to prevent dams from being built on the rivers that sustained their way of life. Jeff created a slide show about his Amazonian experience and showed it to more than 75,000 young people in schools across North America, Australia, and England. Letters from across the world protesting the dams poured into Brazil, and the dam project was cancelled. Realizing he had created a significant force for good, Jeff united diverse student groups into the Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA) in order to further leverage their efforts effectively.

After receiving his Global 500 Award in 1993, he created LIFE, a charitable organization that involves young people in direct hands-on, nature-based learning programs. These have included the largest marine programs of their kind. Another initiative brought a dozen children from around the world to Jeff's beloved rainforests in western Canada. There they shot

PROTEGER.ORG SUPPORTS FISHERMAN WHILE SAVING RIVER

Once upon a time millions and millions of shad in the south of the river Paraná fed coastal residents and families and commercial fishermen, who also sold the fish to the domestic market. Their eggs and larvae were the food of surubies and dorados, the region's top trophies for sport fishing. By the mid 1990s, the demand for shad for export had increased so much that their numbers and size began to drop as did the urubies and dorados.



ONCE NUMEROUS SHAD ARE NOW DIMINISHED IN THE RIVERS OF S. AMERICA

Now Proteger.org (1992 Laureate) is training river residents to become skilled workers in fish leather. An initiative to offer residents microloans, unprecedented in the region, is also underway and will benefit workers, cooperatives, and groups of riverine fishermen of the coastal provinces like Santa Fe, Entre Rios, and Chaco who have no access to bank credit. The funding is for social economy projects and inclusive business in the hands of organizations of artisanal fishermen and inhabitants of coastal communities to achieve better income.

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and edited videos about their experiences and sustainable development. Sponsors included UNICEF, UNEP, and the Canadian government.

More than 20 years after his first foray into the Haida Gwaii, Jeff, now an international consultant, continues to travel and present slideshows to educate young people how they can directly become a more effective force for positive environmental change. He considers his influence on young people to be his greatest contribution, and he watches with enthusiasm as their involvement with the natural environment alters their career and lifestyle choices.

JEFF GIBBS - jeff.gibbs@yahoo.ca



GLOBAL 500 ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNEP GLOBAL 500 LAUREATES

MARILYN MOSLEY GORDANIER JOINS NOBEL LAUREATE WANGARI MAATHAI AT UNEP BILLION TREE CAMPAIGN



MARILYN MOSELY GORDANIER AND WANGARI MAATHAI.

Laurel Springs School Founder and Executive Director Marilyn Mosley Gordanier (1990 Laureate) was united with Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai at a UNEP press conference to celebrate the planting of 1 billion trees.

Mosley Gordanier first met Wangari Maathai when they both spoke at the 1992 World Women for Health Environment Conference. Their paths have continued to cross ever since. Maathai was awarded the UNEP Global 500 award in 1987, and Laurel Springs won their award in 1990 for its outstanding school service programs. Mosley Gordanier was also invited to serve as the president of the UN Global 500 Forum, of which Wangari Maathai is an active member.

In addition, Mosley Gordanier and Maathai share an extraordinary love of children and a commitment to preserving the planet for future generations. Mosley Gordanier designed the online course, Kids4Earth, which is offered by Laurel Springs School to children in 46 countries and endorsed by UNEP. Maathai developed the Green Belt Movement in Kenya in 1977—a grassroots environmental organization that has assisted women and their families in planting more than 40 million trees across Kenya. At the UNEP conference Maathai is quoted as stating, “No challenge is too big to tackle to turn around climate change. We must make a fair deal for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren.”

www.greenbeltmovement.org

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CARTER CENTER - carterweb@emory.edu

CARTER CENTER HELPS TO KEEP ETHIOPIA'S CHILDREN'S EYES BRIGHT

A new study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* by the University of California at San Francisco and the Carter Center (1988 Laureate), in partnership with the Ethiopia Ministry of Health, shows that an antibiotic treatment given to save children's eyesight is actually saving their lives. Antibiotics administered for trachoma, a bacterial eye infection that is the world's leading preventable cause of blindness, are actually treating other ailments and reducing Ethiopia's high rates of child mortality.

