

Coca-Cola “Environmental Champion” Torchbearers For the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay

22 April 2008

GREECE (MARCH 24-29)

- WANG LEE HOM – Award-winning singer-songwriter and environmental protection advocate Wang Lee Hom is one of the most-popular young music idols in greater China and Asia. In July 2007, he released his latest album, “Change Me,” which is themed to eco-awareness – aiming to promote environmental conservation among young people and awareness about global warming. Lee Hom sets environmental protection examples for his millions of fans internationally through his own daily life, practicing energy conservation at home, saving water and using recycled paper. He also raises funds for environmental projects by selling his concert performance outfits. Through a joint effort of Lee Hom and his fan clubs, “no car day” advocates bicycle use instead of motor vehicles. He also helps organize the cleaning of beaches in Taiwan and strives to raise general concern about coastal and water pollution. Among Lee Hom’s numerous artistic prizes are Top 10 Best Newcomer (1996); Best Male Singer and Best Album Producer at the 10th Golden Melody Awards; and Most Popular Male Singer in Taiwan. He has also frequently landed in the Top 10 for Best Song of the Year, Best Album of the Year, and Top 10 Artist of the Year. Cinematically, he was nominated for the Best Newcomer prize at the Hong Kong Film Awards.
- LIU HONG-LIANG – Chinese environmental scientist Liu Hong-Liang is a professor and academician at the National Academy of Engineering of China, Chairman of the Academic Committee of the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, and Deputy Dean of the Advisory Committee of Science and Technology of the State Environmental Protection Administration. He is one of the top scientists in environmental research of lakes in China. He also is the key leader of the water environment project in the “Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Five-year National Plan” of China. Liu has made significant contributions in technology research and teaching in environmental protection over the last 40 years and has become renowned as an environmental engineering expert. He has undertaken numerous research projects about lakes in China, built a lake environment database, developed lake pollution prevention technology, and published systematic monographs and papers on the subject of environmental protection for lakes. In 1990, he organized the 4th World Lake Conference, which drew more than 400 experts and scholars to Hangzhou, China, and accelerated international research and administration for the lake environment. His father, Liu Changchun, was a sprinter and the first Chinese athlete to participate in the Olympic Games, at Los Angeles in 1932. Age 75 (b. 31 March 1932).

- **GEORGE KAZANTZOPOULOS** – George Kazantzopoulos of Greece is a member of the International Olympic Committee’s Environment Commission and the International Rowing Federation Working Group. As member of an academic research team, he is focused on environmental management systems, sustainability and corporate social responsibility issues, as well as on European environmental public policies. Kazantzopoulos is a founding member of the Hellenic Institute for Environmental Management, a not-for-profit NGO. Since 2005, he has been President of the NPO-NGO “Team for the World; Environmental Alliance 2004+” that is involved in environmental and development activities, in cooperation with national and international agencies and organizations. From 1998 through 2004, he worked with the Athens 2004 Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, as Manager of the Environmental Department. He also served the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games as Olympic Park Environment Manager.
- **EVANGELOS KYRITSIS** – Greece’s Evangelos Kyritsis is an environmental scientist with a master’s degree in environment protection and management. Currently, he helps oversee Environmental Management at the Athens Agricultural University. He also is a researcher at the Athens National Technical University, as well as President-elect of the Greek Environmental Science Graduates Association. From July 2003 to October 2004, Kyritsis worked as Environmental Activities Coordinator and Environmental Manager at the Olympic Stadium for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. He has been a member of the Athens Marathon Green Team, organized by the NGO Team For The World, and he has served with several environmental NGOs. Age 35 (b. 25 June 1972).

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN (APRIL 2)

- **KAISHA ATAKHANOVA** – A biologist specializing in the genetic effects of nuclear radiation, Kaisha Atakhanova founded Karaganda Ecological Center (known as EcoCenter), which promotes grassroots democracy-building and environmental protection within government and civil society. Early this decade, she was instrumental in successfully organizing a public advocacy campaign to prevent the commercial import of nuclear waste into the Republic of Kazakhstan. For her efforts – which have raised the visibility of nuclear contamination issues across Kazakhstan – she was awarded a 2005 Goldman Environmental Prize, which honors grassroots environmental heroes from the six inhabited continents. Under Atakhanova's leadership, EcoCenter has contributed to development of a nationwide environmental movement through EcoForum, a network of more than 100 NGOs. Ms. Atakhanova is now a chairperson of the EcoForum. Age 50 (b. 18 July 1957).

ISTANBUL, TURKEY (APRIL 3)

- **FILIZ DEMIRAYAK** – Dr. Filiz Demirayak is the Director General of WWF-Turkey and also has served on its board of directors since 2002. Among notable WWF-

Turkey achievements under her leadership has been its research groundwork for the government's 2006 designation of the Kaş-Kekova Specially Protected Area, a popular coastal diving location – and also rich in marine biodiversity – that is a new showcase for responsible tourism. Dr. Demirayak began her career on earthquake modeling projects with the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK). She subsequently served as coastal management coordinator and project director for the Association for the Conservation of Natural Life, initially specializing in lobbying, management plans and protection programs for sea turtles (she later led the organization as a board member and chairperson). Her coastal management and tourism project, supported by the European Union's LIFE fund, received a HABITAT award and evolved into the Belek Management Plan – Turkey's first coastal management program. Dr. Demirayak was involved at various levels on programs for the World Bank and Ministry of Environment and Forestry. She also was the coordinator and editor of the national biological diversity, sustainable development report prepared for the Johannesburg Summit and has worked as an international consultant on numerous projects, including the evaluation of the Biannual Project for the U.N. Global Environment Small Scale Projects Program, Special Conservation Areas for the United Nations Environment Programme, and Evaluation of Beaches for Sea Turtles. Since 1993, she has been a member of the Sea Turtle Experts Working Group of the IUCN (The World Conservation Union). Age 45 (b. 28 June 1962).

