



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIAN DIVISION)

UNWORLD - NEWS FOR THE GLOBAL CITIZEN

Issue 1, July 2008

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Current global crises demand decisive action

"We must... leave this conference with a sense of purpose and mission, knowing that we are allied in our determination to make a difference. Only by acting together, in partnership, can we overcome this crisis, today and for tomorrow. Hundreds of millions of the world's people expect no

Topic of the month: Food Crisis

Current global crises demand decisive action, Ban says ahead of G-8 summit

(3 July 2008)

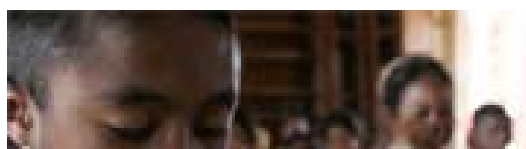
Ahead of next week's summit of the world's leading industrialised nations, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has issued a call for decisive action to deal with the global food crisis, address climate change and eradicate poverty.

Never in recent memory has the global economy been under such stress, "Mr. Ban says in an op-ed that appeared today in The Washington Post, as well as in news outlets in the other Group of Eight industrialised nations, prior to their summit which begins in Hokkaido on 7 July."

[More Details](#)

Global cooperation key to solving food crisis, says Assembly President

(3 July 2008)



Mr. Kerim characterised the crisis as a "perfect storm" – a convergence of factors such as droughts, increased biofuel production, surging demand for food, among others – in his address to the

people expect no less.”
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in [address](#) to a High-Level Conference on World Food Security in Italy, Rome 3 June 2008



Tackling the current food crisis requires a unified global response, United Nations General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim said today in Rome.

among others – in his address to the foreign policy committees of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Italian Parliament.

“We face a real global emergency, which needs a unified global response,” he said, stressing that the crisis threatens to roll back the development gains of recent years, such as lifting 400 million people out of poverty.

[More Details](#)

Energy & Environment

G8 to contribute billions to World Bank climate-change fund

(3 July 2008)

The World Bank on Tuesday agreed to establish two investment funds to help developing economies switch to clean-energy technologies to curb carbon emissions and help poor countries adapt to climate change.

“The G8 is likely to broadly support the establishment of the climate investment funds,” Warren Evans, director of the

World Bank’s environment department, told reporters.

He said the World Bank was counting on an initial \$4 billion to \$5 billion in donations by G8 nations for the Clean Technology Fund, adding that media reports that \$10 billion would be raised for the fund “are on the high side”.

[More Details](#)

Health & Poverty

HIV/AIDS funding increases, but problems remain

(8 July 2008)

HIV/AIDS funding to low and middle income countries reached a record level in 2007, according to a new report by UNAIDS.

AIDS spending by the G8 group of wealthy nations, the European Commission and other donors hit US \$6.6 billion last year, up from US \$5.6 billion in 2006. However, despite the largesse, UNAIDS said a US \$8.1 billion gap in funding for essential HIV/AIDS programme remained.

The United States was the largest grant-giver, providing 20 percent of resources in 2007, followed by the United Kingdom. Some non-G8 nations also provided significant assistance, including the Netherlands, Sweden, Australia and Ireland.

The report comes as the G8 reiterated a commitment they made at the 2005 Summit in Scotland to spend US \$60 billion to fight disease in Africa.

[More Details](#)

Human Rights

Human rights situation in Darfur ‘remains grim’ - UN rights expert

(11 July 2008)

Government forces and rebel groups continue to commit human rights violations in the Darfur region of Sudan, while populations in the southern part of the country also suffer from ongoing

Sima Samar, who has just completed a two-week visit to Sudan, also spoke out against this week’s attack on the joint UN-African Union peacekeeping operation in Darfur, known as UNAMID, which left

More on Energy & Environment

- [Research tool to help track, predict environmental upheaval](#)
- [Severn Suzuki speaking at UN Earth Summit '92](#)

More on Health & Poverty

- [Cyclone-ravaged Burma ‘still in life-saving phase’](#)
- [Bush’s aid for Africa needs push at home and abroad](#)

More on Human Rights

- [UN team voices concern over human rights situation in occupied Syrian Golan](#)
- [Nepal: UN welcomes release of three](#)

[detained under public security law](#)

violence, according to an independent United Nations rights official.

seven dead and 19 wounded.

