UNEP announces European winner of International Children’s Painting Competition

Ukrainian 14-year-old Yevgeniya Zakharchuk wins first prize among more than 9,000 entries of the 22nd Annual Competition

Geneva, 12 June 2013—Passionate about nature and strong advocate for the need to protect our planet, young artist, Yevgeniya Zakharchuk, from Ukraine, is the European winner of UNEP’s International Children’s Painting Competition. Yevgeniya’s painting depicts the strength and importance of water on Earth. Without water; plants, animals and humans will die. The painting emphasizes the importance of preserving water as a source of life for generations to come. Through her painting, Yevgeniya conveys the key message “Stop polluting water, we all count on it”.

When asked about her main call for the environment the young artist says ‘I would like people to understand that they are responsible for what is thrown away in our rivers, lakes and oceans. Youth and future generations deserve to live on a clean and sustainable planet’.

As the European winner, Yevgeniya receives US$1,000 in prize money and an all-expenses-paid trip to the Award Ceremony in New-York, United States in September, where she will officially receive her prize.

Yevgeniya will join the overall winner who will be selected later today and five other regional winners at the Ceremony.

The 2013 International Children’s Painting Competition marks the 22nd year of the contest, with over 3 million children from some 100 countries interpreting through painting, their fears of a damaged environment and hopes for future generations to enjoy clean oceans, rivers and seas. Over 9,000 paintings came from the European region, reflecting a steady increase in participation over the years.

Jan Dusik, Acting Director, UNEP’s Regional Office for Europe, said at the end of the selection process: “Yevgeniya’s painting is worth 1,000 words! She reminds us that water pollution affects all life on Earth and that we all share the responsibility to ensure a healthy, secure and sustainable water supply for our communities, environment, and economy. Over the years, oceans, rivers and lakes are being more and more polluted; I hope the talent and the inspiring paintings of the world’s young people will serve as a wake up call to us all”.
The International Children’s Painting Competition has been organized every year since 1991 by UNEP and the Foundation for Global Peace and Environment (FGPE). Bayer and the Nikon Corporation joined as organizers in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

For more information, please:

Consult the UNEP website: http://unep.org/tunza/children/competitions.aspx

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