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA (APRIL 5)

- IGOR CHESTIN – Eminent scientist Igor Chestin is the Director of WWF-Russia and spearheads a number of projects in various spheres of environmental protection, including forestry, water, climate, rare species, etc. He also has overseen impressive membership growth in his dozen years as the head of the Russian WWF organization. Chestin is a member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences; the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Bear Specialist Group; and the Board of Trustees of the Biodiversity Conservation Center of Socio-Ecological Union. He also is an advisor to the Russian Foundation for Wildlife Protection (USA). He is the recipient of a biodiversity program award from the International Science Foundation, which supports the work of Russian scientists. Age 47 (b. 06 March 1962).
- TEMUR TUHVATULLIN – A student at Perm State Technical University, Temur Tuhvatullin has been a member of various ecological societies since he was 14 and has successfully competed in a number of youth ecological contests. His project, "Perseverance of Water Ecosystems Biodiversity in Russia," was an award winner in the Russian Youth National Contest of Water Projects, presented by the Water Resources Federal Agency and the Institute of Ecological Projects Consulting and supported by The Coca-Cola Company. The student contest in Russia was part of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize, an international competition that encourages young people's interest in water and environmental issues. Tuhvatullin also has

conducted a number of research projects that monitor the animal population in Russia's Perm Region. Age 20 (b. 05 August 1987).

- NIKOLAY DROZDOV – A biological scientist and professor at Lomonosov Moscow State University, Nikolay Drozdov also is one of the most well-known personalities in Russia, much loved among generations as the kind and passionate host of the popular, long-running television program, “In the World of Animals.” The author of at least 20 books dedicated to protection of the animal world, Drozdov has participated in hundreds of research expeditions worldwide and is one of 15 advisors on ecological issues to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He also is one of just five Russian citizens who have been honored with the UNESCO Kalinga Prize for the popularization of science. Drozdov is included on the list of the world's leading ecologists and environmental protection specialists by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – the voice for the environment in the U.N. system – and has received a WWF diploma for his outstanding contributions to environmental protection. He is an academician of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and a member of the Commission of International Unity of Nature Protection, the Academy of Science of New York, and the International Research Club. He is a recipient of the Wildscreen Festival Golden Panda Award, also known as the Green Oscar of the wildlife and environmental filmmaking industry. He also is a passionate advocate for people in difficulty, especially children. His life motto is, “All you need is to feel an urgent desire to help people in every way you can.” Age 70 (b. 20 June 1937).
- LEV KARLIN – As a rector of the Russian State Hydrometeorological University, scientist and professor Lev Karlin is one of the most-prominent citizens of St. Petersburg and among the most-eminant ecologists in the region. He has contributed significantly to the ecological education of Russian youth and been honored with a number of awards, including the Governor of St. Petersburg's Award for contributions to the city's environmental protection (2004), a medal for achievement in national environmental protection (2005), and a national prize in the area of ecology (2005). Age 60 (b. 27 December 1947).
- ROBERT SWAN – British polar explorer, environmentalist and renowned motivational speaker Robert Swan was the first man to walk to both the South Pole (1986) and the North Pole (1989). Swan has dedicated his life to the preservation of Antarctica through the promotion of recycling, renewable energy and sustainability, to combat the effects of climate change. In January 2002, an expedition by his organization Mission Antarctica removed 1,000 tons of rubbish from the Russian Antarctic base Bellingshausen, an undertaking that took five years to plan and fund. His current company 2041 – named in recognition of the Antarctic Treaty that prohibits drilling and mining on that continent until 2041 – works toward the protection of this treaty and against the exploitation of Antarctica for minerals and fossil fuel. Swan and 2041 organize numerous expeditions to raise awareness of issues affecting the polar environments and led the first corporate “Leadership on the Edge” expedition to Antarctica in 2003. These missions have led to “Inspire

Antarctic Expeditions” that have helped build the world’s first education station (the E-Base) in Antarctica. The 2008 “E-Base Goes Live” project will transmit educational dispatches from the field to demonstrate renewable energy and sustainable living in one of the world’s harshest environments. Also in 2008, the sailboat “2041” embarks on a four-year, global “Voyage for Cleaner Energy,” to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by reaching out to both established leaders and the young leaders of tomorrow. Swan was awarded the Polar Medal by Queen Elizabeth II in 1987 and the Order of the British Empire in 1995. His contributions to both education and the environment have been recognized through his appointments as a U.N. Goodwill Ambassador for Youth and a visiting Professor of the School of the Environment at Leeds University. In 1994, he became Special Envoy to the Director General of UNESCO. He also is a WWF ambassador. Age 51 (b. 28 July 1956).