The video report, focused on Ethiopia's Amhara region—where 60% of children suffer from trachoma—includes one of the study's lead authors, Dr. Paul Emerson, director of the Carter Center's Trachoma Control Program.

The advanced stage of trachoma, trichiasis—the inward turning of eyelashes that leads to corneal abrasion and eventual blindness—causes extraordinary pain and discomfort. Women are approximately three times more likely to have trichiasis than men. The condition makes it extremely uncomfortable for women to cook over smoky fires, collect water in bright sun, or farm in dusty fields. While older women with trichiasis may be looked after by their children, younger ones are frequently divorced by their husbands and sent back to their parents. Women incapacitated with trichiasis become a burden on their families and communities.

Through community empowerment, trachoma can be eliminated from endemic communities. The World Health Organization-endorsed SAFE Strategy represents a series of interventions to control trachoma: Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness, and

Environmental improvement.

The Carter Center and its partners, the ministries of health in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Sudan, with the generous support of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the Lions Clubs International Foundation, are working together to implement the SAFE strategy in order to eliminate trachoma from at-risk communities.



GHANIAN MEN LEARN ABOUT FACE WASHING AS A WAY TO PREVENT TRACHOMA.



GLOBAL 500 ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNEP GLOBAL 500 LAUREATES

Club of Rome Issues Progress Report on the Future of the Americas

Emphasizing that today's environmental challenges cannot be met by any one nation acting alone, the Club of Rome has for the first time issued a comprehensive future analysis of the next 45 to 50 years pertaining to all 38 nations that make up North and South America.

Unique among the world's continents, there have been no intrahemispheric wars for over 100 years in the American Hemisphere. This peace and stability has led to increased trade and cooperation among all member nations. Human populations and resources throughout the area, including food, water, and energy, have also remained relatively balanced. The question is whether or not this balance among peoples and resources can be maintained.



CLUB OF ROME HEADQUARTERS

Currently, two models of human existence are readily apparent. First are the industrialized, fossil fuel-based economic urban centers, which consume vast amounts of energy and resources, and demand high levels of infrastructure, including medicine, transportation, and agriculture, and which tend toward homogeneity. The second model is of the poor rural, indigenous, primarily mountainous citizens living in poverty who consume very few resources, but whose population is expected to surge over the next 50 years. These people generally have little access to services, capital, or education (especially women), and they suffer from high infant mortality due to unclean drinking water, lack of proper sewage treatment, and few medical facilities. At the same time, this second group is highly diverse in terms of spoken languages and rich cultural traditions. The report predicts it is most likely these two models of existence will come into increasing conflict over resources and governmental influence.

While poverty, overpopulation, and cultural and environmental degradation rank highest among the region's challenges, its population is expected to grow more slowly than either Asia or Africa, and its resource base remains vast, varied, and relatively evenly distributed. Nevertheless, the sustainability of the region's 887 million citizens (2005) and their resource base, some believe, have already reached the tipping point.

ANITRA THORHAUG - athorhaug@msn.com



WANGARI MAATHAI SPEAKS TO THE WESTERN WORLD

This year, Wangari Maathai addressed the UN General Assembly on behalf of civil society. "Millions of people across the world have made a global wake up call on climate change calling on you to provide leadership, act together, act now, and act differently....No part of the world is immune. We are all in this together irrespective of our level of contribution to the problem. Business-as-usual for anyone would be a tragedy."

In 2009 Wangari Maathai toured the United States and Canada to speak at special events and universities and to attend high-level meetings with the UN General Assembly and the Clinton Global Initiative. She spoke with leaders, students, and delegates from around the world about the importance of working together to fight climate change. Her message inspired audience members to join in the battle against environmental degradation by making changes in their own lives and by reaching out to government leaders to advocate for better environmental policies.

