



**CHAMPIONS  
OF THE EARTH**

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH  
From  
PRINCE MOSTAPHA ZAHER, AFGHANISTAN**

**Seoul, Republic of Korea  
22 April, 2010**

In The Name of God, The Merciful, The Compassionate.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentleman !

Please allow me to thank the Government of the Republic of South Korea, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Korean Tourism Organization for their warm hospitality and hosting of the Champions of the Earth Awards 2010.

I congratulate all of the distinguished Laureates for receiving their awards today.

I am extremely humbled to have been chosen as one of the Laureates for this very prestigious award.

I accept this award not for myself, but for the proud and noble people of Afghanistan.

For my sisters and brothers.

For the children of Afghanistan, who are the hope of the future.

For the orphans and the widows, who have suffered so much.

For the memories of the two and a half million victims of the last thirty years of war.

For the physically challenged who face difficulties every day.

For the poor and the destitute who will find hope.

For my colleagues at NEPA, who have worked so hard.

For UNEP, and our International Partners, who have kindly assisted the people of Afghanistan to have a better quality of life, and without whose assistance, none of this would have been possible.

For the Environment as an Instrument of Peace.

We have only ONE home that is called Mother Earth.  
We must listen to the cry of our Mother Earth, and wipe her tears away with changing our behaviour as to how we use our finite resources in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Mother Earth is the Mother of Humanity and all living and non-living beings and elements.

We must be steadfast, visionary and decisive if we wish for our Mother Earth to stop shedding tears. We must heal her, respect her, and love her.

For the ashes of our fathers and the children of our sons, we have a moral duty to preserve, to rehabilitate and to protect our environment, and hand it over to the next generation in the most pristine condition possible.

Not in words but in deeds.

Thank you very much indeed for your kind attention.