LONDON, ENGLAND (APRIL 6)

- DOUGLAS STOUP – American explorer Douglas Stoup (pronounced *Stowp*) has held several professional titles over the years – among them environmentalist, educator, expedition leader, filmmaker, aerial rigger, snowboard mountaineer, and climber. He has traveled, climbed, skied and snowboarded in some of the most-remote regions on earth and was the first American male to ski to the South Pole. He also was the first to “ice bike” long distances in Antarctica. In 2004-05, Stoup participated in international Pole Track expeditions to the North Pole, to study ice melt and the effects of climate change on the Arctic and the planet. The expeditions, which included a coordinating partnership with WWF-Netherlands, deployed data-collecting weather stations and brought together a unique mix of explorers and professionals in the fields of science, nature conservation and sustainable development. Stoup has climbed Denali (Alaska), Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) and Vinson Massif (Antarctica) – three of the so-called Seven Summits, the highest mountains of each of the seven continents – and was the first person to perform a ski and snowboard descent of Vinson Massif. Recently, Stoup and partner Richard Dunwoody established a new route to the Geographic South Pole, arriving on 18 January 2008 after a 1,089-kilometer trek over 48 days. Age 44 (b. 28 December 1963).

PARIS, FRANCE (APRIL 7)

- ERIC GUILLON – Eric Guillon is the President of Comité 21, which acts to preserve the environment and support sustainable development by mobilizing different elements of society, e.g., companies; local authorities; associations; and public establishments, education and research organizations, and the media. Comité 21 activities recently have focused on sustainable development education; rooting sustainable development at the territorial level; promoting responsible economic

development; and reinforcing European and Mediterranean cooperation. Age 69 (b. 03 August 1938).

- **SERGE NAÏM** – Serge Naïm is the Director of Leisure Parks with Compagnie des Alpes, a major operator of European ski areas and family leisure attractions. In 2006, Compagnie des Alpes opened “Bioscope,” an innovative leisure site in Alsace with an educational perspective, encouraging visitors to discover aspects of life on earth, while showcasing the miracles of nature. Its goal is to teach the public and use fun to draw attention to the fundamental questions we face as human beings. It primarily aims to promote environmental awareness and motivate visitors to help secure the planet’s future. The idea is to create a new type of smart, contemporary and constantly evolving attraction that focuses on humans and their environment. Age 51 (b. 06 April 1956).
- **STÉPHANE DIAGANA** – Former hurdles star Stéphane Diagana of France is a media consultant who is very supportive of leading French ecologist Nicolas Hulot's challenge for earth protection and his "Pacte Ecologique” (Ecology Pact), which asserts that ecological problems will be a key in all future decisions concerning political subjects. Diagana also has taken part in activities surrounding UNESCO's annual International Literacy Day. During his sports career, he captured the 400-meter hurdles title at the 1997 World Championships for track and field (athletics), in Athens, Greece. He also won the European 400-meter hurdles crown in 2002 and set a European record for the same event in 1995. Age 38 (b. 23 July 1969).

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA (APRIL 11)

- **W. LUIS BARTRA** – A native of Peru, W. Luis Bartra is an agronomist who has lived in Argentina for at least 23 years, working with the ethnic Toba communities. As a local coordinator of the environmentally friendly INDES project, he has led efforts to help native populations in the northern Argentine province of Chaco gain access to water and learn how to work their land. The undertaking by Bartra and INDES – whose mission in Argentina is to promote and assist development for rural populations most in need – to address water scarcity for Toba communities won an environmental project competition organized by Coca-Cola Argentina and the national Board of Environmental Promotion and Sustainable Development. Age 74 (b. 22 October 1933).

DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA (APRIL 13)

- **ANNA TIBAIJUKA** – Professor Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka of Tanzania is the first African woman elected by the United Nations General Assembly as Under-Secretary-General of a U.N. program. She is currently serving a second term as Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Programme on Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT). In October 2006, she was appointed

Director-General of the United Nations Offices in Nairobi (UNON), the only U.N. headquarters in Africa and the developing world. She has served as a member of the Commission for Africa established by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, which resulted in the cancellation of multilateral debt for several African countries by the G8 Summit of 2005. Also in 2005, Tibaijuka was appointed Special Envoy on Human Settlements Issues in Zimbabwe, following massive evictions of the poor in urban areas. She is currently a member of both the World Health Organization Commission on the Social Determinants of Health and the Advisory Board of the Commission on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor. Since 2002, Tibaijuka has been instrumental in promoting water, sanitation and slum upgrading globally and in helping the African Union establish the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development. She also helped place urban poverty high on the agenda of similar regional bodies for Latin American, the Caribbean, and Asia-Pacific. Tibaijuka joined the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development in 1998 as Director and Special Coordinator for the Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries, with responsibility for strengthening the capacity of those nations in trade negotiations with the World Trade Organization. In 2000, she was appointed Assistant-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the former United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the U.N. agency for built-up environment and urban development. She is credited with raising awareness about the global challenge of chaotic urbanization, inspiring a new strategic vision, and significantly enhancing the organization's performance, management and image. These efforts restored the Centre's overall credibility, and in 2001 it was upgraded into the full-fledged UN-HABITAT. A former professor of economics at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Tibaijuka is the author of various books and research papers on agriculture and rural development, farming systems, food policy, agricultural marketing and trade, sustainable development, social services delivery, gender and land issues, and environmental economics. She also has been an active member of civil society and the women's movement. In 1994, she founded the Tanzanian National Women's Council (an independent organization fighting for women's economic and social rights) and in 1996 she established the Barbro Johansson Girls' Education Trust, which advocates quality education for girls in Tanzania and Africa. She is patron of the Tanzania Young Entrepreneurs Initiative and a veteran of U.N. world summits, including the Beijing Women's Conference (1995), the Copenhagen Social Summit (1995), Habitat II at Istanbul (1996), and the Food Summit in Rome (1996). Educated in agro-economics, she is a Foreign Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Age 57 (b. 12 October 1950).

