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Youth voices at WCC-3

British Council and the Global Changemakers

GLOBAL 
changemakers 2009

Among the participants at WCC-3 are five young community activists, brought to the Conference by the British Council as part of the Global Changemakers programme (<http://www.globalchangemakers.net>). The five Changemakers, who come from the United Kingdom, Canada, Ethiopia, Kuwait and Colombia, will be participating in a number of the working sessions on climate, contributing the voice of young experts from areas affected by the changing climate who are concerned about the negative impact of climate change. All five of them are actively involved in their countries and communities to spread awareness of the effects of climate change and address these effects in constructive ways.

The five Changemakers are:

David Lawless, age 18, Canada, is studying ecology at the University of Guelph in Canada. He is developing a *Global Changemakers* Community Action Project with youth from China and Mexico to help mitigate the already apparent effects of a changing climate on water ecosystems in local communities.

Carolina Figueroa, age 25, Colombia, is a political scientist and photographer and has been involved in environmental issues in Colombia, France and Belgium.

Yara al-Wazir, age 16, Kuwait, has participated in environmental commissions of Model UN conferences. This allowed her to understand different countries' points of view on climate change, and address issues of water scarcity, air pollution, carbon dioxide emissions, and global warming, and the various steps and attempts taken to prevent it.

Ellie Hopkins, age 24, United Kingdom, has been responsible for the 'Eco-Uni' campaign at Sussex, and is a co-author of the Conference Flights Emissions Policy, which is currently being passed through university structures.

Amare Abebaw Woreta, age 25, Ethiopia, is a co-founder and Managing Director of Green and Wealthy Ethiopia Association. He is an environmentalist and youth activist who has been working with climate change issues since 1999.

Climate is changing...

"Our society is facing rapid development. However, an awareness of environmental protection is diminishing and the Earth has been negatively affected by human activities. ... What our planet needs is the protection from every one of us. ... We should do our best to use as little as possible the non-renewable resources, so as to reach a kind of balance."

Tsoi Mei Yee, age 16

Buddhist Mau Fung Memorial College, Tin Shui Wai, N.T., Hong Kong, China

Monitoring the climate is essential...

"Living in the southern part of Russia's Nizhegorod Province, in an area where farming carries risks, it is important to observe natural processes and phenomena that are essentially the consequence of meteorological factors."

Anna Zakharova, age 15

Municipal Education Institution General Education Secondary School No. 14, Arzamas, Nizhegorod Province, Russian Federation

Local impacts are diverse...

"In Argentina alone, there has been an increase in maximum, minimum, and average daily temperatures of more than 1 degree Celsius, which, in turn, has led to 3.7 million acres burned in La Pampa province due to fires caused by the record-high temperatures and persistent drought. Moreover, glaciers in Patagonia have receded by an average of almost a mile over the last 13 years, and for the first time, the 'White Giant' or Perito Moreno had chunks of ice broken off during the southern hemisphere winter on 9 July 2008. This usually happens in summer or in spring."

Santiago Doria, age 15

Fundacion Escuelas San Juan, Pilar - Buenos Aires, Argentina

"... Budburst of birch was analyzed as an indicator for the climate development. ... the date of budburst has changed remarkably; 10 days earlier since 2000, 60 days earlier since 1954."

