



January
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GREEN

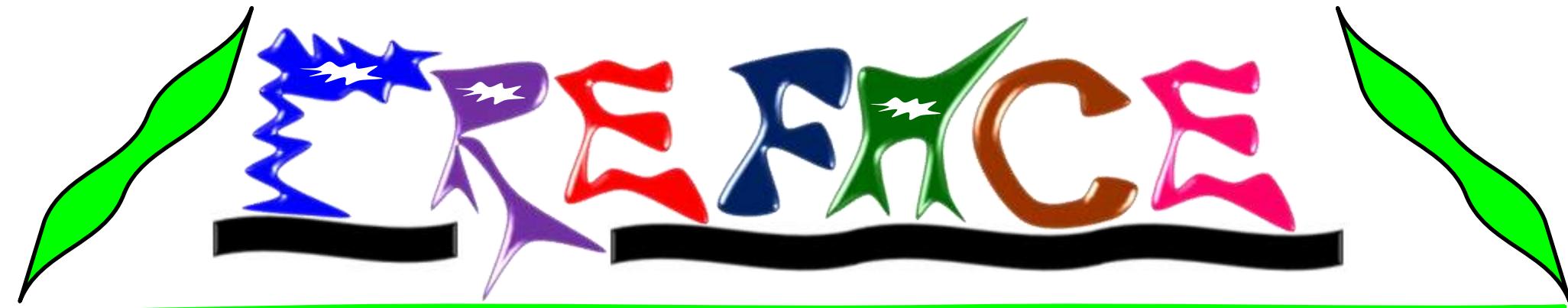
HOPE

1st

Edition



UAE



Dear Friends of GREEN HOPE UAE,

It gives me immense pride to launch the first newsletter of Green Hope UAE. This organization first took shape as an idea during Rio+20 when I started interacting with youth leaders. We were all part of the Major Group for Children and Youth and it became amply clear that we , the children and youth, required greater cohesiveness and representation. At the conclusion of Rio+20,we vowed to carry on the Rio legacy in our respective domains using the power of the youth. This is the essence and driving force of Green Hope UAE.

We , children and youth, must determine our future. Integration of all sections of the civil society is a must for our dream of a sustainable green world to become a reality. Remember --- it is not enough to address environmental issues only. We must address economic considerations and also involve society in this process in order to achieve our goal.

I would like to thank all members of Green Hope UAE for their unstinting support and enthusiasm which has brought us this far. In just a few months , our organization has been awarded by Dubai Municipality and has also been mentioned at COP18 , the UNFCCC conference at Doha.

I would like to conclude with a quote from the intrepid explorer and environmentalist , Robert Swan OBE "*The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it*".
Let us strive to get The Future We Want.

KEHKASHAN BASU



views

CONTRIBUTITIONS TO THE SOCIETY WITH GREEN HOPE

Green Hope is great group, working for the betterment of the society and today I am proud to say that I am a core group member and officer bearer of this unique group. We together, as a group have accomplished a lot. From helping the people to helping the environment, we have done it all. On the 21st of December, we spread the joy of Christmas by going to a lady's laborer camp where we distributed gifts and food for the ladies there. On the 28th of December, we went for a kayaking trip to a mangrove marsh. Before this our group has also been to various drives and campaigns like breast-cancer awareness and Clean up UAE, etc. Our group will stop at nothing for we know that we should bring the change we want to see.

ADITYA RATHI



WHO AM I, WHO ARE YOU

Swirling grey mists of smog blot out the sun
Honking cars , belching smoke , at every turn
Millions and zillions of plastic bags threaten to choke
Why are we all in such a self-destruct mode?

I look at myself in the mirror one night ,
I cannot recognise the reflection , try as I might !
A pale, shrivelled, burnt out face stares back at me
Quite different from what I ought be
Who am I, Who are you?
Can this reflection of mine be really true?

Take action before it gets too late
We must not allow others to decide our fate
Restore mother nature back to her pristine glory
Let us all join hands to change the script of this sad story

The call to action must echo throughout the globe
Children and adults alike must work to bring back hope
Plant trees , cut down on pollutants , go green
Bring back the environment to its original sheen
Developed nations need to take the lead
And others too need to come up to speed !

Mirror , oh mirror , show us a greener image
Without the smog & dirt, just a clean visage
Who am I, Who are you?
Let the image be green and true !





