

The UNEP Magazine for Youth



TUNZA



for young people • by young people • about young people

The road to Rio+20



Half the planet, one voice

Green jobs, green options

TUNZA

the UNEP magazine
for youth. To view current
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**Partners for Youth
and the Environment**



UNEP and Bayer, the German-based multinational involved in health care, crop protection and high-tech materials, are working together to strengthen young people's environmental awareness and engage children and youth in environmental issues worldwide.

A partnership agreement, originally signed in 2004 and renewed in 2007 and 2010, runs through 2013. It lays down the basis for UNEP and Bayer to implement the projects under the partnership. These include: TUNZA Magazine, the International Children's

Painting Competition on the Environment, the UNEP Tunza International Youth and Children's Conferences, youth environmental networks in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and West Asia, the Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Program and a photo competition, 'Ecology in Focus', in Eastern Europe.

The long-standing partnership between UNEP and Bayer has become a public-private partnership that serves as a model for both organizations.

During the UNEP Tunza Children and Youth Conference 2011, participants worked on forging a strong, concrete global youth statement to be taken to world leaders at Rio+20. In the weeks leading up to the conference, a youth steering committee of Tunza Youth Advisory Council members and leaders of youth organizations around the world gathered ideas and statements to create a draft of the Bandung Declaration. Over three days participants read, discussed and amended the draft, and at the closing plenary, the delegates put the finishing touches to the declaration. Here are a few of the highlights.

The **BANDUNG** DECLARATION

We ... are united in calling upon world leaders to move to a sustainable development pathway that safeguards the Earth and its people for our generation and generations to come.

Rio+20 ... marks a generation since the 1992 Earth Summit – the first effective global recognition of the environmental, social and economic costs of unrestrained development. Our governments ... promised to reduce poverty, stem environmental degradation and enhance equity. Businesses and multi-national corporations have pledged to respect the environment, green their production and compensate for their pollution. Yet, our planet's future – our future – is in peril. We cannot wait another generation, until a Rio+40, before we act.

We pledge the following commitments to make the Rio+20 Earth Summit a milestone for change:

- lobby our governments to make the Rio+20 Earth Summit a top priority;
- adopt more sustainable lifestyles and educate our local communities, including indigenous communities, sharing knowledge at the same level.

We urge the Rio+20 Earth Summit to agree that all green economies should:

- protect and value natural resources and ecosystems, on which all life depends, and recognize the traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- invest in education and social entrepreneurship which engenders sustainable development values;
- engage citizens to protect the environment in their everyday lives...

We call upon world leaders to come to Rio to collectively reinvest political will in:

- developing national green economy transition plans and agendas for action;
- responsibly phasing out subsidies that are harmful to the environment;
- incorporating environmental and social considerations in economic policy formation and adopt alternative measures of development to gross domestic product ...



We call upon business leaders to collectively commit to:

- implementing effective corporate social and environmental responsibility through a new economic model that ensures sustainable resource use;
- [being] accountable for the sustainability of their supply chain and production patterns;
- [increasing] investment in environmentally beneficial scientific research and development ...

We need to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the established international institutions and assess new institutional structures that guide us toward a sustainable green and fair economy. We believe such structures should:

- focus on implementing existing international agreements and plans of action;
- hold governments, corporations and civil society organizations accountable to their promises and obligations on sustainable development;
- further the implementation of the precautionary principle and demand reparations of damages, such as applied to new technologies and practices; **and**

We believe that good governance at the country, state, province and city levels should:

- meaningfully engage all stakeholders in the decision-making process, considering the views and opinions of minorities, the underprivileged, illiterate, and the unemployed;
- protect and defend the rights of young and future generations.

To read the full text: <http://www.tunza2011.org/index.php/agenda/bandung-declaration>

New beginnings at Rio+20

UNEP's Executive Director Achim Steiner, who spent many of his formative years in Brazil, talks about the issues that the world community will confront in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012.



IISD

UNEP's report, *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*, suggests that 2 per cent of global GDP invested in 10 key sectors and backed by smart public policies, can grow the global economy and generate employment while avoiding the shocks and crises of the current economic trajectory.

