

GREEN HOPE



# OUR 2<sup>ND</sup> NEWSLETTER

Issue date : 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2013



# EDITOR'S NOTE

I took charge as the Global Coordinator for UNEP's Major Groups Children and Youth at the Annual Major Groups Stakeholders Conference held in February, 2013 at UNEP, Nairobi.

In my role as the representative of UNEP's Major Groups for Children and Youth ( MGCY ), I attended two very important summits – the Global Major Groups Stakeholders Forum and the inaugural Universal Session of the Governing Council .

These summits sought greater and more transparent engagement of UNEP with its stakeholders and civil society.

My message to the global children and youth fraternity is to work towards greater involvement in agenda setting , policy making and implementation processes so that we can determine and take charge of the future which essentially belongs to us.

..... Kehkashan

**MEMBER**  
**ARTICLES**





# BLUE WHALES

There are 2 broad classes of whale- The Baleen whales and Toothed whales. Both the species are disappearing at an alarming rate but Blue Whales; the largest creatures in the animal and human world are disappearing extremely quickly. At approximately 30 metres in length and 170 tons or more in weight, it is the largest known animal to have ever existed. There were about 235,000 whales in this world before the hunting began. In 1964 a mind-boggling survey showed only about 650-2000 blues whales were left. Then the governments of the world started to protect these magnificent beings. A 30 years later survey showed there are less than 5000 whales in the world. This was an increase but we still have a long way to reach the old numbers, 2100-3100.

ADITYA RATHI



The Passenger Pigeon or Wild Pigeon is an extinct North American bird. Some estimate 3 to 5 billion Passenger Pigeons were in the United States when Europeans arrived in North America. The species lived in enormous migratory flocks until the early 20th century, when hunting and habitat destruction led to its demise.

The main diet of the passenger pigeon included acorns, chestnuts, seeds and berries found in the forests. Worms and insects supplemented the diet in spring and summer.

Prior to colonization, Americans occasionally used pigeons for meat. In the early 19th century, commercial hunters began netting and shooting the birds to sell in city markets as food. Once pigeon meat became popular, commercial hunting started on an enormous scale.

NEHA RATHI



**PASSENGER  
PIGEON**

The degradation of forest land due to continuous human activity is termed as desertification. Desertification leads to droughts which results in water and food scarcity. Plant roots hold the soil together, preventing erosion. Many organisms live and depend on trees, and by destroying trees, species can die, which can indirectly or directly affect other species as well. As a result of this, the next generation will have to face severe consequences. Being a Climate Justice Ambassador and a member of Green Hope UAE, we have taken the pledge to plant more than 1 million trees in all parts of the world.

Desertification was identified as the greatest challenges of sustainable development during Rio 1992. So, we, Green Hope UAE are doing our part to stop desertification.

KOMAL MUTHYALU

# DESERTIFICATION

**Hi, I am Rachel. I'm a student in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade here in Dubai, U.A.E. I wish to share my experience with you all since joining GREEN HOPE U.A.E. When I got invited to join the group that was started by my former classmate, Kehkashan Basu, my reply was a big 'NO'. As I was a care free and easy going girl, I didn't want to take up any responsibilities or having to get up early in the morning during weekends or do any other work as I already had so much work from School. Actually, I didn't wish to take on any more headaches. Then my Sister, Rebekah joined the group, from home I didn't have any other choice. But after joining the group, I came to realize that this was truly fun. Doing the activities together as a group, I was not only helping myself but also helping the environment in my own little ways and share our love to others also. Going to Sharjah labor camps and giving food to the Laborers started to make a lot of difference in my life. I realize how blessed and lucky I am. I'm grateful for all the blessings in my life. I feel proud that I was able to plant trees and make a contribution to the environment. I wished many more of you will have an opportunity to do so like us. We got to clean the beaches where the turtles and birds come and make their nest and lay eggs. It was awesome to be able to be there when the little turtles were released back into the ocean with our group. We had so much fun when we participated in the Desert Clean Up with Dubai Municipality and also work with DEWA in the Earth Hour 2013 by lighting the Candles near Burj Khalifa. It makes me proud to be a part of Green Hope U.A.E. I encourage all those who are able to read this to join us and make a difference. LET'S STOP TALKING AND START PLANTING!!!**