MARINE DESTRUCTION

ADITYA RATHI

The beautiful underwater world was once even more beautiful than it is now. Around 500 years ago there was 10 times as much underwater wild life is their now. One of the most depleting underwater lives is the corals. The Great Barrier Reef on the coast of Queensland, Australia is the world's largest coral systems but has innumerable threats. Many are from humans like pollution and oil spills but there are a few natural threats like the crown-of-thorns starfish which in 2000 destroyed 66% of live corals! On the other 34% human pollution destroys these corals. Not only plants, but animals also fall prey to our greed. Every year 100,000 birds are killed and more than 70,000 animals are killed for various purposes. This is our world and we must protect it otherwise there will not be anything to protect, 50 years from now.....

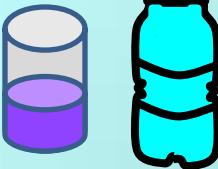




GLOBAL WARMING

Global Warming is amongst the most influential climate change. With it the sun can roast us and the water can sweep us. Global warming is the rise in the average temperature of Earth's atmosphere and oceans. Scientists are more than 90% certain that it is primarily caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases produced by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation. This would have not been possible without us humans. So, give a round of applause for us. Due to the misuse of electronics and technologies the ozone layer is depleting day by day and moment by moment. If we don't start now it will be too late. Small steps make big differences therefore even small efforts by us can lead to a wider contribution by others.

NEHA RATHI



WATER

ZAKARIAH AL ALI

Today, we have a shortage in pure water supplies, due to various human actions, such as the pollution exuded by factories, dump of harmful waste into rivers, oceans, and lakes, when there are countries around the world that strive to get a few drops of clean, drinkable water.

What we do is overlook the value of water, because we are so used to having it there for us, but have we ever stopped to think about the others who don't have any fresh water?

There are many ways you can reduce your water usage, the most basic would be to not leave the water on when it's not needed. You could even take it a step further by standing up against the various companies and factories that dump their chemical waste in clean water.

When we think about the real value of clean, fresh water, we'll realize how lucky we are to be able to drink everyday, and in turn, we'll be more wary when it comes to using water, and be sure not to waste any.

GLOBAL WARMING

We know that the Earth is warmed by a blanket of carbon dioxide that surrounds the Earth and holds the heat from the Sun. By adding huge amounts of carbon dioxide and other gases like methane to the atmosphere we are thickening the blanket and causing the planet to become extremely warm. The climatic effects the warming that vary from region to region and include drought, excessive rainfall and floods.etc

How can we as individuals do our part to help save the planet?

Planting trees would be the best way to start saving the planet.

Planting trees will help to prevent global warming by reducing levels of carbon dioxide and evaporating water into the atmosphere which increases the amount of clouds. And since clouds will reflect solar radiation, there will be less heat.

Using fewer things that create green house gases. Do not use much electricity or hot water. Decreasing the use of things that burn fossil fuel that is a car.etc. If the place to which you are travelling is far and a car is a necessity then make sure your car is properly tuned up. Use energy-efficient light bulbs as it can help a lot. And of course the 3 r's.... REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE.

I am proud of our progress concerning improvement of the environment. Our cause does not start and end with this rally. We must continue this struggle tomorrow and the day after and carry with us this dedication to the preservation of this planet, its resources and its life forever onward, that maybe it might be instilled into the hearts of those around us.

CUMBRE DE LA TIERRA

Por Mateo Botero

Nuestro amigo de Colombia

Cumbre de la Tierra... cuando por primera vez la escuché, dejó mi mente solo pensando en esas palabras, Río+20 se había convertido en mi ideal, al comienzo el hecho ser en Brasil me hizo pensar en lo difícil podría ser llegar hasta allí, pero cuando en verdad deseas algo, luchas por eso y no te rindes aun cuando te sierran mil puertas por tener 15 años, el resto solo llega.

Todo el mundo se preparaba para la tan famosa Cumbre, toda Colombia, en todos los rincones, los jóvenes se movilizaban, desarrollaban acciones, movilizaban regiones.

Después de prepararme llegó Junio, el momento de partir desde Medellín hacia Río de Janeiro. Alrededor de las 4:40 am, por la ventanilla, veía las nubes amarillas y por un minuto, entre ellas, pude observar aquel Cristo de luz verdad con sus brazos abiertos recibiendo las personas de todo el mundo quienes llegarían a discutir el futuro del planeta, tal como había sucedido hacía ya veinte años. Había llegado el momento, y yo estaba ahí.