- PIERRE KAKULE VWIRASIHUKYA – Pierre Kakule Vwirasihukya of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a dedicated conservationist who has devoted his life to protecting gorillas and other animals from extinction. Instrumental in educating local populations about the care of wild habitat, Vwirasihukya is founder of both the 225,000-acre Tayna Gorilla Reserve, the DRC's first community-run nature reserve, and the Tayna Center for Conservation Biology (TCCB), the first DRC university devoted to conservation. Both are funded by Conservation International through its

partnership with the Dian Fossey Gorilla International Fund. The Congo's decade-long civil war killed an estimated three million people and decimated the country's Eastern Lowland region, where Vwirasihikya's family lived for generations. The local gorilla population declined sharply, plummeting by 70 percent to as few as 5,000 animals. As a national park ranger during the war, Vwirasihikya convinced the local people, government officials and even rebel leaders to support his plan for a gorilla sanctuary. He organized other local chiefs in eastern DRC to protect their rich and unique wildlife by creating private protected areas for withstanding traditional threats, such as habitat destruction and bush meat hunting, as well as the war's devastation. Today, the DRC government formally recognizes much of the territory in Vwirasihikya's campaign as protected land under the control of local communities. The Tayna Gorilla Reserve, launched in 1999, not only protects gorillas, elephants and leopards, but has provided a local economic boost through additional jobs. The TCCB opened in 2005 with more than a hundred Congolese students of natural resource management and conservation. Conde Nast Traveler in 2005 presented Vwirasihikya its Environmental Award, given annually to an individual who has played a significant role in protecting and enhancing the environment. Age 48 (b. 03 May 1959).

MUSCAT, OMAN (APRIL 14)

- NIDA EL-HELOU – Lebanese citizen Nida El-Helou is Manager of the Environment Society of Oman, which aims to help conserve Oman's natural heritage and raise awareness about environmental issues. Among ESO's most-recent activities was the Environmental Challenge Oman 2008, which focused on ways to preserve and protect Oman's precious environment. El-Helou graduated from the American University of Beirut with a bachelor's degree in environmental health and subsequently held various research positions at AUB, in collaboration with institutions such as the World Health Organization and UNICEF. She earned her master's degree in public understanding of environmental change from University College London. She also has worked as an environmental health advisor with Norwegian People's Aid, as part of a public health and rehabilitation project in the Shatila refugee camp in southern Beirut.
- KIRAN JAY HASLAM – As an environmentally aware and active member of his community in Oman, Kiran Jay Haslam is constantly searching for ways to encourage thought and initiate action for the preservation of what he believes are the "good things in life." An Australian citizen, Haslam obtained a degree in engineering, traveled the world as a jazz musician, headed an advertising agency, and contributed to media around the world as a writer. He has always embraced change and diversity, and the "connections" required to evoke change. The Olympic Torch Relay, he has said, "is perhaps the greatest symbol and display we have as a global society to show our interconnectedness, as the flame passes from hand to hand, race to race, and gender to gender, defying borders and politics..." A student of the origins of the Olympic Flame and the Torch Relay, he views the flame as

symbolic of the bright future we have as caring beings – conscious of our role in nature and the individual strengths we have to help others. He is an employee of Sabco Art in the Omani capital city of Muscat. Age 31 (b. 01 August 1976).

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN (APRIL 16)

- **YASMIN RASHID** – Dr. Yasmin Rashid is a founding member and chairperson of one of Pakistan’s most-notable NGOs, the Pani Pakistan Foundation, which partners with the WWF and other organizations on several projects promoting water conservation, safe drinking water, and awareness about nature and a “safe and healthy environment.” Highly respected by the government of Pakistan, she is regularly involved in social projects and works extensively with youth to promote understanding of water and environmental issues in the country. Among these initiatives has been Pani Pakistan’s major educational and awareness campaign Indus Walk, a month-long expedition over the country’s deserts, plains, plateaus, hills, rivers and lakes – contiguous to the vital Indus River. The 2007 Indus Walk attracted student “Water Champions” from all over Pakistan on a mission to more-deeply understand the country’s water crisis and widely disseminate the lessons from their experience and possible solutions for water issues. Dr. Rashid also is Punjab’s leading gynecologist, heading the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the renowned King Edward Medical College. Age 57 (b. 21 September 1950).
- **ALI HASSAN HABIB** – Ali Hassan Habib has served as Director General of WWF-Pakistan since 1995 and has been a cornerstone of the organization’s success for nearly two decades – including its exceptional growth most recently. Under his leadership and active involvement in key projects spanning all corners of the country, WWF-Pakistan has expanded from a relatively small entity to the largest conservation NGO in Pakistan and one of the fastest-growing offices in the worldwide WWF network. The organization’s efforts have drawn immense interest from both the national government and WWF International, which has led to joint ventures and greater financial support for projects ranging from water conservation to nature protection. The primary aims of WWF-Pakistan, established in 1970, are to protect and improve the country’s environment and to integrate the environmental principles with other policies across the governmental and private sectors. It has been particularly committed to saving wildlife species and their habitats and to the promotion of nature conservation and environmental protection for sustainable development. Habib periodically delivers lectures to students around the country for creating awareness about the environment and nature. Age 47 (b. 12 October 1960).
- **SYED BABAR ALI** – Highly regarded Pakistani businessman Syed Babar Ali was President of WWF International from 1996 to 1999 and currently serves as its Vice President. He is also President Emeritus of WWF-Pakistan. He established Packages Ltd., the largest paper and board mill in Pakistan, and has helped drive

