

COMMUNIQUÉ

Winners announced: Young Hands Together for Diversity International Biodiversity Art Competition

London, Montreal, Rome, 6 October 2010 – How do young people see life on Earth, the richness of ecosystems, the reasons underlying biodiversity loss and the actions required to stop this loss? Over 3,000 children and young people between 6 and 20 years of age from over 60 countries submitted artwork to a biodiversity art contest launched by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and Bioversity International. The contest was developed as part of a global youth education initiative on biodiversity in support of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

The judges were impressed by the striking images from artists as young as six, and their depictions of the beauty, fragility and unity of biodiversity. The pictures express young people's awe of the planet's biodiversity and their concern for its future. The team of judges was formed of biodiversity experts, graphic designers and other staff from FAO, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and WAGGGS. The process took a long time because of the large number of wonderful drawings that were submitted. The talented winners are:

Overall winner

Justino Hernandez Gonzalez, age 20, Mexico

16 to 20 age group

1st Anjali Chandrashekar, age 16, India

2nd Ji Eun Kim, age 16, Republic of Korea

3rd Hanna Shumska, age 17, Ukraine

4th Tung Gloria IP, age 16, Hong Kong, China

11 to 15 age group

1st Aby Abraham, age 12, Qatar

2nd Ryanna Tee, age 15, Philippines

3rd Harsh Hera, age 15, India

4th Martyna Gauronskyte, age 12, Lithuania

6 to 10 age group

1st Tae Gyeong Hahn, age 10, Republic of Korea

2nd Ahmed Ifrah Ibrahim, age 9, Maldives

3rd Denisa Valentina Huma, age 10, Romania

4th Nethmini Ashinsana Wattetenna, age 9, Sri Lanka

A number of other drawings have been selected for special merit as the judges were particularly impressed by the quality and imagination that has gone into them. The winning drawings and other entries will be used to illustrate the Biodiversity Challenge Badge and the Youth Guide to Biodiversity, which will be launched later this month. The entries will also be used to educate people about biodiversity in other publications. The competition winners will receive a cash prize and/or a special certificate. The grand-prize winner will receive his prize at a special Young Hands Together for Diversity event. The artwork of the finalists and winners can be viewed at www.fao.org/climatechange/youth/65862/en/ in the "2010 International Art Competition" album and on *The Green Wave* Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/greenwave.cbd.int. All the drawings submitted to the competition will shortly be available on the Web.