La Cumbre de la Tierra de 1992 marcó el momento de mayor importancia del tema ambiental en la agenda internacional, se asoció el tema del deterioro ambiental a los problemas sociales y económicos, las inequidades entre países y en el interior de los mismos. Esta cumbre tuvo tres principios, el progreso económico, la justicia social y la preservación del medio ambiente. Para Colombia después de esta cumbre nació la ley 99 de 1993, el marco ambiental que hoy rige al país frente a la creación de un Ministerio de Ambiente y poner en funcionamiento el Sistema Nacional Ambiental de Colombia. Luego llega la Cumbre de Johannesburgo en 2002, pero poco tiempo antes había ocurrido el episodio de las Torres Gemelas lo que bajó prioridad a la agenda ambiental, ya que el mundo tenía sus ojos puestos sobre el terrorismo, aun así nuestro país, como resultado de esta conferencia, fusionó los ministerios de Ambiente y Desarrollo. Por eso Río+20 en el 2012 sería tan importante, ya que la idea de esta reunión era revitalizar los temas y poner de nuevo la problemática ambiental como una prioridad en la agenda internacional.

El primer día en Río+20 fue trascendental para mí, la entrada al centro de convenciones Rio centro era como migración, la seguridad era exagerada, es como si esperaran a todo momento un ataque terrorista. Cuando entré al pabellón, veo la diversidad de razas y culturas, todos comunicados por el inglés. Caminaban con sus caras toscas, cada uno con su mundo aparte. Era un vestíbulo de ambiente frío.

Los días fueron pasando y las noticias solo hablaban de Río+20, de la expectativa, de las manifestaciones. Cuando entré a uno de los salones, la delegación china hablaba sobre su manera de desarrollo “sostenible” y las grandes expectativas que tenía la nación en esta conferencia, pero hubo un momento que hizo que mi cuerpo sintiera un escalofrío abrazador –*China no adoptará ninguna manera de desarrollo que funcione en otro país y no firmará nada que vaya en contra de su crecimiento económico... aun China es un país en vía de desarrollo*– fueron las palabras de alguno de los conferencistas, pero en aquel momento sentí un miedo abrumador, pues parcia una película de cine, la diferencia es que el 3D era real. Y así continuaron siendo muchas cosas, las cuales me pusieron a pensar que no habrá cambio por parte de los gobiernos, el modelo no lo permiten cambiar.

Por doquier había papel y más papel, todos consumían los productos de las compañías más contaminantes del mundo y en el restaurante, hasta el platillo más sencillo, costaba una suma elevada de reales que no se acomodaban al presupuesto de alguien del común, ahí me pregunté ¿así se discute sobre la tala indiscriminada? y acá discutimos el problema de la seguridad alimentaria? Es como si nadie en verdad quisiera un cambio.

Por mi parte, presenté la Declaratoria de los Jóvenes de Medellín frente al Desarrollo Sostenible en un panel del cual muchas personas se alegraron de saber que los jóvenes estamos actuando, los más ancianos, a los únicos que logró notarles arrepentimiento por sus daños, eran quienes, casi con lágrimas, aplaudían al final. Uno de ellos se acercó a mí y dijo con su portuñol: *-Ustedes son quienes deben exigir un futuro sano-* miraba a su alrededor *-acá no van a dejarlo, solo están disfrazando el demonio que está por llegar.*

El 21 de junio los presidentes de más de 170 países se reunieron al fin, pero la silla de Estados Unidos, Alemania e Inglaterra estaban vacías. Yo estaba en el salón aledaño viendo por las grandes pantallas los discursos, que por un momento, parecían haber sido escritos por el mismo poeta capitalista que allí celebraba su cumpleaños. El discurso del presidente Mujica de Uruguay fue inspirador y se notó que este hombre lo escribió con sentimiento. Con un discurso puedes notar la grandeza de un hombre.

El presidente Santos en su discurso dijo que su gobierno hizo una declaratoria para un área minera estratégica de 17.6 millones de hectáreas para garantizar la minería sostenible en el Amazonas, en ese momento pensé en que tan sostenible sería ponerme un percing de oro en el pulmón.

Los jóvenes gritaban en la Cumbre de los Pueblos paralela a la oficial: -¡Tenemos una crisis económica y financiera, la mitad del mundo vive en pobreza extrema y más de un billón viven sin electricidad. Desde el año 2000 casi un millón de muertes, más de dos mil millones de personas afectadas, más de un millón de billones de dólares perdidos a causa de desastres naturales y en aun así, acá no pasa nada!

