

## DPI/NGO Conference on climate change swings into action

*Posted: Wednesday, 5 September 2007, New York*

The 60th annual DPI/NGO\* Conference, with the theme ***Climate Change: How it impacts us all***, swings into action on Wednesday, 5 September 2007. Stating, "It may not cost us the Moon to save the Earth," Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro opened the conference, which runs through 7 September at UNHQ in New York, at 10:00 a.m. from the General Assembly Hall.

The DSG expressed the regrets of the Secretary-General who would have liked to be present, but was travelling to the Sudan.



### Message from the Secretary-General

Remarking that he had to put his notes away as the Deputy Secretary-General had said everything he wanted to say, Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) delivered the keynote address. In it, he referred to the 2007 scientific report that "took center stage and galvanized public attention" [[full text](#)]

USG for Communications and Public Information, Kiyotaka Akasaka welcomed conference attendees while Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa, President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly, also gave an **opening address**.

On top of the focus on climate change, which the Secretary-General has called the "defining issue of our era", a highlight of the conference will involve what he considers to be "our most valuable resource," the world's 1.2 billion young women and men.



Apropos to the fact that young people are the next generation who will both inhabit the earth and inherit the responsibility to protect it, four students from the UN International School (**UNIS**) have been invited to read the summaries of the roundtables at the closing session.



Another highlight of the conference is the debut of Mrs. Ban Soon-taek, wife of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who will host a luncheon for conference speakers in the Delegates Dining Room on 5 September.

Also taking place on 5 September at 6:00 p.m. in the South Lobby at Headquarters is the inauguration of the Sixteenth International Children's Painting Exhibition by DSG Migiro, USG Akasaka and John Scanlon, Policy Advisor from UNEP headquarters in Nairobi. The exhibit features paintings on the environment collected from the Sixteenth International Children's painting competition.



As of 31 August, 2,585 representatives from over 600 NGOs from 74 countries had registered for

the conference.

### **Book Signings**

*Meet the Authors* events at the UN Bookshop.

--Wednesday, 5 September 2007 at 1 p.m., Bjorn Lomborg, author of *Cool IT: The Skeptical Environmentalist's Guide to Global Warming*.

--Thursday, 6 September 2007 at 1 p.m., Andrew C. Revkin, author of *The North Pole was Here*.