**RACHEL MATHEWS**



**'Yes' or 'No'. To be or not to be... that is the question.**

**Fairly simple right? No.**

**Think of it this way: your friend offers you a cigarette. You could either say, "No, thanks" or easily give in and say, "Yeah sure, but just one", which then turns into two, and then three, then four, and I should probably just stop there.**

**Now, you may all be wondering, 'What is she going on about?'**

**Well, it's quite simple. It's about choosing the right path; the big 'YES' or the 'NO'.**

**Towards the end of last year, I had been given the choice of joining Green Hope, to help in contributing to not only the environment, but to people needing help etc. At first, I was reluctant; after all I wasn't exactly the environmentalist material. Actually, I hadn't really paid much attention to it at all! You would say I wasn't exactly thrilled on giving up my extra time.**

**Come to think of it, I was afraid; afraid of what my peers would think of me; afraid that I wouldn't be able to fit in. But, that was until I learnt that just because my peers weren't interested in such activities, didn't mean that I shouldn't do it. In fact, it is something that one should be proud of. After all, you are saving the world – being a true hero!**

**That day itself, I sat down and questioned myself. It was then that I realized that parties and fun times come and go, but by doing the right thing, not only was I bringing happiness to myself, but also to the lives of others.**

**Question yourself this:**

**'What would happen if there isn't any water?'**

**'No water to drink, or take a shower. Could I even think of a life without water? Will I survive?'**

**Now, imagine that aching thirst for just one drop of water; that hoarse feeling in your throat, as if sandpaper is rubbing up against it; beads of sweat feverishly rolling down your face, a burning stench devouring your senses – you may as well have been on fire. Yet, all you craved for was that one drop of water. Trust me, that feeling isn't pleasant at all!**

**After joining Green Hope, I have realized that there is SO much we could do for ourselves, for one another. I can surely say that we, Green Hope, have become a family. After visiting labour camps, volunteering at various charity organizations, and making new friends, I feel so much better as a person. Seeing their smiles, and being part of their happiness makes me feel as if I've accomplished something great, and moreover gives me hope, for our future - for a better world.**

**So, what would your reply be? After all this, are you still willing to ignore and accept the consequences? Or, are you going to do something about it? Will you choose the 'YES' path or the 'NO' path? It is all up to you now, my friends. I urge you to take a stand now, before it's too late.**

**Are you willing to fight for your future? I certainly am.**

**REBEKAH MATHEWS**



## **Article by :**

**Mateo Botero**

**Fundador y Líder General**

**Club Botánico Ambiental**

**Medellín, Colombia**

### **AMÉRCIA LATINA PROPONE IDEAS PARA LOS OBJETIVOS DE DESARROLLO DESPUÉS DEL 2015**

**Del 7 al 9 de marzo participé en el Congreso Latinoamericano sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible en América Latina y el Caribe: seguimiento a la Agenda Post-2015 y Río+20 que tuvo lugar en Bogotá, capital de Colombia. Allí se reunieron a puertas cerradas varios ministros y delegados presidenciales, los cuales presentaban la postura y sugerencias de su país frente a los nuevos objetivos que deben fijarse después del año 2015 cuando culmina el plazo de cumplimiento para los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.**

**Para comenzar debemos acordarnos que en el año 2000 se reunieron en Nueva York, en el marco de la Cumbre del Milenio, representantes de los 189 países que hacen parte de la ONU los cuales acordaron conseguir para el año 2015 ocho propósitos de desarrollo humano, por primera vez se proponía una fecha para lograr acuerdos concretos y medibles en la agenda internacional del desarrollo.**

**Los ocho objetivos son: erradicar la pobreza extrema y el hambre; lograr la enseñanza primaria universal; promover la igualdad entre los géneros y la autonomía de la mujer; reducir la mortalidad infantil; mejorar la salud materna; combatir el VIH/SIDA, el paludismo y otras enfermedades; garantizar el sustento del medio ambiente y por último encontramos fomentar una asociación mundial para el desarrollo.**

**En respuesta a lo anterior, el Secretario General de la ONU, conformó el Panel de Alto Nivel para la Agenda Post-2015, del cual hacen parte 27 países de todo el mundo y es encabezado por el Presidente Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono de Indonesia; la Presidenta Ellen Johnson Sirleaf de Liberia; y el Primer Ministro David Cameron del Reino Unido. El objetivo de este panel es consultar con todas las partes interesadas y acordar una hoja de ruta que ayuden en las deliberaciones sobre la agenda de desarrollo posterior a 2015.**