Terminó la Cumbre de la Tierra, el último día el agotamiento de todos era inexplicable y se rumoraba que los acuerdos acordados hacían parte de las 60 toneladas de basura que habíamos dejado los asistentes a esta conferencia.

Por su parte, Colombia fue aplaudida y su propuesta, llamada Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, fue el avance más importante de Río+20, dicho por palabras del Secretario General de la ONU. Esta propuesta ingenierilada por Paula Caballero se adhirió al documento final “El futuro que Queremos”.

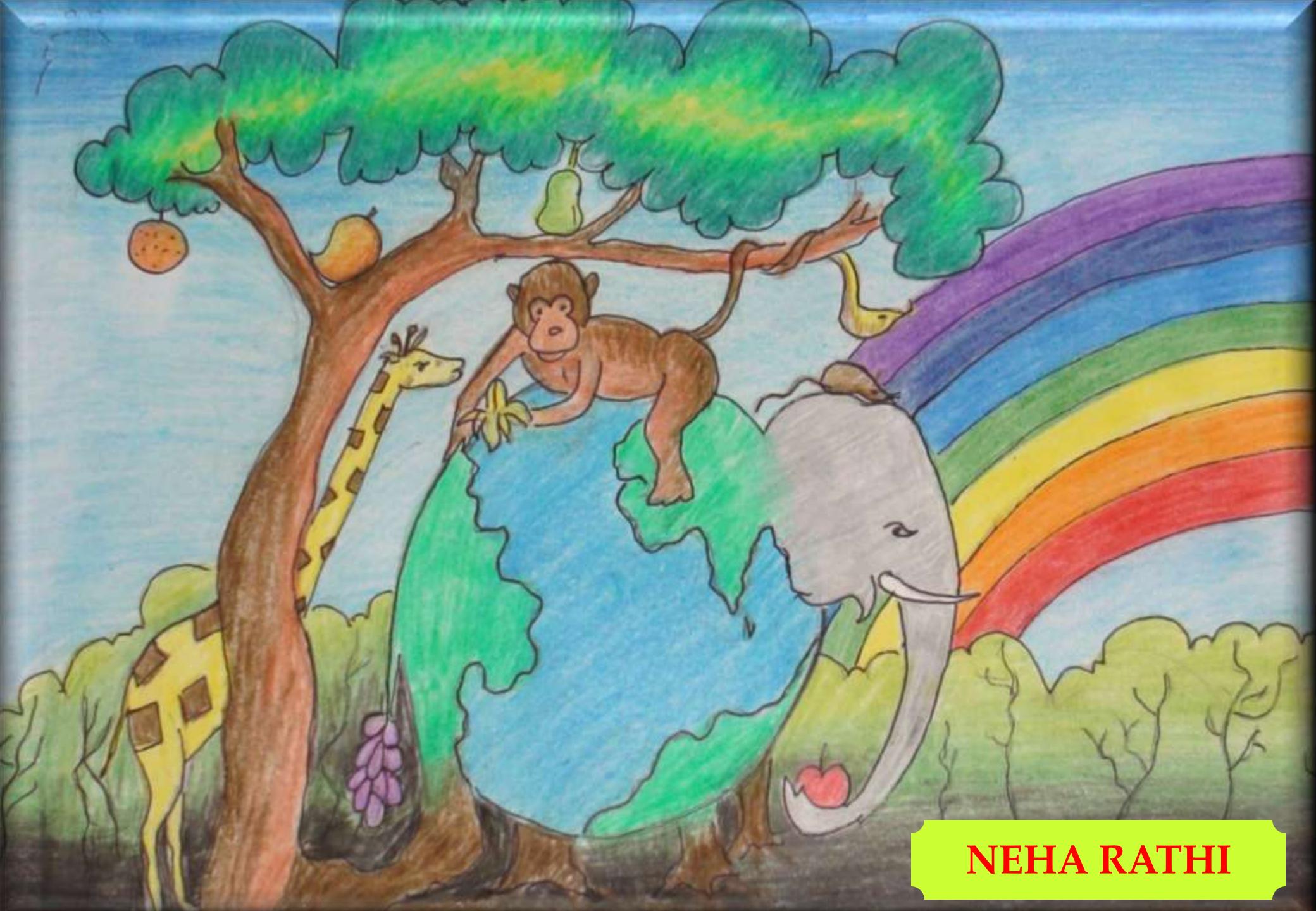
Meses después, en Noviembre llegó la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático COP18 en Doha, Qatar en donde culminaría el Protocolo de Kyoto y se esperaba comenzar el Protocolo de Kyoto II. A esta conferencia también asistí, era el único joven colombiano y uno de los pocos latinoamericanos, algo triste.