A timely example from the *Green Economy* report, in this International Year of Forests, is the estimate that an additional 0.034 per cent of global GDP invested in forestry annually, equivalent to \$40 billion now, could boost the value of the forestry sector by 20 per cent to \$600 billion a year by 2050. More than half the investment would go into planting forests on degraded land and the remainder into conserving forests for a variety of key purposes, from reducing greenhouse gas emissions to enhancing water supplies. And jobs in

As the world prepares for Rio+20 – 20 years after the 1992 Earth Summit set the stage for contemporary sustainable development – youth unemployment has emerged as a central preoccupation.

Globally, young people make up a quarter of the workforce but 40 per cent of the unemployed. In many countries of North Africa and the Middle East, youth unemployment hovers around 23-29 per cent or more, the reality of which played a part in the 'Arab Spring'. In other parts of Africa, youth unemployment is as high as 70 per cent. And in Asia, young people are 4.7 times more likely to be unemployed than adults. But the youth employment crisis isn't confined to any one region or just developing countries: in the Eurozone, youth unemployment has jumped to one in five, and in some countries the number is even higher.

Even in countries where youth employment seems encouraging, simple statistics can mask the reality. The International Labour Organization (ILO), a partner in UNEP's Green Economy initiative, estimates that about 28 per cent of all the young people in work remain in extreme poverty, in households

surviving on less than \$1.25 per person per day. And since the financial crisis, more young people, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, have only been able to find work in the informal sector, the 'black economy'.

The UN's 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development says that everyone should have 'equality of opportunity ... in their access to basic resources, education, health services, food, housing, employment and the fair distribution of income'. How to grow economies in a way that generates enough decent jobs – while keeping humanity's footprint within planetary bounds – will be a burning question when world leaders convene in Rio in June 2012. And never forget that in our world of 7 billion, 1.3 billion people are un- or under-employed, and over the next decade another 500 million young people will start looking for work.

How can Rio+20 respond to these challenges and deliver enhanced employment across the globe? And can the environmental dimension, strengthened in Rio, contribute to the economic pillar that supports the right to development, currently the prize of the few over the hopes and dreams of the many?



forestry would be likely to rise from 25 million to 30 million worldwide, if not more.

Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD or REDD+), an initiative that is evolving out of the UN Climate Convention, is one possible source of additional funds. Under the scheme, Indonesia, the host of this year's International Tunza Children and Youth Conference, is receiving up to \$1 billion from Norway. And Indonesia is trail-blazing some of the more pioneering strategies, not only to combat climate change but to accelerate a green economy as a way of implementing the broad aims of sustainable development. In Kalimantan, for example, plans to develop a Green Corridor using the REDD+ funds as a catalyst are at an advanced stage.

Indonesia's oil palm, a highly lucrative crop but a key driver of deforestation, will only be planted on degraded land. And the country has also made the link between healthy forests and more sustainable mining: there is evidence that deforestation in the uplands is leading to severely diminished river flows in the dry season, meaning that these rivers can no longer support barges

carrying ores from the mines. Transportation by barge costs about \$10 a tonne whereas by road it costs between \$40 and \$60 a tonne, and road building is another driver of deforestation. So REDD+ offers the chance not only to keep carbon out of the atmosphere, but also to keep rivers flowing in order to remain competitive and minimize the environmental footprint of other industries. Indonesia is also looking to REDD+ for assistance in creating employment in natural resource management for workers in nearby cities and towns.

The next generation

At the end of the Tunza Conference, the young people issued the Bandung Declaration (page 3) as an input to the Rio+20 process. The declaration underlines the next generation of leaders' concerns for the future of the planet and the future of decent work.

The year 1992 was a time of leadership. It is time again for leadership, for justice, and for a new pact with the global public for social progress that can sustain the lives, livelihoods and hopes of this and future generations. A time for a right to development that takes the long view rather than a right to get rich quick.

The last two or three years have been marked by fear, harsh words and for some a sense of powerlessness in the face of the global financial crisis and other challenges – climate change for example. But it has also been an extraordinary time of intellectual debate and discussion in which a wide array of creative and constructive ideas for a fresh way forward has emerged across governments, academia, non-governmental organizations, civic leaders and business, within the UN, and through the unique lens of the world's young people.