several of the country's other major industries. He is chairman of Aventis Pakistan Ltd., Bayer Crop Science Pakistan Ltd., Siemens Pakistan Engineering Co. Ltd., and Coca-Cola Beverages Pakistan Ltd. Additionally, he is director of Unilever Pakistan Ltd. and Mitchell's Fruit Farms Ltd. Syed Babar Ali has inspired hundreds of people to successfully launch their own businesses, by following his work example and ethic. He also established one of the leading educational institutes in Asia, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), whose graduates are highly placed around the globe. In 1997, he received the Order of the British Empire. Age 80 (b. 15 June 1927).

NEW DELHI, INDIA (APRIL 17)

- **KIRAN BEDI** – Dr. Kiran Bedi is a social activist and one of the most-celebrated officers in the history of the Indian Police Service (IPS), from which she retired in late 2007. She is the founder of two NGOs – Navjyoti India Foundation and India Vision Foundation – that reach out to thousands of beneficiaries daily, in areas such as drug abuse prevention, crime prevention, prison reform, child education and welfare, empowerment of women, physical and mental disability, sports promotion and creativity, and rural development. Among the goals of her Navjyoti organization are environmentally friendly and sustainable lifestyles for rural communities, by addressing soil and water conservation, sanitation issues, alternative energy and promotion of greenery. Activities have included watershed management projects and community assembly of water harvesting structures; an “Energy Park” complex demonstrating renewable and non-conventional energy sources; and plantation drives in schools and villages. Bedi in 1972 became the first woman police officer of the IPS and over the next 35 years established a reputation for tough, innovative and welfare policing, influencing several IPS decisions in the areas of narcotics control, traffic management and security. She served in a number of positions, including Deputy Inspector General of Police in Mizoram, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of Chandigarh, and Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau. As Traffic Commissioner of New Delhi, she was popularly known as “Crane Bedi” and once had the car of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (who was out of the country) towed for a parking violation. She rose in ranks to become India's highest-ranking female police officer and concluded her law enforcement career as Director General of the Bureau of Police Research and Development, Ministry of Home Affairs. During her 1993-1995 stint as Inspector General of Prisons, Tihar Jail (Delhi) – one of the world's largest prison complexes – Bedi instituted a number of management reforms and measures such as detoxification programs, yoga, vipassana meditation, redressing of prisoner complaints, vocational training and literacy programs. For these policies and innovations, she received a 1994 Ramon Magsaysay Award (also called the Asian Nobel Prize) for government service and a Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship. Among numerous other decorations are an honorary doctor of law degree, for her “humanitarian approach to prison reforms and policing,” the 1999 Pride of India Award, and the 2005 Mother Teresa Memorial National Award for Social Justice. She also has worked with the United Nations as an award-winning

Civilian Police Advisor to the Secretary General, in the Department of Peace Keeping Operations. Bedi was voted India's most-admired woman in 2002 and has been ranked fifth among all Indians. She also was an accomplished young tennis player, winning national and Asian women's championships in the 1960s and 1970s. Age 58 (b. 09 June 1949).

- Y. SUBHASH CHANDRA REDDY – A manager at BSNL (India's No. 1 telecommunications company), Y. Subhash Chandra Reddy also is engaged in the activities of Smaran, a grassroots NGO based in rural Hyderabad, in Andhra Pradesh. He helped guide Smaran – which supports social initiatives for improving water and agricultural facilities – in its work with the Visakapatnam unit of Coca-Cola India to construct a water conservation check-dam for the village of Nadergul, in Saroor Nagar. The check-dam's advantages of desiltation and as a bund (embankment) for controlling water flow have enhanced water recharge in the area, thereby improving groundwater availability and increasing agricultural output. The sustainable water management project has aided local community development. Age 37 (b. 15 October 1969).
- NARAYAN G. HEGDE – Dr. Narayan G. Hegde is a Managing Trustee and the President of BAIF Development Research Foundation, India's large NGO committed to sustainable rural development, food security and a clean environment. He is a specialist in rural development, with broad experience in agroforestry, afforestation, wastelands development, environmental education, environmental pollution control and organizational development. He has authored more than 150 technical and popular papers and in excess of 20 books on the environment, including five books for children. He has introduced plant nurseries and forestation through schools and launched the "Green Cross" movement in 1991 to promote environmental awareness and protection of forests. Dr. Hegde's book, "Mother Nature," was awarded a 1991 Best Literature for Children prize by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), a resource branch of the Government of India. He also has developed several environmental documentary films and in 1995 received the Subject Expert Award at the 8th UGC-CEC Educational Video Competition Awards, for his scientific contribution to a film. He was named 2006 Skoch Grassroots Man of the Year by Skoch Consultancy Services (in recognition of various watershed initiatives for the tribal belt of South Gujarat) and also received the Community Welfare Award 2003 from the Indian Merchants Chamber of Mumbai, for his outstanding contribution to community development. Under Dr. Hegde's leadership, BAIF in 2007 developed the student educational film, "Our Environment – Let Us Protect It," in partnership with Coca-Cola India. The 60-minute animation includes scientific facts and focuses on the environment, nature conservation, ecosystems, climate and prevention of environmental pollution. Produced in three languages (English, Hindi and Marathi), it is being disseminated by Coca-Cola to more than 5,000 Indian schools. Age 60 (17 June 1947).
- AAMIR KHAN – Indian movie star Aamir Khan is a highly acclaimed, award-winning actor, producer, director and writer and a four-time winner of India's prestigious