Canadá confirmó su retiro del Protocolo al igual que Rusia, Japón y Nueva Zelandia quienes juntos producen el 25% de las emisiones de CO₂. En los pasillos los jóvenes exigíamos, marchabamos, sosteníamos afiches, pedíamos a las delegaciones llegar a verdaderos acuerdos, pero dentro de este recinto de ambiente estadounidense muchos de nosotros fueron silenciados con la expulsión de la conferencia y del mismo Qatar.

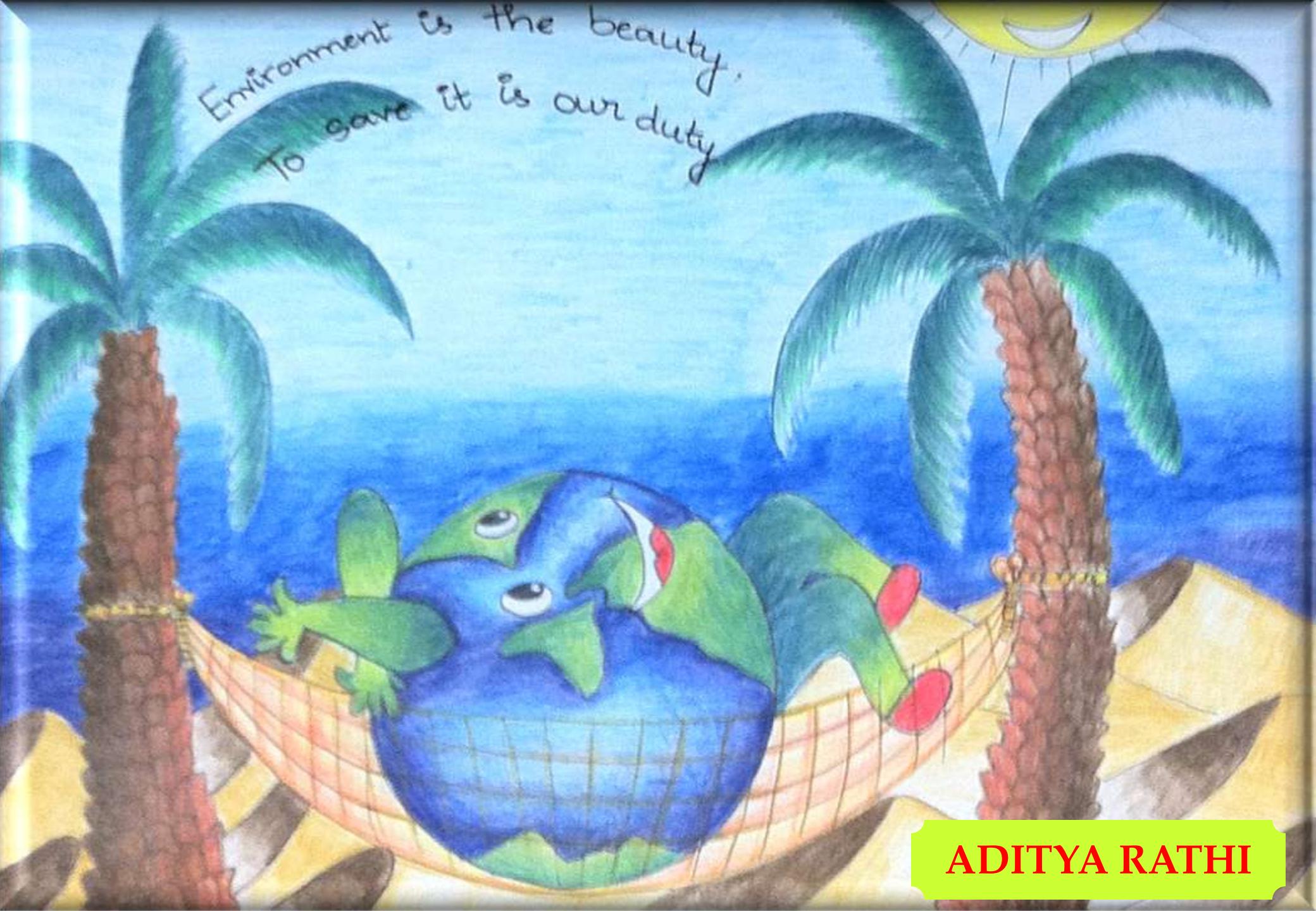
La COP18 terminó con un sinsabor al igual que Río+20 concluyendo con el Protocolo de Kyoto II del cual hace parte la UE, Australia, Noruega y Suiza y la Puerta Climática de Doha. Ahora solo queda actuar para que en la tan esperada Cumbre de 2015 en París se acuerde el futuro que el pueblo si quiere y necesita. Aunque la desilusión sea una fuente renovable, no reducirá las emisiones.