Kay Wohlfarth

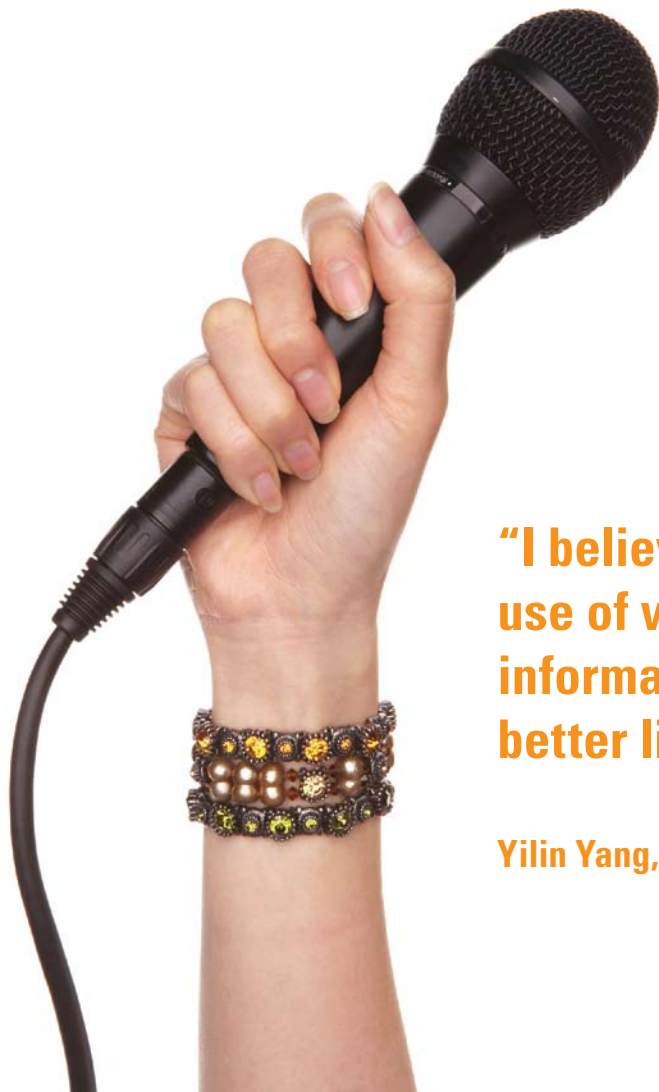
Ernst-Barlach-Gymnasium Unna, Germany

We can make a difference...

"In order to reduce the impact of transport, we can maximize vehicle efficiency through mandatory performance standards for factories and drivers; we can reduce the use of vehicles by encouraging the development of an extensive public transportation network, by walking as much as possible and by using bicycles to get around."

Yasser Jefferson Quevedo Pinos, age 14

31st of October, Canar, Ecuador



"I believe that sound and effective use of weather and climate information will enable us to live a better life in the future."

Yilin Yang, age 16

“Solar energy has been promulgated to be a clean energy source that could palliate the global warming problem. Singapore, being equatorial, is uniquely poised to reap the salubrious benefits that solar energy brings because of a high solar intensity annually.”

Aditya Sunil Nalkur, age 18; Ngai Jia Sheng, age 17; Blias Tan De-Gen, age 17;

Anil Sebastian Pulickel, age 18

Anglo-Chinese Junior College, Singapore

A better future...

“In China, the weather forecasts presented over the national TV have become the most popular programmes for many years. ... the use of weather and climate information is now expanding swiftly from the traditional sectors like agriculture, forestry, transport and tourism to the national and regional planning, energy, health, business, services, just to mention a few. I believe that sound and effective use of weather and climate information will enable us to live a better life in the future.”

Yilin Yang, age 16

The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, Haidian District, Beijing, China

WMO and the GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) Program (<http://www.globe.gov>) invited young people to create compelling short messages on the topic “Youth working to solve local problems through weather and climate research”. The full messages are available online at <http://www.wmo.int/wcc3>. Learn more about this and related projects on 2 September during the round table on communicating climate, 17:30-19:30, Room 1, at the CIGG.

**Unite for
Climate**

uniteforclimate.org

Unite for Climate is a global community of youth organizations and individuals working collaboratively to address climate change. The initiative convenes actors from across sectors in a common virtual space, enabling more effective resource sharing and coordinated action. Supported by Google/YouTube, Unite for Climate will launch a series of YouTube global youth debates leading up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Unite for Climate representatives are participating in WCC-3, helping to make youth aware of climate communications and adaptation activities around the world. Representatives will interview weather broadcasters about climate.

Art on display



Skies and Oceans

Skies and Oceans is a collection of children's drawings on the theme of weather, climate and water. Thousands of young people from all regions participated in the art contest. This exhibition, on display throughout WCC-3, offers a glimpse of their drawings, displayed also in the online WMO art gallery at the following address: <http://www.wmo.int/artgallery/>



Altering Landscapes

Altering Landscapes is a multifaceted exhibit on display for WCC-3. It showcases paintings developed at a workshop with teenage students held in Geneva in July. In addition, the students, assisted by a group of young adults attending the conference, will paint a mural on the CIGG grounds as permanent memento of the event and will invite other conference participants to contribute words or images to this "wall". An art installation aimed at the youth of Geneva is taking place from 28 August to 6 September in the vicinity of Bâtiment des Forces Motrices. More information is available at: <http://www.alteringlandscapes.org/>

