



جائزة زايد الدولية للبيئة
ZAYED INTL. PRIZE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

ZAYED PRESS RELEASE 12/05

Kofi Annan Awarded Top Zayed Prize for Global Environmental Leadership

Environmental Life Support System Study and Caribbean and Indonesian Campaigners also Scoop Key Green Prizes

Dubai, 27 December 2005 – The global winner of one, if not the world's, most prestigious environment prizes was announced today as **Kofi Annan**, the United Nations Secretary General.

The Zayed Prize International Jury was unanimous in their decision to award Mr Annan the 2005 Prize for Global Leadership for the Environment.

Winners of the two other Zayed awards—Scientific and or Technological Achievement in Environment and Environmental Action Leading to Positive Change in Society—were also announced today.

The 2nd Category Award - Scientific and or Technological Achievement in Environment - has been won by the 1,360 experts of the **Millennium Ecosystem Assessment** which has catalogued the condition of the globe's ecosystems and their life-giving services.

The 3rd Category Award - Environmental Action Leading to Positive Change in Society - is jointly shared between Ms. Angela Cropper, co-President of the Cropper Foundation of Trinidad and

Tobago and Mr. Emil Salim, the former Indonesian State Minister for Population and the Environment and the chair of the board of trustees for numerous Indonesian environmental organizations.

The Zayed International Prize for the Environment was established by Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and United Arab Emirates Minister of Defense, to acknowledge the environmental commitment of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

It is worth \$ 1 million and is considered among the most prestigious environment-related awards in the world.

Previous Global Leadership winners have been **Jimmy Carter**, the former President of the United States, and the **British Broadcasting Corporation** for their global media commitment to environment and sustainable development issues.

Category I: Global Leadership for the Environment

In their citation, the International Jury say that "one person has done more than most to catalyze political and public opinion to an understanding that the environment is a fundamental pillar of sustainable development That person is Mr Kofi Annan".

They note the various reports, requested by the UN Secretary-General in the run up to the 2005 World Summit in New York including "**A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility**" and "**In Larger Freedom**".

The Zayed Prize Jury also noted the personal leadership of the Secretary-General at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 in South Africa that addressed the Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity (WEHAB) themes.

"Five years ago, recognizing the potential threat that environmental degradation posed for people around the world, Mr. Annan also called for the first-ever international scientific assessment of the health of the world's ecosystems," says the

citation. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment reported in 2005, again in the run up to last September's World Summit.

'Mr Annan has emphasized the importance of the multilateral system in all facets of his work, convinced that global environmental challenges require global cooperation," adds the jury.

Category II: Scientific and/or Technolgical Achievement in Environment

In their citation the International Jury says that the **Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**, the work of 1,360 experts from 95 countries, is a "landmark study on the condition of the world's ecosystem services from fisheries and freshwaters up to the carbon capture of the world's forests".

"It also underlines the economic importance of natural or nature's capital and demonstrates that the degradation of ecosystems is progressing at an alarming and unsustainable rate," add the jury.

They add that the Assessment is not only a remarkable scientific achievement. But one that is "commanding political attention while shaping the environmental agenda of the 21st century, especially in the challenging area of ensuring nature's capital is given real value alongside financial and human capital".

Category III: Environmental Action Leading to Positive Change in Society

Angela Cropper, a co-winner, is President of the Cropper Foundation and also a co-chair of the Assessment Panel of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (see Mrs. Cropper's attached summary of achievements).

Emil Salim, the other co-winner, is the former Indonesian State Minister for Population and the Environment and the chair of the board of trustees for numerous Indonesian environmental organizations (see Prof. Salem's attached summary of achievements).

"The Zayed Prize Secretariat received over 80 nominations from all 5 continents, these were short listed by the International Technical Advisory Committee and then went into final selection by the International Jury before taking the recommendations to the Patron, H.H. General Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum for final approval", stated Dr. Mohamed A. Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Zayed Prize Higher Committee. He added that the Zayed Prize Higher Committee hopes that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment will use the granted Award money to disseminate the great achievements and make them available to all world communities and policy makers. "The HC is also hopeful that this Award will be an incentive to Mr. Annan, Mrs. Cropper and Professor Salem to push for more sustainable life on Earth", closed Dr. Bin Fahad.

Klaus Toepfer, Chair of the Jury and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), said: "The Jury was faced with many outstanding candidates for the Zayed Prizes. But when you look at the overall global impact on politics, business, science and civil society of Mr Annan's environment and sustainable development-related initiatives, we came to the conclusion he is deservedly the global winner".

"The winners of the other two categories are also outstanding in their own right and we will be delighted to welcome them in Dubai on 6 February 2006 for the Third Award Ceremony," he added.

It is worth mentioning that the Zayed International Prize for the Environment continues to develop and refine its endeavors to promote Sustainable Development. This foundation has held so many functions during the second Cycle;

- o The Second Festival of the Cultures and Civilizations of World Deserts was held in April 2005 in collaboration with the World Deserts Foundation, and was attended by two Heads of States: the presidents of Algeria and South Africa, in addition to over 40 Ministers of Environment, Culture and Tourism who met to discuss integration of

efforts for sustainable development. It was a great success and was mainly tuned towards environmental issues.

- o The Arab Regional Workshop on "Harnessing Science and Technology for Sustainable Development", in collaboration with the UNESCO (TWAS).
- o Workshops on "Water Resources Management", "Desert Tourism", "Biodiversity" and "Environmental Information"
- o Two workshops on "Artificial Reefs and Rehabilitation of the Marine Environment" in collaboration with Kyodo Intl.
- o Just this month, the Zayed Prize organized a conference on "Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Economy" in collaboration with Private Enterprises in order to encourage transfer of clean energy technology to the region.

The Foundation continues to publish the simplified monthly booklet series for school children, the Monthly Magazine "Environment and Society" in Arabic and English and the Refereed quarterly book series, "The World of the Environment" in Arabic. The fourth book issued last month was titled, "Clean Agriculture".

Notes to Editors

The Zayed International Prize for the Environment is awarded every two years. It was first awarded in 2001.

The International Jury for the 2005 awards is chaired by Dr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP. Other members are Mr. Achim Steiner, Director General of IUCN-the World Conservation Union; Prof. Mostafa Tolba, President of the International Environment and Development Centre; Yolanda Kakabadse, former IUCN President and Zayed Prize Laureate; Sir David King, Chief Scientist of the Government of the United Kingdom; Prof. Mario Molina, a winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize for Chemistry and Yoriko Kawaguchi, the former Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs. The United Arab Emirates is represented in the International Jury by H.E. Mr. Hanad A. Al Midfaa, Minister of Health and Chairman of the Federal Environmental Agency Board.

For More Information Please Contact:

Dr. Meshgan Mohamed Al Awar,

Secretary General and member of the Zayed Prize's higher committee, on Tel: +97 1433 26666, E-mail:

drmeshkan@yahoo.com, Web Site: www.zayedprize.org.ae;

Mr. Sidi Cherif

Zayed International Relations Adviser, and Europe

Representatives on Tel: +39 0651530985,

Mobile: +39 335 5273872, E-mail: s.cherif@virgilio.it

Web Site www.zayedprize.org.ae

or **Mr. Nick Nuttall,**

UNEP Spokesperson, on Tel: 254 20 623084,

Mobile: 254 733 632755, E-mail: nick.nuttall@unep.org