Rio+20 is now providing the food for thought, the fuel and the focus for this global awareness, this sense of endeavour to lead us from the end of an era into a new and optimistic moment for civilization. Brazil, host of the Rio Earth Summit in 2012, is very much part of that fertile debate.

Could Rio+20 represent a moment in time where the ideas, directions and values that link our common humanity – which have been maturing since the UN itself was born – fully flourish, finally bear full fruit? Young people – and the rest of the world – will know in just a few months' time.

Kevin Ochieng (24), Kenya, Tunza Youth Advisory Council, 2009-2011

'The great thing about young people is they have ideas. I think the Tunza network, and global youth in general, must find a way to harness the brains of Earth's massive population to effect change. Every engineering graduate I know in Africa has done a project. Where do all these ideas go?

Imagine if we put them all together, how quickly could we change the world! I'm developing a crowd-sourcing site, a place to gather, map, and share different ideas, where they can be moderated and voted on. Over time, the best ideas can gather collaborators and peer funding. Advocacy is important, but if we can offer alternative solutions, it could be far more powerful.'

Sebastien Duyck (24), France, Rio+20s <http://rioplustwenties.org/>

'Our right to participate is the result of hard work by young people before us, so now we must make sure our voices are heard, ambitious and uncompromising. If we don't get politicians to think long term, we will never get what we need. Our role is to bring new solutions to the table.'

Half the planet, one voice



From the colourful national costumes to the excited babble of many different languages spoken at once, the UNEP Tunza International Children and Youth Conference represented humanity at its most diverse and its most unified. These 1,400 young people from 118 countries gathered in Bandung, Indonesia, from 26 September to 1 October 2011, to discuss the state of the planet and ways to take an active role in shaping their future during the run-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20.

Through plenaries and workshops – many facilitated by children and youth themselves – the Tunza conference gave participants the opportunity to discuss Rio+20's themes: international environmental governance, sustainable development and the green economy, as well as learn how to make their voices heard.

The message of the conference was clear: young people, who make up half the world's population, stand to lose the most if the world continues on a growth trend that is out of line with what the planet can sustain. Many youth are already experiencing the effects of food and water shortages, pollution and climate change in their own countries; meanwhile around 40 per cent of the world's unemployed are between 15 and 24 years old.

Yet, as UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner noted in his opening address, young people are in a good position not just to call for change, but to take part in creating it. 'The older we become, the more we find reasons why things can't be done,' he said. 'Tunza is about allowing you to see you are not alone, and that nothing has to be as it always has. It's people who change what happens in government, so you have great power.'

A week of inspiration By Cassandra Lin (13), USA and Ella Cunnison (12), UK

The UNEP Tunza Children and Youth Conference was tough, but inspirational and exciting, too. We all contributed to the Bandung Declaration, ensuring that leaders attending Rio+20 will hear children's voices, helped plant Bandung's first city forest, and got to experience Indonesia's traditional music, toys and crafts. Here's what some of us had to say about the week's experience.

Maryam Nisywa (15), Indonesia

'It was great to see so many kids from around the world enjoying my home city.'

Stephen Njoroge (11), Kenya

'I feel like I've done something important for the world, but actions speak louder than words, so I would like to do something practical.'

Pritish Taval (14), India

'Sustainable development is our only future. Natural resources are being used up day by day, so we need to find alternatives for a better and safer future.'

Shakeem Goddard (14), St Lucia

'When we ask our parents to buy us stuff, we are part of the economy – so we can participate in the green economy, too. I feel privileged to have contributed to the Bandung Declaration, not many children have the opportunity to do that.'

Andrea Nava (13), Guatemala

'Remember we have to save our planet because it is the only one that we have.'

Ella Cunnison (12), UK

'We, the younger generation, promised to make the world a more sustainable place. I'm proud to have been a delegate and hope all we've done here will be noticed by world leaders at Rio+20.'



We were there!



Thousands of citizen activists, including youth, participated in the Earth Summit of 1992. And several of those youth participants joined the Bandung Tunza conference as facilitators, offering advice, context and encouragement to Tunza delegates as they head down the Road to Rio.