Becky Anderson interviewed Ms. Maathai on CNN's Connect the World about the UN Summit on Climate Change. Ms. Maathai participated in a panel on The Infrastructure of Human Dignity while attending the Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting. And Johann Hari of the *Independent* in London interviewed Wangari Maathai about her life as an environmentalist and what the rest of the world can do to help.

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GLOBAL 500 ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

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JIEYANGLI RESIDENTS WORK COOPERATIVELY TO PLAN THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE.

HARMONY IN CHINA

Michael Bloomfield (1990 Laureate) reports that direct training of Chinese citizens to become better stewards of their environment has begun in earnest. "Residents are concerned about litter and its environmental impacts," says Wu Ju, program director for the Program for Leadership Training and Cooperation for Sustainable Development in China. Assisted by Darrell Erb of the Harmony Foundation of Canada and other trainers from the Environmental Management College of China (EMCC), Wu began the training with Jieyangli residents in

Changli, Hebei province. Wu also states that residents want more than just training and have established concrete goals they wish to achieve.



Chan Eng Heng Retires

Chan Eng Heng (2001 Laureate) recently retired from the University College Terengganu in Malaysia. She is currently looking into establishing an independent organization through which she can dedicate the rest of her life towards saving turtles. Ms. Chan wants all laureates to know that she can be contacted at her new e-mail addresses:

enghengchan@gmail.com
or
enghengchan@yahoo.com.



CHANGLI LOCAL LEADERS ARE EAGER TO COLLABORATE WITH THE PROGRAM.

They want to increase awareness, clean two concrete retaining walls to be used for murals to spread their message, and to establish a monthly music festival to bring people together and provide a forum to further increase their ranks and make the realization of their goals longer lasting. According to Erb, "There is a core group of strong leaders, as well as a solid contingent of residents, determined to make their neighbourhoods healthier, more vibrant places to live and work."

harmony@islandnet.com





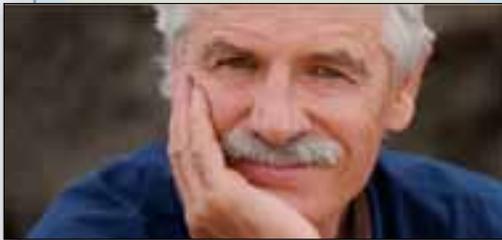
GLOBAL 500 ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNEP GLOBAL 500 LAUREATES



GLOBAL 500 FORUM WELCOMES 2009 CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH

On April 22, 2009, the United Nations, in conjunction with B4E, announced their first Champions of the Earth laureates, successors to the UNEP's Global Environmental Award Programme begun in 2004. Recognizing the vital need for increased cooperation among all governments, businesses, organizations, and individuals to successfully achieve planetary sustainability, the Champions of the Earth award salutes those whose leadership, innovation, inspiration, and action have helped lead the environmental movement into a more deliberately cooperative and effective paradigm.



2009 LAUREATE FOR INSPIRATION AND ACTION

MR. YAN ARTHUS-BERTRAND

PHOTOGRAPHER AND FOUNDING PRESIDENT, GOODPLANET.ORG.

Mr. Arthus-Bertrand, a passionate artist and photographer and creator of the Earth Seen from Above series, an exhibit of large-scale aerial photographs which premiered in Paris in 2000, encourages viewers to explore their link to nature from a wider perspective. Following its debut, the exhibit traveled to cities around the world, and by 2008 had been seen by more than 130 million viewers from all continents. His exhibition 6 Billion Others captures testimonials from over 6,000 individuals from 65 countries in the form of video vignettes.

In collaboration with the French Ministries of Education and Environment, Mr. Arthus-Bertrand produced 22 educational posters on sustainable development using his aerial photos. The posters were distributed free to all schools in France. Their theme was biodiversity in 2007 and energy in 2008. He is now working on a full-length feature film titled *Home*, which will present the current state of our planet.



2009 LAUREATE FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

MS. JANINE BENYUS

PRESIDENT, THE BIOMIMICRY INSTITUTE

The author of six books, including *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature*, Ms. Benyus is a natural sciences writer, innovation consultant, and pioneer in the field of biomimicry. An advocate of eco-design, she is a leader in the revolution to use nature's balanced processes

and wisdom to solve our current problems.

