

awards and events

This year's global **World Environment Day** celebrations take place in Norway — in Oslo and Tromsø. Highlights of the celebrations in Tromsø include an Ecumenical Service led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the Arctic Cathedral with representatives of various faiths; the award ceremony for the International Children's Painting Competition; and a televised debate on the topic of melting ice and climate change. On 5 June the celebrations will move to Oslo with the award ceremony for the Sophie Prize, which will be given on this occasion to Former Prime Minister of Sweden Goran Persson. In the afternoon an art exhibit on climate change organized by UNEP and the Natural World Museum will take place at the Nobel Peace Centre. <http://www.wed.npolar.no/world-environment-day-2007/>

world environment day

MELTING ICE - A HOT TOPIC?



ask...



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY • 5 June 2007
UNEP

climate change



World Environment Day (WED) was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Another resolution, adopted by the General Assembly the same day, led to the creation of UNEP. Commemorated each year on 5 June, WED is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. The World Environment Day slogan selected for 2007 is 'Melting Ice: a Hot Topic?' In support of International Polar Year, the WED theme selected for 2007 focuses on the effects that climate change is having on polar ecosystems and communities, and the ensuing consequences around the world. <http://www.unep.org/wed/2007/english/>

March 2007 saw the start of **International Polar Year 2007–2008**, a worldwide effort to increase understanding of how the Earth's remote polar regions affect global climate systems. Organized through the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), IPY 2007-8 will involve more than 200 projects, with thousands of scientists from over 60 nations examining a wide range of physical, biological and social research topics. As part of IPY, UNEP is supporting the ambitious Arctic Drift project in which the polar schooner Tara will drift for two years trapped in the Arctic ice, providing an unprecedented platform for scientific observations and research on how the Arctic environment is changing, and relaying its findings to scientists, policy makers and the general public. Tara's progress can be followed on the expeditions pages of the UNEP website www.unep.org.

The Goldman Environmental Prize



international polar year

The Goldman Environmental Prize is the world's largest prize honoring grassroots environmentalists, annually awarding US \$125,000 to recipients from each of the world's six inhabited continental regions.

The 2007 Goldman Environmental Prize winners, announced on 22 April, are:

- * North America: Sophia Rabliauskas, 47, Manitoba, Canada, for securing interim protection for the boreal forest of Manitoba.
- * Africa: Hammerskjöld Simwanga, 45, Zambia, for creating an innovative community development programme that restored wildlife populations.
- * Asia: Tsetsegee Munkhbayar, 40, Mongolia: Munkhbayar, for working with government and grassroots organizations to shut down destructive mining operations along Mongolia's scarce waterways.
- * South & Central America: Julio Cusurichi, 36, Peru, for securing a national reserve in the remote Peruvian Amazon to protect sensitive rain forest ecosystems and the rights of indigenous peoples.
- * Europe: Willie Corduff, 53, Ireland, for halting construction of an illegally-approved pipeline through their land.
- * Islands & Island Nations: Orri Vigfússon, 64, Iceland, for brokering international fishing rights buyouts with governments and corporations in the North Atlantic to stop destructive commercial salmon fishing.

<http://www.goldmanprize.org/>



energy globe awards

After helping more than 100,000 people in 18,000 Indian households finance clean energy from their PV solar electric home systems, UNEP's Indian Solar Loan Programme, represented by project manager Jyoti Prasad Painuly, won an **Energy Globe** award. The Energy Globe is bestowed annually on projects from around the world "which make careful and economical use of resources and employ alternative energy sources". The four-year Indian Solar Loan Programme, launched in 2003 with support from the UN Foundation and the Shell Foundation, is a partnership between UNEP, the UNEP Risoe Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development, and two of India's largest banking groups to establish a consumer credit market for financing solar home systems (SHS) in Southern India, where the conventional electricity grid is absent or unreliable. From a small, cash-only business in 2003, the solar home sector market now sees more than 50% of sales financed by banks, with 20 banks with networks of more than 2,000 branches now offering solar home financing. UNEP has used the success of the Indian Solar Loan Programme to expand into other areas, including solar water heating loan programmes in Morocco and Tunisia and others in development for Algeria, Indonesia, Mexico and Chile. <http://www.unep.org/energy/act/fin/india/>

With an estimated 35 million volunteers from more than 100 countries, the

Clean Up the World campaign is UNEP's major partner in promoting global awareness and action on the environment. Each year the campaign, which peaks in September during Clean Up the World weekend, is linked to the theme of World Environment Day, providing its members with factsheets on the issues and website links to UNEP. Clean Up the World members participate in World Environment Day activities on all continents and, this year, are being encouraged to contribute to the Billion Tree Campaign www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign.

clean up the world