Filmfare awards. He has appeared in more than 30 films during the past two decades, including a lead role in the 2001 Bollywood feature, “Lagaan: Once Upon a Time in India,” which he also co-produced. The movie was nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Foreign Language Film category. Kahn also is known for raising environmental issues. In 2002, he was awarded the “Padma Shree” – one of the highest civilian honors – by the President of India for distinguished contribution in the arts. Age 42 (b. 14 March 1965).

BANGKOK, THAILAND (APRIL 19)

- **THON THAMRONGNAWASAWAT** – Dr. Thon Thamrongnawasawat is a marine-science pioneer and lecturer at Kasetsart University, in Bangkok. One of Thailand’s most-respected marine biologists and environmentalists, he also serves as an advisor to several governmental organizations, such as the offices of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Minister of Education, and Minister of Tourism. His authoritative opinions often are sought on issues that include global warming, pollution, illegal fishing, conservation, tourism, etc. Drawn to the sea since he was a child, he has made more than 10,000 dives throughout the waters of Thailand and around other countries and was the first Thai to study remote sensing of coral reefs and sea grasses. He still spends about 100 days a year under water. The accomplished author has written more than 1,500 articles and at least 50 books – from children’s books to manuals to novels – about marine-life topics and environmental issues. Among numerous honors he has received are the Focus on Environment Award from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), an environmental photography award from UNESCO, and Thailand tourism awards in 2001 and 2002 for his highly popular environmental web site, www.talaythai.com. Age 41 (b. 06 December 1966).
- **KOHLAK CHAROENROOK** – A former member of the Senate of Royal Thai Kingdom, retired Admiral Kohlak Charoenrook has served as an advisor to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment. He was Chairman of Flood Solving for the southern region of Thailand and Executive Advisor to the Chairman of the Thailand Water Law Drafting Working Group of the said Assembly. Age 75 (b. 31 December 1932).
- **SUMET TANTIVEJKUL** – Dr. Sumet Tantivejkul is a leading expert on the environment and water management in Thailand and plays an important role in developing Thailand’s environment and water resources management. At present, he is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute (HAI), steering the institute along its main missions: collecting data on water resources and agriculture in order to respond to His Majesty the King’s initiatives; performing systemic analyses of data; developing a data warehouse for water resources and agriculture for the community; and promoting understanding of the information and making it available on the Internet. In addition, he is Chairman of the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation, whose mission is to realize the vision of

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit in solving the problems facing elephants in Thailand – by returning domestic elephants to the wild, restoring the habitat of wild elephants, and promoting appropriate management of all the nation's elephants. Age 68 (b. 26 August 1939).

- AMMARA SIRIPONG – A reggae artist and actress especially well-known among the younger generation, Ammara Siripong is committed to raising environmental awareness among Thai people, particularly on issues to do with the sea. She became interested in environmental issues, especially in marine conservation activities, after she started diving years ago. She is a regular volunteer for a marine life conservation program in Koh Tao, Surat Thani, a popular tourist diving spot that has been suffering deterioration. Her work includes installing artificial rocks for coral reefs, cleaning the ocean floor and campaigning to get residents and tourists involved in protecting the environment. Age 32 (b. 27 November 1975).

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA (APRIL 21)

- KARAM SINGH WALIA – Journalist Karam Singh Walia is well-known throughout Malaysia as the TV reporter who brings environmental issues to the attention of the nation's governing bodies, often with positive results. He ardently pursues cases of environmental degradation, which he regularly exposes on the popular news program, "Buletin Utama," on TV3, Malaysia's first and largest commercial television station. Prior to becoming a TV news journalist, Karam was a secondary school teacher of physical education and English as a second language. He earned a master's degree in TV journalism from the University of London before launching his broadcast career. Age 48 (b. 13 June 1959).
- AZNIR MALEK – Entrepreneur Aznir Malek is a proactive individual who volunteers with a group of like-minded friends in Malaysia to clean rivers every two months. In addition, he is a well-known writer and an authority regarding Malay fish species. Through the Kelah Action Group of Malaysia (KAGUM) and the web forum Malaysian Fishing Net (www.fishing.net.my), Aznir and other concerned fishermen promote ethical fishing and address recreational fishing issues, such as reduced fish stocks due to habitat destruction, threats from alien fish, spoiled environments, and poor fishing etiquette and behavior. At the center of attention for KAGUM (www.kagum.org/home.htm) is Malaysia's supreme sport fish, the kelah, which has become threatened by pollution, river degradation, the straightening of rivers, deforestation and unscrupulous fishing activities. KAGUM's vision is Malaysia as a mature and desirable eco-tourism destination, with well-managed rivers and river basins and conserved game fish, especially the kelah. Aznir has even published on the MFN web site *Rules for Ethical Fishing* – partly adapted from the International Game Fish Association – that include topics such as fish conservation and environmental protection. Age 48 (b. 17 November 1959).