**Del Panel de Alto Nivel para la Agenda Post-2015, únicamente hacen parte cuatro países de América Latina que son, Brasil, Cuba, México y Colombia, los cuales deben representar a todos los demás.**

**Por este motivo se realizó en Bogotá esta conferencia de la cual participaron Amina Mohammed, Asesora Especial del Secretario General para la Agenda Post-2015; María Ángela Holguín, Canciller de Colombia; Gisela Alonso, Canciller de Cuba; Patricia Espinosa, Ex canciller de México; Hernando Muñoz, Presidente del PNUD para América Latina, entre otros representantes de los países del continente.**

**En Bogotá se deseaba escuchar a los demás países latinoamericanos quienes no hacen parte del Panel de Alto Nivel, sus propuestas y su postura para la agenda de desarrollo mundial después de 2015, además se debatió la integración de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), el acuerdo más importante de Río+20, con la Agenda Post-2015. La mayoría de países se encontraron en la importancia de que los dos sean uno solo, mientras que Brasil, señalaba la importancia de tener a ambos separados.**

**Entre los debates se mencionó la importancia de disminuir la brecha de desigualdad, tanto entre personas como entre países; sacar a América Latina de la pobreza, siempre tener el bienestar del hombre como punto central; continuar trabajando por la igualdad de género, invertir en la educación y el empleo, además de darle protagonismo a la juventud mundial la cual vive una gran crisis.**

**Se hizo énfasis en la necesidad de que toda América Latina se integre con la tecnología, además de plantear una nueva arquitectura de desarrollo, trabajar fuertemente con la Declaración de Río'92 y Río+20. Respetar, apoyar y defender los derechos de la comunidad LGTBI y se recalcó la importancia de no capitalizar la naturaleza.**

**Lo escuchado en Bogotá será llevado a la cuarta reunión global de Panel de Alto Nivel para la Agenda Post-2015 que se realizará a finales de marzo en Bali, Indonesia.**

**“Debemos escuchar la demanda del pueblo”**

**Alicia Barcena**

**Secretaria Ejecutiva de la CEPAL**

**Para la construcción de esta agenda no podemos esperar que solo la discutan presidentes y ministros. Nosotros, la sociedad civil, tenemos la responsabilidad de velar y proponer el verdadero futuro que queremos y necesitamos.**

## **ARTICLE BY MADHAV DUTT – FOUNDER “GREEN THE GENE”**

Green the Gene's youth members from Faridabad came up with this innovative method of recycling the plastic bottles and the chaff-husk boards to make the park benches. Our goal is to save the tonnes of metal used to make the general park benches. By this project a large amount of waste plastic bottles are brought under use and are not burned or dumped in the soil, which is a major contributor to the increasing soil and air pollution levels. Our main target is to enhance the socio-environmental factor by letting the underprivileged children volunteer for this initiative. Our project is about recycling the waste plastic bottles and polybags used by people in our city, by using the concept of the 3 R's which is Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle. We are trying to use this waste to the best extent, by segregating it, making chairs and benches for people in public parks and gardens. Reused Polybags are also recycled. This waste, earlier used to litter, choke drains or were burnt, but now they do not pollute the environment. This project was started by us in 2010, in Faridabad, and we have been working on it ever since.

The desired situation is which would make our project successful, is when people are very much aware about the situation and are responsible as well as willing to change for a cause. We want that with the help of our initiative the society is benefited on a large scale. The waste bottles are properly made up into benches, and recycled and reduced to the least possible amount. Our localities and the area surrounding are now almost free from litter plastic bottles.

The basic problem which is being solved is the proper usage of what we already have. It is one of the basic steps towards the bigger picture ! It even beautifies the park or garden where the bench has been placed . This project requires less amount of resources but a moderate amount of manpower . The making includes children participating in large numbers , bringing in unprivileged children as well which leads to development of backward parts of the society. It therefore, has a greater impact on the local area.