[More Details](#)

Peace & Security

In Darfur, fighters strike at UN force, killing seven

(9 July 2008)

Seven peacekeepers were killed and seven critically injured when their convoy was ambushed in Darfur, the biggest hit so far on the struggling *United Nations-African Union* force that took charge in January, officials said Wednesday.

The convoy of about 60 soldiers and police officers was attacked Tuesday afternoon along a stretch of desert road by hundreds of gunmen on horses and in about 40 trucks outfitted with mounted machine

guns and with antitank and anti-aircraft weapons, according to U.N. officials.

A two-hour firefight ensued - the first time the fledgling peacekeeping operation has used force to try to fend off an attack. Several of the peacekeepers' trucks exploded during the fight. At least 22 soldiers and police officers were injured, and seven of the most severely wounded were evacuated to the Sudanese capital of Khartoum.

[More Details](#)

More on Peace & Security

- [Iraq hints at delay in U.S. security deal](#)
- [Congo warlord accused of recruiting child soldiers set free](#)

UNAA EVENTS IN AUGUST

Mon 18th: Model UN Conference @ St. Catherine's College

Wed 20th: Model UN Conference @ Trinity College

21-23rd: UN Association National Conference in Brisbane

Fri 30th: Model UN Conference @ RMIT Uni

UNAA NEWS AND EVENTS

United Nations Association of Australia National Conference 2008 *The Future is in Our Hands: Making A Difference*

United Nations Associations are established in over 100 countries - we believe that the United Nations DOES make a difference in world affairs, and UN Associations are part of making a difference.

The Conference Organising Committee has invited distinguished speakers to present papers on a range of themes being addressed at Community, State, National and International levels with the opportunity for delegates to contribute.

Join us and make a difference!

Parliament House,
Brisbane 21-23 August 2008

For full details and registration application contact:

Email: unaabalmain@optusnet.com.au

Tel/fax: 07 3254 1096

Note: Numbers limited

PO Box 244

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The World Environment Awards 2008 *Winners Announced*

The winners of this year's United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards were announced at a Gala Presentation Dinner held at the Grand Hyatt, Melbourne on Friday 6th June. The event was hosted by Rob Gell, environmentalist and president of Greening Australia, Victoria.

This annual national Awards program acknowledges action taken at a local level to address global environmental issues. The United Nation's theme for World Environment Day this year is *CO2 - Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon*

Economy. Entrants were judged on the effectiveness and ingenuity of their responses to the challenges presented by global warming.

Awards were presented to individuals, schools, communities, governments and commercial organisations, across 14 categories. A new award was established this year - the Building Commission Award for Best Sustainable Residential Development - and won by **Landmatters Currumbin Valley** for "The Ecovillage at Currumbin".

For the full list of Winners [click here](#).



UNAA Awards Program

30th Anniversary of the UNAA Media Peace Awards

Nominations are open nationally for the United Nations Association of Australia Media Peace Awards 2008. Since 1979, the Association has recognised outstanding efforts by those in the media to highlight social justice and humanitarian issues, raise awareness within the Australian community; and stimulate public debate.

The 2008 Awards program provides the perfect opportunity to honour outstanding media pieces from the last 12 months, and the 30th Anniversary allows us to

reflect on those extraordinary pieces of journalism that have championed human rights and equality over the past three decades.

We also invite the Australian community to join with us in celebrating this significant milestone at the Awards Presentation Dinner on Friday 24 October, at the ANZ Pavilion, the Arts Centre, Melbourne.

For Nomination forms, please visit our website: www.unaavictoria.org.au

Nominations close 5pm Wednesday 17th of September, 2008



UNAA Education Program

Model UN Conferences

Over the recent weeks two Model UN Conferences have been successfully run in Victoria. Students from a range of schools participated in day-long Model UNs held at Footscray Secondary College and Traralgon College, which were specifically designed to cater for secondary-school students. The conferences aimed to enhance understanding of complex global issues, the United Nations system, and the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in international affairs.

The program engaged students in a unique, constructive and interactive educational process, which endeavors to stimulate an interest in international affairs as well as cross-cultural understanding: skills which are fundamental to the development of global citizens.

The next Model UN Conference will be held St. Catherine's College on the 18th of August. The conference topic is *'The future of Indigenous Peoples— Rights, Recognition and Respect'*.

[More Details](#)

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