



**2009-10 UNEP Sasakawa Prize Award Ceremony
Acceptance Speech
Trees, Water and People: Stuart Conway**

I'd like to thank Mr. Steiner of United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and Mr. Ogata of the Nippon Foundation so much for choosing Trees, Water & People as one of this year's winners of the UNEP Sasakawa Prize. Partnerships have been critical to the success of our improved stoves and community reforestation programs to combat climate change. Trees, Water & People (TWP) works through a network of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Central America and Haiti. I wish that they could be here to celebrate with us tonight, as their hard work has contributed significantly to TWP winning this important award. I want to take a moment to recognize them:

- The Honduran Association for Development in Honduras
- PROLENA in Nicaragua
- ARBOLES in El Salvador
- AMURT in Haiti
- And TWP/ Guatemala

Trees, Water & People also works very closely with other groups including Rotary Clubs and Rotary International that have really helped us along the way by financing our stove and reforestation projects in Central America and now in Haiti. TWP's micro-enterprise approach in Nicaragua and Honduras won Ashden Awards and funding from the Partnership for Clean Indoor AIR of USEPA that allowed us to build stove factories in those two countries. Our factories are providing green jobs, manufacturing thousands of better cooking stoves, and leading to a cleaner indoor and outdoor environment.

TWP and our local NGO partners works closely with local grassroots organizations, like women's groups, religious organizations, and municipal governments that promote our improved stove technology. As you may know, our improved cook stoves are saving the health of women and their young children who spend the most time in the kitchen breathing the toxic smoke that kills 1.6 million people worldwide every year!

We are also working with Climate Care/JPMChase Bank and others in the voluntary carbon offset market to get more stoves to people who need them. I see the carbon offset markets as a great opportunity to fund millions of improved stoves for the three billion people who still rely on smoky, open fire stoves for cooking and heating with biomass.

Our Forest Replacement Program in Nicaragua is another great example of partnerships to introduce an innovative, green program. TWP and PROLENA teamed with the Brazilian Development Agency and the Nicaragua Ministry of Energy to build four tree nurseries with containerized tree technology that are producing and planting more than 500,000 trees per year with local farmers in Nicaragua.

Once again, thank you so much for honoring Trees, Water & People with the Sasakawa Prize. We will put the funding to good use in our on-going efforts to build a sustainable future that benefits our global community.

Thank you.