EMPIRE

EMPIRE



NEHA RATHI



Environment is the beauty,
To save it is our duty.

ADITYA RATHI

GREEN HOPE

UAE'S ACTIVITIES

IN THE PAST 6

MONTHS





GREEN HOPE UAE'S PLANT-FOR-THE-PLANET ACADEMY

Plant for the Planet academy was conducted by the Green Hope, UAE to inform students about the effect of human activities on our green planet. It was based on a campaign, started by the United Nations Environment Program, to successfully plant a billion trees.

The event, along with a planting session, took place at the Hotel InterContinental at Dubai Festival City. The first part of it was an introduction to the campaign. It focused on stating facts about how human activities are affecting the CO₂ Emission.

The latter half consisted of activities. It began with an outdoor tree planting session where the children planted little saplings which would then grow to become trees. Later, the children took part in a quiz and a few other activities.

The organizers concluded the academy by showing their support for the Plant for the Planet campaign. The description included many details such as the purpose of the campaign, its progress and the chief brain behind it.

Kaushik Muthyalu
Finance Officer
Green Hope, UAE



GREEN HOPE UAE'S PEACE VIDEO

Green Hope UAE's main aims include not only a clean and green environment and helping the underprivileged, but also living in a community where peace prevails.

So, in order to commemorate the International Day of Peace (21st September), 2012, we decided to make a peace video in which Green Hope UAE members from all around the world expressed their views on what peace means to them and why peace is important for the achieving the Future We Want.

The countries included Colombia, Malta, Nepal and of course, the United Arab Emirates. The youth who spoke in this video are all leaders of change in their respective communities and are working tirelessly for a green, sustainable and peaceful future.

Through this video, we got know about what each one of us are doing in our respective countries. We didn't keep any restrictions for the youth as we believed that every child and youth has the right to voice their opinions. So, this was a video of the youth, by the youth, for the youth.

This is the link to the video :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFiFyIHVHcc>

GREEN HOPE UAE'S CLEAN UP THE WORLD CAMPAIGN

Green Hope UAE's sole aim is to carry forward the Rio legacy by involving children and youth in working towards a green and sustainable future.

It was a moment of great pride for us when Dubai Municipality accepted us to participate in their 'Clean Up The World' campaign . The Union Square Station is Dubai's busiest metro station and the area is frequented by hundreds of travellers each day . This area was allotted to us by the municipality for the clean up .

On the designated day , our group of enthusiastic volunteers from several schools across Dubai and Sharjah gathered at the venue . We received special T-shirts , collection bags and gloves . The inspectors guided us and told us how to break up into groups and collect the trash .

Over the next few hours , we spread out across the area and cleaned it of litter. There was all types of trash , from cigarette butts to bottles to food cartons. It really was quite disgusting to see how people could litter so much.

Our effort was reported in UAE's largest English daily GULF NEWS . Link below :

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/environment/litterbugs-baffle-clean-up-the-world-activists-1.1115900>

A GREAT MOMENT OF PRIDE
FOR GREEN HOPE UAE TO BE
ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE DUBAI
MUNICIPALITY FOR THEIR
CONTRIBUTION TO THE CLEAN
UP THE WORLD CAMPAIGN.



UPCOMING
EVENTS

**OUR UPCOMING EVENTS FOR
THE FIRST QUARTER OF
THE YEAR ARE AS LISTED
BELOW :**

- WORLD WETLANDS DAY
- BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
- DUBAI MARATHON
- WORLD WATER DAY

CONTACT US

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**REMEMBER – TOGETHER
WE CAN AND WE WILL
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**