



SCOUTS[®]
Creating a Better World

World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

Press release

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Scouts Worldwide Poised to Tackle Climate Change Copenhagen, December 15, 2009

Climate change is the world's biggest environmental challenge. It will affect the young people of today and future generations. Scouting develops young people to be good citizens able to play a constructive role in society, with the vision of 'Creating a Better World'. It is essential that everyone contributes to the challenge of climate change and we are committed to ensuring that **Scouts are part of the solution**. Today, the World Organization of Scout Movement (WOSM) is launching a global climate change capacity building initiative and is looking to governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector for support to make this Programme a reality.

Innovative Climate Change programs have been developed and implemented by National Scout Organizations (NSOs) like Scouts Canada and the South African Scouting Association. Their efforts, with the support of the Canadian government and private sector donors like **Nexen** and **Alcan**, have clearly demonstrated that Scouting can make a difference in educating and motivating youth to reduce greenhouse gases and to educate and inform their families and communities about climate change.

In 2007 The World Organization of the Scouting Movement (WOSM) in partnership with Scouts Canada, the South African Scouting Association and the **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP), hosted a workshop for African NSOs and regional Scouting organizations in Namibia. The Workshop identified a strong and compelling interest in the Climate Change programme among participating countries but also served to underscore the chronic shortage in funding needed to adapt and implement CC programming. The Workshop further highlighted the need for adaptation programming and the limited availability of youth appropriate climate change adaptation materials.

The World Organization of the Scout Movement are open to discussions from potential donors interested in supporting the development of climate change education and adaptation programmes that will make a real difference in the lives of young people around the world.

Whilst no-one is immune to the affects of climate change, it is expected that those most strongly affected will be poorer populations. Scout organizations across the world and especially in Africa, Asia and South America are prepared to assist with mitigation and adaptation efforts in these locations. With over 30 million Scouts worldwide in 160 countries WOSM believes that Scouts can have a global impact on Climate Change.

***You can join Scouts during their side event, "Scouts, a solution for climate", on
Wednesday 16th December from 6 to 7pm at Bodil Udsen @ Bella Centre.***