

# PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme  
Damascus, Syria

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Syria - سورية

## Syrian Youth Committed to Combat Climate Change– Honoring the Winners of Climate Change Competition

**DAMASCUS, 04 June 2009** – Under the patronage of her Excellency the Minister of the State Ministry for Environment Affairs, Dr. Kawkab Sabah Al Dayeh and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme in Syria (UNDP), an event titled “Your planet needs you!! Unite to Combat Climate Change” will take place today in the Al-Asad National Library, Damascus, at 6.00 pm.

The event will include a ceremony related to the Environmental youth art competition “Kicks the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy” that was announced on the International Environment Day in 2008 for all kinds of painting, cartoons and photographs. The participants were asked to reflect through their contributions the extent of people's duties as individuals for the reduction the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide CO2 emission, which is the major cause of the phenomenon of global warming and climate change. The competition also aimed at highlighting and focusing on the important aspects of environmental protection at two levels; the national level of air pollution and the global one of the atmosphere. Participants were classified in two age groups in the competition; namely children younger than 14 years and youth aged 14 years and more. Prizes are to be awarded to more than 20 participants; while 60 participants will receive certificates.

The competition is a component of the ongoing UNDP-supported project titled “Enabling activities for the preparation of Syria’s Initial Communication to UNFCCC” implemented by the State Ministry for Environment Affairs and UNDP, funded by GEF.

The project’s main objective is to support the Syrian government in preparing the national initial communication for the United Nations Conventions for Climate Change (UNFCCC) – including for example the compilation of a national greenhouse gases inventory, a vulnerability assessment as well as a mitigation and adaptation option analysis. The project also aims at raising awareness on climate change issues in the country. The competition and award ceremony forms part of many public outreach activities within the frame work of the project.

In addition to the award ceremony, a climate change photo gallery (realized in cooperation with Shams NGO) will be on display on the premises.

The ceremony is part of the Syrian festivities on the occasion of World Environment Day. World Environment Day, commemorated each year on 5 June, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.

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For more information and media attendance, please contact:  
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