



***CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY***

**SPEECH**

**BY MR. ERIC FALT  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC  
INFORMATION  
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE  
GLOBAL AWARD WINNERS OF THE 15th UNEP  
INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S PAINTING COMPETITION**

***PALAIS DES NATIONS, ALGIERS, ALGERIA  
MONDAY 5 JUNE 2006***

Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Algeria, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika,  
Minister Chérif Rahmani,  
Distinguished and honoured guests,  
Dear young friends,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour to be here today to introduce you to the global winners of the 15th UNEP International Children's Painting Competition.

Each year, UNEP asks children aged between 6 and 14 from around the world to create works of art that depict their feelings, their hopes or their fears about the environment in which they live.

This year we asked them to illustrate the theme of World Environment Day: Deserts and Desertification: Don't Desert Drylands!

The response, as usual, was enthusiastic and impressive. Children from 100 countries contributed more than 80,000 paintings.

I would like to thank our partners in this most inspiring and successful endeavour: the Foundation for Global Peace and Environment, Bayer, and the Nikon Corporation.

I would also like to thank the Ministry of Environment of Algeria, who have proved such excellent hosts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The responsibility for examining the paintings and choosing regional winners, as well as publicizing the competition, was taken on by UNEP's regional offices.

The regional winners, who each won a \$1,000 dollar cash prize, as well as the opportunity to be here with us today are:

Shayam Kousik, who is from Qatar is 14 year-old. Please come and accept your prize.

*[presentation of cheque and plaque]*

Silarat Choeichuen, is 11 years old and comes from Thailand.

*[presentation of cheque and plaque]*

Naylee Nimesh Nagda, aged 9, comes from Kenya, where UNEP is based.

*[presentation of cheque and plaque]*

Raysel Sosa, who is 12, comes from Cuba.

*[presentation of cheque and plaque]*

Jonathan Zhang, aged 13, comes from United States of America;

*[presentation of cheque and plaque]*

Finally, let me welcome Luka Licina, who is 10 years old and comes from Serbia.

*[presentation of cheque and plaque]*

I would like to congratulate all of our regional winners, and thank them for their participation.

Their paintings, as well as all the other winning entries from this year's competition, are on display today.

After they leave here, all these wonderful paintings will go on display at the 2006 TUNZA International Children's Conference, which will be held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, in late August.

Ladies and gentlemen,

All these paintings became contenders for the US \$2,000 global prize, which we are announcing today.

I and my colleagues, along with our partners from the Foundation for Global Peace and Environment, Bayer and Nikon, spent a most enjoyable day at UNEP headquarters choosing the winning entries.

And so, ladies and gentlemen, without any more delay, let me present to you this year's Global Winners of the 15th UNEP International Children's Painting Competition

There are three second prizes, which go to:

Daniela Borislavova Karaivanova, aged 12, from Bulgaria.

*[presentation of plaque]*

Also from Bulgaria, we have Marchela Ivo Delcheva, aged 14

*[presentation of plaque]*

Our final second-prize winner is Biaoyunke Zhang, from China.

*[presentation of plaque]*

And now, ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm round of applause for the 2006 Global Winner of the UNEP International Children's Painting Competition, 9-year-old Lau Tsun Ming from China.

*[presentation of cheque and plaque]*

Ladies and gentlemen,

The response we receive every year to this painting competition shows that children care. It also shows that their teachers, their parents, and their communities care.

If we are going to reverse the environmental decline that we know is happening to our land, our seas, our rivers and our air, we all need to care, and we all need to act.

These children here today must be our inspiration. They are the future.  
Let us make it a good one.

Thank you