As president of the Biomimicry Institute in Montana, Benyus advises governmental, corporate, and academic leaders how to better use nature as both a model and mentor to overcome the environmental challenges they face. She is also a member of the Eco Dream team at Interface, Inc, where she conducts seminars.



2009 LAUREATE FOR POLICY LEADERSHIP (CO-WINNER)

MR. KEVIN CONRAD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE COALITION FOR RAINFOREST NATIONS

"We seek your leadership, but if for some reason you're not willing to lead, leave it to the rest of us. Please get out of the way." These words by Mr. Conrad to the United States delegation—a key holdout against plans for a post-2012 treaty—at the 2007 Bali Climate

change talks, are widely seen as the turning point of that conference. The product of that conference, the Bali Action Plan, marked the first time that deforestation, the key role of tropical rainforests, and global warming were officially recognized; an outcome won in no small part due to the efforts of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations.

As Executive Director, Conrad works to better align market incentives with the sustainable management of rainforests. A citizen of Papua New Guinea, Conrad is now calling for a new Environmental Age to conserve the world's remaining rainforests.



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2009 LAUREATE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL VISION

 **MR. RON GONEN**
CEO AND FOUNDER, RECYCLEBANK

Helping people turn their trash into cash, Mr. Ron Gonen, CEO and Founder of RecycleBank, is proving that offering people rewards they can redeem for consumer products increases recycling. Over 1,400 local and national retailers now participate in his program.

Begun in 2004, RecycleBank's success has allowed it to expand into 18 states, increasing recycling from single digits to over 90% in participating communities. With a \$2 million grant from Coca-Cola, Gonen is now targeting schools, and has begun a pilot program at New York's Columbia University using special recycling kiosks in dorms and cafeterias. As Gonen has said, "The core of RecycleBank is the ability to target and market to a captive audience that feels good about what they are doing."



2009 LAUREATE FOR POLICY LEADERSHIP (CO-WINNER)

 **MR. ERIK SOLHEIM**

MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, NORWAY

As steward of two powerful cabinet posts, Mr. Solheim is a dynamic force to be reckoned with in European politics. He is a strong advocate for integrating needed development with the environment. His leadership has made him a key supporter of vital environmental actions at both national and global levels throughout his career.

REDD—Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation—with an annual grant of \$500 million, was implemented as a result of Mr. Solheim's and others' efforts. Acting as the catalyst, he also led Norway to become a Pioneer Member of UNEP's Climate Neutral Network, thus accelerating his home country's progress towards becoming a low-carbon society.



2009 LAUREATE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL VISION

 **MR. TULSI TANTI**

CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, SUZLON ENERGY

"Suzlon Energy is the largest wind turbine manufacturer in Asia and the fifth largest in the world. With his recent acquisitions of Hansen Transmissions, a Belgian wind turbine gearbox manufacturer, and Repower, a major German wind turbine manufacturer, Chairman and

Managing Director Tulsi Tanti is now expanding Suzlon Energy from an Asian into a global provider of clean energy.

"Green business is good business," he is credited with saying. His epiphany came in the form of his first electricity bill for his textile business. Realizing wind power could answer not only his own but others' energy needs, the textile business was sold, and Tulsi Tanti leapt into the still new field of wind turbine manufacturing. Believing wind to be the energy of the future, his mission now is to take it mainstream.

Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nation's Environment Programme, when describing the qualities sought in Champions of the Earth laureates had this to say: "The world is facing multiple crises but also huge opportunities to move toward a more resource-efficient, more intelligently managed planet... We are looking for real and inspirational Champions—people and organizations who are not fazed by what can sometimes seem insuperable challenges. These are individuals and organizations that refuse to accept the status quo."



The UNEP 2009 Champions of the Earth laureates are not only refusing to accept the status quo, they are changing it, and showing us through their variety, vision, and will that it is possible to not only survive, but thrive in harmony with our planet.

THE GLOBAL 500 ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM DEPENDS ON YOU!

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