

BOOKS & PRODUCTS

Deserts and desertification is to be the theme of this year's **Children's Painting Competition**, an element of UNEP's **TUNZA** programme for children and youth. Young artists are invited to enter the contest - organised by UNEP, the Japan-based Foundation for **Global Peace and Environment**

(FGPE), Bayer AG and the Nikon Corporation - which has been held annually since 1990, receiving a total of 160,000 entries from over 100 countries. The chosen subject



UNEP

reflects the theme both of a special International Year in 2006, and of next year's **World Environment Day**, on 5 June.

Children who will be between the ages of 6 and 14 years on World Environment Day 2006 are invited to submit their paintings to their respective Regional UNEP Offices by 20 January; these will each send at least 100 of them to a panel of judges, representing the organisers. There will be a winner for each region of the world, to be announced in April, and a global winner to be announced on World Environment Day.

The regional and global first prize winners will receive a cash prize and a trip with their chaperones to the **2006 World Environment Day** celebrations where they will be honoured in a special ceremony, sponsored by **Bayer**. The winning paintings will be exhibited at several venues in Japan and other countries. Past painting entries have featured on UNEP posters, post cards, and calendars, in UNEP publications and in global environmental magazines. All paintings submitted will be stored in the **National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, Japan**, which is supporting this year's competition along with the the **Japanese Ministries of the Environment, Foreign Affairs, Education, Forestry and Fisheries**, and the **Japan-Arab Association**.



WE magazine, which focuses on travel and the environment for Asian corporate readers and consumers, celebrates its fifth birthday in December. The magazine - which has increased its circulation to 45,000 - features stories on travel, "written with our eyes and ears close to the field", protecting wildlife habitat and local culture.

It covers such issues as the latest environmental technologies, animal welfare and habitat conservation and has published articles on subjects as diverse as Chinese buses running on hydrogen, climate change in the Arctic, and the work of Kenyan Nobel peace prizewinner, **Wangari Maathai**.

While hybrid cars have got ever more popular, a hybrid train locomotive - dubbed the **Green Goat** - is on track to save huge amounts of energy on the rail roads. **Union Pacific Railroad** -

the largest in North America - has recently ordered 98 of the engines from its developer, **RailPower Technologies**. The locomotives - used in freight yards where vast amounts of energy are consumed in constant stopping and starting - have diesel-electric engines which reduce fuel use by up to 80 per cent, and emissions of nitrous oxides and particulates by up to 90 per cent.



Top international decision-makers have joined to produce a groundbreaking book, **Human & Environmental Security: an Agenda for Change**, published by **Earthscan**. Edited by **Felix Dodds** and **Tim Pippard** - with a foreword by **Klaus Toepfer**, Executive Director of UNEP - it tackles the global human security problems across the range of core issues, including terrorism, nuclear proliferation, access to water, food security, loss of biodiversity, and climate change. Its authors - who include **Anna Tibaijuka**, Executive Director, UN Habitat; **Melinda Kimble**, Senior Vice-President, UN Foundation; **Hilary Benn**, UK Secretary of State for International Development; **Noeleen Heyzer**, Executive Director, UN Development Fund for Women, and **Jan Pronk**, UN Special Envoy to Sudan - identify the causes of insecurity, articulate linkages, and outline an agenda for engaging stakeholders from across the globe in building the foundations of genuine and lasting human security.

