

## EB V2 N3 – New Year action!

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### The COP-14 Conference in Poznan

The 13<sup>th</sup> of December was the final day of the two-week UN Climate Conference in Poznan, Poland. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)) is one of the largest international treaties to develop a framework for **international action** addressing global warming. This yearly session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) was aimed at discussing and specifying rules for UNFCCC implementation. The Conference hosted around 11,000 participants from over **190** government delegations and ended with the positive pledge to format an effective **international response** to climate change by the end of 2009. Promising outcomes include the launch of the Kyoto Protocol's **Adaptation Fund** and the completed review of the Kyoto protocol. Another important detail is that participating country representatives unified their standpoints on the new climate change agreement. COP14 was the biggest political summit ever organized in Poland. The next major UNFCCC gathering will take place from **29 March to 8 April 2009 in Bonn, Germany**. To read more details, visit the webpage: [<http://cop14.gov.pl/>].



### Speak out!

Around 500 **youth** from around the world was also attending the conference in **Poznan**. One of the youth organizations present was **350**, an organization that pleads for more environmental action by the U.S. Prior to Poznan, 350 organized an event to actively gather **youth leaders** and to plan ahead by training each other on how to make the most of the Poznan meetings. As young people represent the many millions who will inherit a drastically different world if no climate change action is taken, 350 **engages youth** to create a **global movement** of people demanding **political change**, realizing the actual number of 350 - the number that leading scientists refer to as the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide measured in our atmosphere. Since 350's commencement after the 2007 'Step it Up' Campaign in the USA, where they staged more than **2000 demonstrations** in all 50 states and urged Congress to pass the first real **laws to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>**, 350 is reaching out globally. For more information contact May Boeve at [may@350.org](mailto:may@350.org) or check their website: [<http://www.350.org>]

### In celebration of the 2008 International Volunteer Day on December 5<sup>th</sup>, here are some **Facts and Figures**:

- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can only be achieved with the full **involvement** of people all over the world;
- The International Year of Volunteers 2001 created **global awareness** about the massive contribution that individuals make to development through voluntary action;
- Economic and **social stress** created by factors such as unemployment, natural disasters and civil conflict lead to more **self-centered behavior**, causing a decline in volunteerism;
- Among young adults in North America and the U.K., volunteering rates dropped as they reach young adulthood and rise again to peak in middle age;



\* UNEP does not necessarily endorse the cases presented; UNEP considers them interesting in relation to sustainable consumption and as presented for information. We will be glad to receive information on other cases (write us at [sc@unep.fr](mailto:sc@unep.fr)) and we would do our best to post them in further relevant e-bulletins

- According to UN Volunteers statistics in 2005, from the 6,201 volunteers who were working worldwide within the organization, **64,5%** were men and **35,5%** were women;
- The main reasons to **volunteer** are helping a cause you believe in; being able to put your skills and experience to use; personal affects to the cause the organization supports; opportunity to explore **personal strengths** and improve job opportunities, according to the 2004 National Survey of Giving in Canada, Volunteering and Participating (NSGVP).

*Volunteering is about empowering individuals and communities at the grass-roots level. It is about giving them a voice and letting them take the lead. And it is the foundation upon which rests the achievement of the MDGs.*

UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro, 2007

**NEWS!** The YXC Argentina and Greek guidebook will soon be available on the YouthXchange website under the Download Goodies Section! Check [[http://www.youthxchange.net/main/download\\_guide.asp](http://www.youthxchange.net/main/download_guide.asp)]

**YXC guide: 'Discover the global village'**

This chapter of the guidebook explains how the media works on our construction of reality. It further elaborates on media literacy and its indirect effects on our consumption patterns. How can we use the media to promote our own values and a more sustainably lifestyle? Examples of case studies:

- ➔ **ACT – Advertising Community Together** – is a non-profit initiative aimed at promoting and inspiring responsible communication on sustainability. Find more about ACT on [<http://www.act-responsible.org/public/>]
- ➔ **Idealist** – Feel like taking action yourself? On Idealist.org you can choose from over 40.000 non-profit and community organizations in 165 countries, so take your pick at [<http://www.idealist.org>] and make a difference!

**YXC.net: Awakening your soul**

In this section of YXC you find more ideas on how to shape your own identity through culture and spirituality – expressing yourself and stimulating critical thinking in order to deal with overconsumption patterns and the invasive media advertising. Re-think your lifestyle at: <http://www.youthxchange.net/main/awakeningyoursoul.asp>



**As seen on screen**

In Austria, the **FORUM Umweltbildung** (Environmental Education FORUM) is a governmental initiative that offers educational support through publications, websites, events, **flagship projects**, educational networks and funds for educators within the formal and non-formal

education sector. This school year started off with a great initiative **engaging** youth: the two ministries involved (Agriculture, Forestry, Environment & Water Management and Education, Arts & Culture) organized a **media competition** focusing attention on sustainability. It triggered the participation of many young people ages 12 to 26 who sent in more than **50** videos among which 12 were picked by a professional Jury. Eager to see the results? Check their video's on [<http://www.umweltbildung.at/cgi-bin/cms/af.pl?contentid=11576>]

*Best Wishes for the New Year!*