- **KHADIJAH ABDUL RAHMAN** – Khadijah Abdul Rahman is the founder and Executive Chairperson of the Children's Environmental Heritage Foundation of Malaysia (Yayasan Anak Warisan Alam, also known as YAWA), which is committed to changing young people's attitudes toward the environment. Through YAWA, Khadijah has organized environmental education activities for children and youth; conservation projects focused on rivers, turtles, air quality and forest species; mural paintings during the YAWA conferences "Sustain Today for Tomorrow"; and art therapy activities for children from the 2004 tsunami-affected areas of Penang, Phuket and Aceh. She was instrumental in the selection of YAWA to the UNEP Global 500 in 2001 (in the youth category), for its environmental achievements, and in creating YAWA's partnership with UNEP for the 2006 Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment. In 1990, Khadijah set up the Junior Environmental Group of Malaysia with other like-minded parents, to fill the gap left by formal education when it comes to environmental awareness in Malaysia. The NGO is now a registered foundation dedicated to instilling environmental awareness in young people through thought-provoking, fun-filled activities. She received a Langkawi Award from the Malaysian government in 2003 for involving young people in care for the environment. She also has served as Chairperson of the Malaysian Organizing Committee and is a Governing Council Member of the United Nations Association of Malaysia. Age 57 (b. 08 February 1951).
- **HASHIM ABDUL WAHAB** – Dr. Hashim Abdul Wahab is Vice President of the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) and Chairman of the MNS Environmental Education Advisory Committee. The mission of MNS, established in 1940, is to promote the study, appreciation, conservation and protection of Malaysia's natural heritage, including key habitats and national and state parks. Its four-pronged approach focuses on conservation; environmental education; publications for the public and scientific community; and a unit that examines the management of nature parks, while raising public appreciation for nature and the environment. Now retired, Dr. Hashim has long been active in voluntary and professional organizations and also has participated in various expeditions. He served with the Langkawi Development Authority as a director of Lada Ecotourism and was intimately involved with the Langkawi Scientific and Heritage Expedition 2003, which marked the first time experts in land and sea ecology combined resources and knowledge in the pursuit of conservation and sustainable tourism. Age 70 (b. 23 February 1938).
- **REZA AZMI** – Dr. Reza Azmi is the Director of Wild Asia, a conservation group based in Kuala Lumpur that is dedicated to increasing understanding and knowledge of the natural environment and to promote its conservation. Dr. Reza has more than 12 years of experience in issues relating to biodiversity conservation. His conservation career began with WWF-Malaysia in 1994 and he founded Wild Asia in 2003. Apart from botanical and wildlife surveys, he has led numerous multidisciplinary teams conducting conservation assessments for international aid agencies, national governments and NGOs. Beyond his technical advisory experience, Dr. Reza has written several popular publications, available internationally, that include chapters on natural areas in Malaysia; guides to local

plant and animal life; and eco-travel. A popular lecturer on responsible tourism and a highly regarded authority on conservation issues, Dr. Reza was a speaker at the APECO 2007 conference (in Merang, Trengganu), where he presented a paper on "Creating Incentive for Conservation: The Wild Asia Model." He also was invited to speak at the 2007 CSR Summit in Hong Kong on lessons learned in the business and environmental sectors relating to palm oil and tourism. Age 37 (b. 15 August 1970).

JAKARTA, INDONESIA (APRIL 22)

- **EMIL SALIM** – A former Minister for Population and the Environment of Indonesia (1978-1993), Dr. Emil Salim remains one of his country's central environmental figures and is acclaimed internationally for his innovative vision of a sustainable society. In 1982, he enacted the National Law for Environmental Management, Indonesia's first comprehensive, fundamental law on managing development with environmental considerations. Since 2007, he has been an advisor on environmental and sustainable development issues to Indonesian President Yudhoyono. He also serves on several related international boards and committees, including the United Nations High Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development; the Advisory Committee on Population of the Sea for Southeast Asia; the International Institute on Environment and Development; the Stockholm Environment Institute's International Institute for Environment Technology and Management; and the World Health Organization's Commission on Health and Environment. He is Chairman of the Board of Trustees for a number of leading Indonesian environmental organizations, including the Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation (also known as Kehati) and the Foundation for Sustainable Development – both of which he founded – as well as the Indonesian Ecolabelling Institute. He is a former chair of the World Commission on Forestry and Sustainable Development and the United States-Indonesia Society. Dr. Salim was President from 1985 to 1987 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and was also a member of the U.N. World Commission on Environment and Development (1984-1987). In 2005, he was a co-recipient of the prestigious Zayed Prize, the world's most-valuable environmental award, in the category "environmental action leading to positive change in society." A professor of economics at the University of Indonesia, Dr. Salim during his career has also held highly placed economic advisor positions within the government. He is a member of the Association of Indonesian Moslem Intellectuals. Age 77 (b. 08 June 1930).
- **TRI MUMPUNI WIYATNO** – Tri Mumpuni Wiyatno, the Executive Director of the NGO "People Centered Business and Economic Institute" (IBEKA), is well-known in Indonesia for bringing community-owned, off-grid electrification – based on environmentally friendly micro-hydropower (MHP) – to rural villages. She is engaged in several programs related to rural electrification for economic development, implementing local infrastructures in remote areas through critical supply of water and electricity, using renewable energy sources. Her contributions

