



WORLD FOOD DAY SIDE EVENT



"Food Security and Climate Change Challenge Badge" inspiring youth to act

Lancio del "Distintivo della sicurezza alimentare e delle sfide del cambiamento climatico": bambini e giovani in azione

Lanzamiento sobre "El parche de la seguridad alimentaria y del desafío del cambio climático": niños y jóvenes en acción

Lancement sur « L'insigne de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et des défis du changement climatique »: enfants et jeunesse dans l'action

Venue Iran room **Date** Friday 16 October **Time** 12:45 to 13:45

PRESS RELEASE

Anggun, Fanny Lu and Valentina Vezalli at launch of the Food Security and Climate Change Challenge Badge

Rome, 16 of October 2009 – On World Food Day the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and the Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA) will officially launch the Food Security and Climate Change Challenge Badge.

At FAO Headquarters in Rome, school children, Girl Guide and Scout groups and other participants will be introduced to the badge, which will motivate children and young people to learn about climate change and food security issues and inspire them to take action to reduce their foot print and impact on the environment. By completing the badge, youth around the world will become engaged in environmental work in their local communities. The badge is available to the 10 million WAGGGS members, other youth groups and schools all over the world and can be undertaken by anyone aged five to 20 years old.

Special guests Anggun, Indonesia singer and songwriter; Fanny Lu, Colombian singer and composer, and Valentina Vezalli, Italy's World Olympic fencing champion will join the youth attendees at the launch event and award certificates to youths.

The badge curriculum is part of the "Our Climate, Our Food, Our World" initiative between FAO, WAGGGS, YUNGA and other partners, which develops educational resources and activities to engage youth in issues of climate change and food scarcity. The initiative has been made possible thanks to the support of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

The badge design is based on the drawing of 16 year old Chan Hiu Wing from Hong Kong, who won the international drawing competition, in which 1400 entries were received from 49 countries around the world.

Anggun, Fanny Lu and Valentina Vezalli will present certificates to Chan Hiu Wing as well as seven Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from Naples who have completed the badge during the pilot phase. Other special guests include Mr. Michael Hjelmåker, Deputy Director at the Secretariat for EU Coordination and International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Sweden and Ms Fabiola Canavesi, WAGGGS World Board member and Europe Region Chair. The event will be Chaired by Mr Peter Holmgren, Director of the Environment, Climate Change and Bioenergy Division, FAO.

Participants will learn about numerous activities they can take part in whilst doing the badge and taking action to counter climate change, including signing onto the "Unite for Climate Portal" (<http://uniteforclimate.org/>) and the "Seal

the Deal” campaign (www.sealthedeal2009.org/) as well as other resources and initiatives which encourage children and youth to get more involved in activities that address environmental and social concerns at the national and international level.

For more details please contact Reuben Sessa, reuben.sessa@fao.org
or visit: <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/youth/en/>