

Tip of the Iceberg

DAILY YOUTH BULLETIN AT THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Monday, November 28
MONTREAL 2005

At what cost?

Why wait until Saturday night for the NGO party? Youth are starting things off in style with the Youth Declaration Launch Party at the Complexe Guy Favreau tomorrow. This hip and happening event will not only launch the Youth Declaration from the Beyond Kyoto – It's Us! International Youth Summit on Climate Change but will showcase youth experiences and perspectives, and outline other youth actions to take place during the COP11 negotiations. Youth from around the world are challenging governments to start asking what climate change will cost future generations. **Come join us!**

At what cost? Youth Declaration Launch Party

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

1-3pm: Mousseau Room, Complexe Guy Favreau
200 Rene-Levesque Blvd W.

(directly across from the Palais des Congrès)

Why the tip of the iceberg?

Since COP6, youth have been engaged in the UNFCCC process. We have presented three declarations to the COP and will deliver our latest installment of this dialogue, the *Our Climate, Our Challenge, Our Future – International Youth Declaration, Montréal 2005* to you at the Ministerial segment. Our two-page declaration was born out of over 100 pages of text, written during the past three days, that address our commitments to protect the climate, our concerns about the future and what we urge governments to do at this conference.

Everywhere we look, we find that youth are finding creative ways to speak out and express their concerns about climate change. Over three thousand school aged children responded to our call for drawings on how they are committed to protecting the climate from such far away places as China and Burkina Faso. Bloggers have already started to post their thoughts on COP11 at www.itsgettinghotinhere.org. Over the next two weeks, we will share with you more of youth's views on climate change and how it is being addressed in the international process through this daily newsletter.

And yet this is only the tip of the iceberg on what youth have to say about climate change. We need to foster deepened and continual engagement of youth into the UNFCCC process to keep this dialogue going. This is why one of our key demands for the UN Conference on Climate Change, Montréal 2005 is to see the establishment of a permanent, funded youth constituency to be included in the international climate change negotiation process.

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Views from Beyond the Palais

Not everyone could make it to Montréal, thus we have reserved this section of the newsletters for views from beyond the confines of the Palais walls....

"Climate change can have an adverse negative effect on the world's biodiversity. It has altered the vegetation and even the rainfall in my country. I am concern because, if not checked will lead to gradual demise of mankind on earth. This is an issue that needs concerted effort to fight." - Woody Umaru, Sierra Leone

Youth interested in submitting their views can post them on the www.beyondkyoto.org discussion board.

Beyond Kyoto It's Us! International Youth Call For Change

BY KAREN PINCHIN, SUMMIT PARTICIPANT
TORONTO, CANADA

Over 100 youths from around the world are calling on their governments to protect the earth's warming climate. They gathered in Montreal from Nov. 24 to 28 in order to present a unified front.

"This is the second youth gathering specifically around the climate change issue," says Emmanuel Korbia Edudzie, a masters student in development from Ghana. "We're not yet feeling the full extent of the impacts of climate change; we're going to feel them 50 years from now."

The youth came from a variety of backgrounds, including political science, environmental studies, architecture, engineering and economics, and drafted a declaration they will submit to party delegates at the United Nations Climate Change Conference at the Ministerial segment. The document puts forward a strong and unified message calling for a more influential and permanent role for youth in the climate change mitigation process.

The message is one of the strongest statements of concern given to governments by a group of international youth to date.

Opened by Stephan Dion, Canadian Minister of the Environment, the summit incorporated presentations on topics ranging from bleaching of coral reefs, melting of the glaciers and specific presentations from experts on subjects pertaining to the Kyoto Protocol. The youth also enjoyed a gala reception held by the Government of Canada to honour youth excellence pertaining to climate protection projects.

The summit was held at Montreal's Biosphere, an environmental museum aimed at addressing Canadians' concerns about environmental issues including climate change, water issues and sustainable development.

Although they are willing to fight climate change as best they can, the youth insist that it is up to their governments to represent their interests, as youth truly are the future.

Initiated by a number of Canadian environmental youth organizations, coordinated by ENvironnement JEunesse and supported by the Government of Canada, the summit incorporated the varied experience, knowledge and dynamism these global youth have to offer.

"We are the ones who are going to be impacted by climate change," says Caroline Charest, a management consultant from Montreal. "Youth everywhere are becoming involved and trying to change the world and mitigate climate change. This is a chance for us to be heard."