**This is a very easy to make project and can be completely built up without any professionals in less than 30 minutes.**

**Before we started the project, all the waste plastic bottles and were together dumped at a dumping space, which degraded the soil of that area and occupy landfill space. Due to this, we saw the need for this project. We started this project in sector Faridabad, Haryana , where now waste instead of being burnt or dumped in landfill spaces or in the local canal, choking it with plastic and waste. This used to, earlier lead to pollution of all forms. To verify need for the project, we visited the office of the Municipal Corporation Faridabad to use their surveys, information etc. to confirm the need of this project. We also consulted the Municipal Corporation Officers for the validation of the ideas and processes put to use by us in our project, while also the requirement of this project in our communities. Support came from the Municipal Corporation Faridabad.**

**The Green the gene team worked for the plan of actions. We are trying to get these benches all over the city so that there is less wastage of the resources and waste can be reused. By this project a large amount of waste plastic bottles are brought under use and are not burned or dumped in the soil, which is a major contributor to the increasing soil and air pollution levels. Our main target is to enhance the socio-environmental factor by letting the underprivileged children volunteer for this initiative. We are successfully now able to make park / garden benches using 133 waste plastic bottles (common 2L variants) along with hay chaff boards for support, these save about 70-80 kg of metal (usually iron) that is used in a conventional bench. We have been able to replicate this idea and benches over the city and aspire to take it further with assistance of the corporates and the Central Public Works Department to all over the state. This project has multi-faceted impacts, it not only improves and involves local waste recyclers and collectors but also puts plastic bottles (usually never recycled in India) to good use, along with saving metal for other purposes.**

GREEN HOPE



# OUR ACTIVITIES





**GREEN HOPE  
UAE @ FISKER  
LAUNCH**



# UNEP NAIROBI TUNZA 2013 / GMGSF / GC CONFERENCES



MY INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF MAJOR GROUPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH







# **MARINE BIODIVERSITY CAMPAIGN**





**LABOUR CAMP  
VISIT TO SPREAD  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
AWARENESS**






# **DUBAI DESERT CLEANUP**



# **ART WORKSHOP on WORLD WATER DAY 2013**



# **UAE'S SECOND PLANT-FOR-THE-PLANET ACADEMY CONDUCTED BY GREEN HOPE UAE**

The background image shows an indoor event space, likely a hotel ballroom, with a stage and audience. A large screen displays the text "STOP TALKING START PLANTING" and "UAE'S 2ND ACADEMY". A group of people, including students and staff, are visible on the stage and in the foreground. The text overlay is a semi-transparent white box with red text.

**The inaugural Plant-for-the-Planet academy, which we conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2012 was a huge success which motivated us to hold the second academy in the UAE, at the TAJ PALACE HOTEL on 23<sup>rd</sup> March – the day of the “EARTH HOUR”. Through these 2 academies, we have now inducted over 150 students as CLIMATE JUSTICE AMBASSADORS who have pledged to carry on the fight for climate justice. The second academy consisted of information packed presentations on climate change, global warming, renewable energy and carbon footprint. We planted 100 SAPLINGS thus putting into practice the slogan of “STOP TALKING, START PLANTING”**









100  
SAPPLINGS



# **GREEN HOPE UAE @ EARTH HOUR**

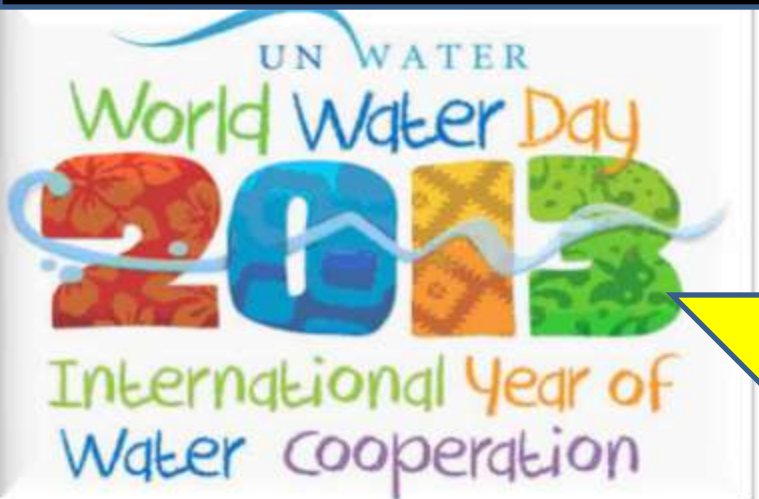
Earth hour is an event organized every year towards the end of March by the World Wide Fund. During this period of one hour, lights are turned off in many different parts of the world. It first took place in 2007 in Sydney. A year later, it was observed in many other cities. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, it was celebrated widely around the world. One such city where it was held is Dubai. Green Hope members were appointed as volunteers to aid in organizing the event at Burj Plaza conducted by Dubai Electricity and Water Authority. Candles were placed in a manner such that the phrase “Earth Hour” was visible from the top. Later that evening, the candles were lit and the lights around the area went off. There was a crowd to look at the view. People were taking pictures in front of it and the press was surrounding the place. It was a memorable event in Green Hope’s history. ...Kaushik Muthyalu