James Hung

'The internet is a powerful tool that we didn't have 20 years ago. But it's now been used very effectively in the climate change movement and was fundamental to the Arab Spring, so encourage each other to use social media effectively. And remember not everyone will get to Rio+20, so within your group, make sure all regions of the world are represented together with minorities and indigenous people.'

'One thing we did well as youth in the earlier Rio process was vigorous debate and discussion around the issues. So I encourage you to disagree, because through disagreement and dialogue you come to understanding.'

'It's also important to understand and respect different strategies. There's a time and place for speeches, meetings, planning, direct action. Some of you will be in non-governmental or national delegations, others will be outside activists. The important thing is solidarity. You're in this together and speaking with one voice. We had solidarity at Rio'92: in spite of internal debates about strategies, we had a foundation of understanding.'

Zonibel Woods

'One of the things I wish we'd paid more attention to is what happened afterwards. Think about what happens after Rio+20, so that when you get a commitment from countries to work on new ideas, you can follow it up and ensure accountability. As far as civil society participation is concerned, in the UN it's all about precedent. I encourage you to study the Global Fund for Tuberculosis and Malaria and UNAIDS, where civil society sits and makes decisions alongside government officials.'

Michael Dorsey

'The good news is that the green economy is growing even in this worldwide depression. Although markets deliver efficiencies, they were never designed to deliver justice, equity and ecological or socio-cultural harmony, so you have serious and difficult work to do. But young people already lead the forces of change – even if not always in the limelight. Big leaps in solutions come from below, from collective resistance. You are the catalysts of hope amongst your peers.'



Photos: Karen Eng

YOUNG VOICES

Hu Ching (21), Singapore, Bayer Young Environmental Envoy 2007

'The declaration process has posed some challenges. In Asia-Pacific there are many differences between developed and developing countries so it was difficult to reach a consensus. Within Southeast Asia, some of the main issues are protecting forests and poverty eradication, whereas in Singapore,

resource and energy efficiency are bigger problems.

'I was also a youth participant at COP-15, the Climate Conference in Copenhagen, where countries were focused on their own positions, impeding progress. Rio's focus will be broader, more holistic, and will encompass a wider range of issues. Hopefully we can achieve more from Rio.'

Mariana Carnasciali (25), Brazil www.cala-bocajamorreu.org

'I think it's good for Rio that the Summit is coming back. When a country hosts an event like this, it must rethink the way it deals with environment, forcing it to deal with garbage problems, poverty problems. Brazil has made many environmental improvements already, but there's still much to do.'

In with the NEW

Every two years, Tunza conference delegates elect new members to the Tunza Youth Advisory Council (TYAC). The winners – one or two young people representing each UNEP region – assist and advise UNEP on better ways to engage young people.

Latin America & the Caribbean

Dalia Fernanda Márquez Añez (22), Venezuela



Studies: Law, with a special interest in human rights. Also runs a Venezuelan youth NGO.

Region's concerns: High rates of deforestation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

About me: I am a defender of human rights, especially the right of everyone to live in a healthy environment.

María del Refugio Boa Alvarado (22), Mexico

Studies: Natural resource management.



Region's concerns: Climate change, water pollution and availability, loss of biodiversity and deforestation, solid waste management

About me: I am interested in developing public policies based on making quality education available, as well as creating jobs within a green economy.

Europe



Andrew Bartolo (but people call me Chucky) (18), Malta

Studies: Architecture.

Region's concerns: We have problems with urbanization and deforestation, leading to a lack of biodiversity. The Mediterranean Sea

also suffers from pollution and overfishing.

About me: My greatest passion is giving voice to the voiceless. It's why I got involved with UNEP.

West Asia

M. Ihsan Kaadan (23), Syria

Studies: Medicine.



Region's concerns: Water shortages, desertification, pollution and climate change. A key aspect to these environmental threats is the dynamic, interactive relationships between them.

About me: As a medical student, I study the impacts of different types of environmental pollution on human bodies.

Indigenous



José Humberto Páez Fernández (20), Costa Rica

Studies: Computer programming and management of natural resources.

Region's concerns: Indigenous peoples are the most affected by climate change, and suffer from a lack of environmental education.

About me: My passion is the protection of natural resources and the empowerment of young people on environmental issues.