# WATCH OUR VIDEOS



WORLD WATER DAY 2013 VIDEO LINK : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMJoUG0Fi0w>



## SPEECHES AT UNEP

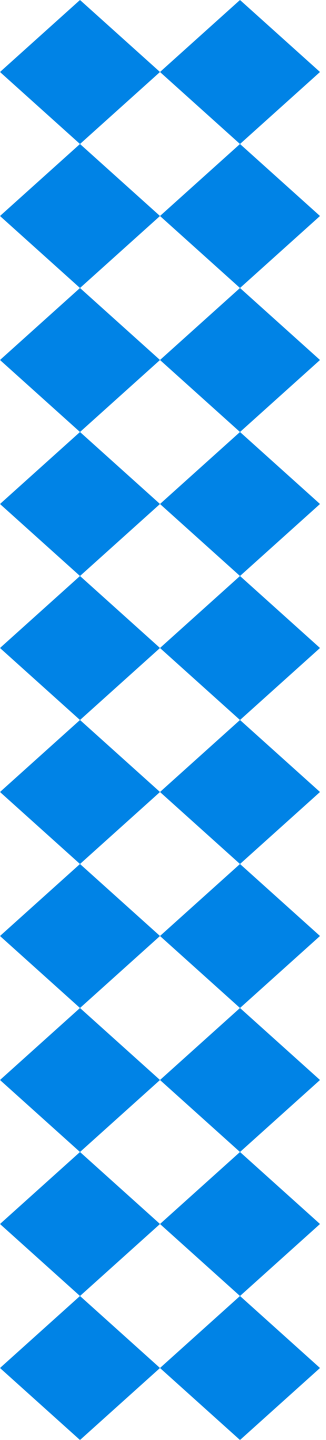


<https://sns.unon.org/ondemand/>

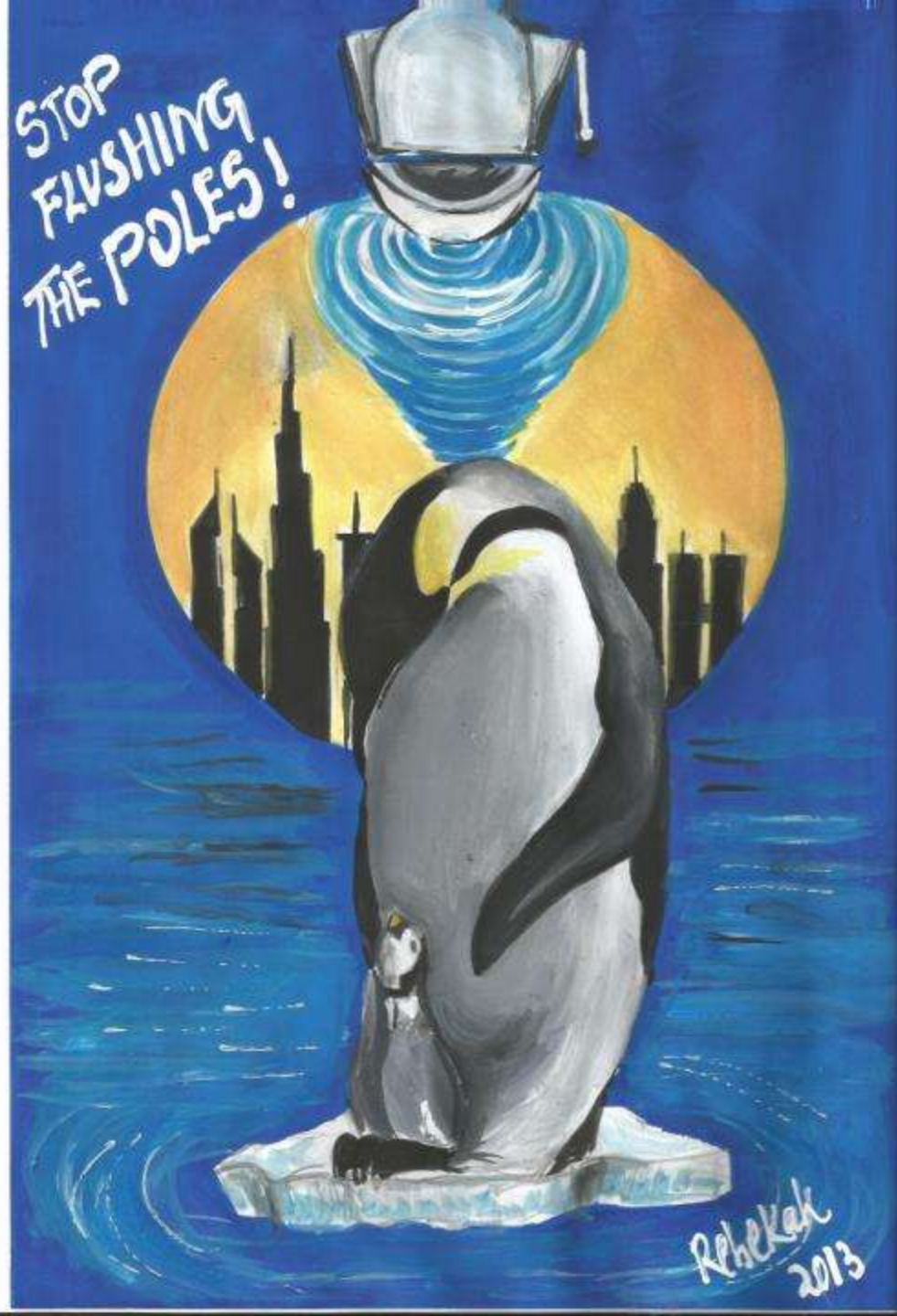
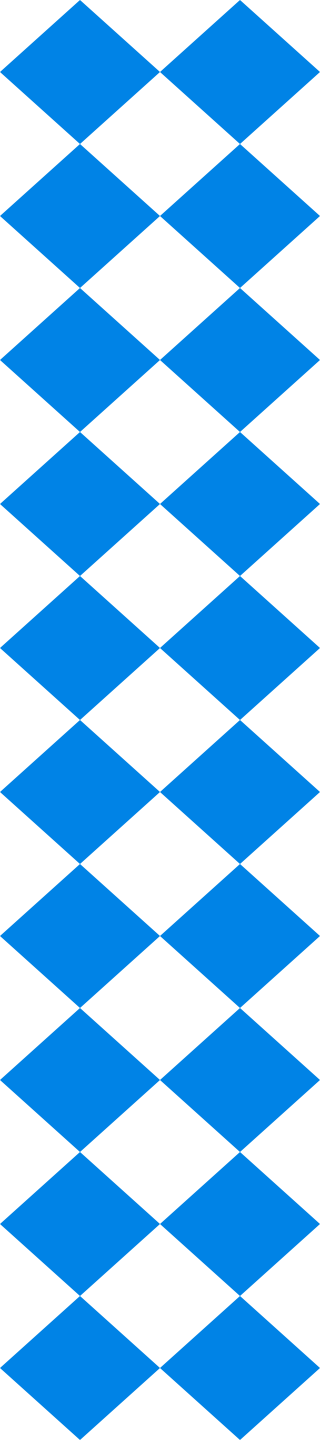
<http://www.unep.org/flvPlayer/videooplayer.asp?id=27653&l=en>

ART









# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

**NEHA  
RATHI**

Winner of Sharjah Award for Excellence in Education  
2012~2013

**KEHKASHAN  
BASU**

Elected as the Global Coordinator of UNEP's Major Groups for Children and Youth and a member of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee.

Facilitated the dialogue session of the Executive Director of UNEP with Major Groups at UNEP , Nairobi during GMGSF.

Speech at the Closing ceremony of the First Universal Session on UNEP's Governing Council , which was attended by ministers from 193 nations.

Winner of HH Hamdan Award for Distinguished Academic Performance , 2012 ~2013.

**ABHIVRIDH  
SUNIL**

Winner of Gold Medal in the Silver Series - Junior Golf Tournament





# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **EARTH DAY**
- **OUR NEXT ACADEMY**
- **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**





**trading enterprises**



**GREEN HOPE UAE thanks its sponsor  
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