to re-mapping power development – through economic incentives and emerging public-private partnerships – have facilitated at least 60 remote micro-hydro projects nationally, while stimulating additional economic and social initiatives in many of those locations. In 2006, the IBEKA Foundation and Nurani Dunia Foundation, with support from Coca-Cola Indonesia, handed over management of the first MHP station in Aceh to two village communities in the Lhong subdistrict. Mumpuni's leadership has sparked new concepts for the country's power development, utilizing minimum water resources and generating less carbon fuel, while helping rural Indonesia realize its best option for a reliable power supply. "Puni" also is involved in governmental policy-making for Indonesia's electricity sector, helping hurdle regulatory barriers and brokering the key connections between MHP projects and the large, state-owned utility. She serves as Vice Chairman for Electricity Tariff Watch and is a Director for Small and Medium Entrepreneurship and People Empowerment in the Electricity Sector of Indonesian Electrical Power Society. She shares her expertise throughout the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) network, and the U.N. Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific has adopted her cooperative approach to MHP as a public-private partnership model in the Asia Pacific region. For her efforts in improving the livelihoods of rural communities, Mumpuni was awarded the title of "Climate Hero" by the WWF in 2005. In 2006, she received an Ashoka Fellowship and also was named "Woman of the Year" by *Tempo* magazine, for her work on rural electrification. Most recently, Mumpuni made *Globe Asia* magazine's 2007 list of the 99 most-powerful women in Indonesia. Age 43 (b. 06 August 1964).

- AZHAR IDRIS – Community leader Azhar Idris, from Aceh, launched an initiative to re-plant mangroves in a 30-hectare coastal area in Lam Pulo Ujong village, which was devastated by the tsunami from the December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake. He later became a trainer of fellow villagers for growing mangroves through the Green Coast Project, a joint initiative of Wetlands International and the WWF that enables coastal ecosystem recovery through a holistic approach involving three components: scientific assessment, community-based economic empowerment, and sustainable and responsible coastal region management policy. Age 42 (b. 01 July 1965).
- VALERINA DANIEL – A well-known model and TV presenter, Valerina Daniel is also known as the Goodwill Ambassador for Indonesia's Ministry of Environment. Most recently, she served as the Communication and Public Relations Officer for the National Committee of U.N. Climate Change Conference 2007, held in Bali. Throughout her career, Daniel has shown keen interest in environmental issues and promoted environment protection awareness. As Goodwill Ambassador, she has actively supported campaigns such as "Green Indonesia" (2006), "Speak Up for Millennium Goals" (2006-2007) and "Combating Climate Change" (2007-present). Age 28 (b. 25 November 1979).
- NIRINA ZUBIR – Popular actress, fashion model and TV presenter Nirina Zubir is an honorary member of WWF-Indonesia. The award-winning performer, who was born

in Madagascar, took part in recruitment activities for WWF-Indonesia's 2007 "One Step for Change" environmental awareness campaign, which revolved around Earth Day. She also has been a spokesperson for the Asian Young Leaders Climate Forum, a network for young achievers of various backgrounds – from 13 Asian and Australasian nations and the United Kingdom – to share knowledge, experience and practical ideas for reducing the impact of climate change. Age 27 (b. 12 March 1980).

- **AGUSTINUS NUGROHO** – Musician Agustinus Gusti Nugroho is a well-known Indonesian entertainer and an honorary member of WWF-Indonesia with a special concern about global warming. In 2007, "Nugie," as he is popularly known, and other like-minded performing artists formed the United Voices of Indonesia, launching a song and an accompanying video entitled, "Dunia Berbagilah" ("World, Let's Share Together"). The recording was written by Nugie and introduced as the theme song for the December 2007 United Nations Conference for Climate Change, held in Bali. It was produced and released with support from both the Indonesian State Ministry of Environment and Oxfam International – a confederation of organizations seeking lasting solutions to poverty and injustice, with a goal of sustainable development. The song is an invitation to the public to jointly maintain and preserve the environment and stop climate change from getting worse, according to the State Ministry. Age 36 (b. 31 August 1971).

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA (APRIL 24)

- **DONALD IAN STANLEY** – Donald Ian Stanley is a third-generation farmer from Kalannie, Western Australia, and is known as a powerhouse in the movement of Landcare, the Australian network of partnerships among local communities, governments and businesses geared toward practical steps for protecting and repairing the environment. Nominated by Coca-Cola Australia, Stanley received the 2006 Australian Government National Landcare Program "Individual Landcarer Award," presented to an individual who carries out and promotes landcare and sustainable agricultural practices. Stanley was recognized for his volunteer work and involvement in Landcare and the environment, including his planting of more than 1 million mallee trees that are rich in eucalyptus oil and also useful in controlling surface water movement, reducing rising water tables and preventing wind erosion. His work has sparked a sustainable mallee industry in Australia that has led to economic return and international trade. There are more than 4,000 community Landcare Australia groups and thousands of Landcare volunteers in most towns across the country, and the Australian-bred Landcare model today is being used in approximately 15 other countries. Age 51 (b. 30 December 1956).
- **JUDITH COX** – Judith Cox is the owner-manager of a sheep and cattle farm in Deepwater, New South Wales, and has dedicated much time and energy to the Landcare movement and sustainable agriculture. In 2006, Cox was a New South Wales recipient of the National Landcare Program Individual Landcarer Award –

Australia's environmental equivalent of the Academy Awards. On her "Kurrajong" property, she undertook a major re-vegetation program that included planting of more than 15,500 native trees and shrubs over a 10-year period. Taking the desire for a healthy landscape further, she trained in holistic resource management and started using new grazing techniques to improve the sustainability, biodiversity and health of pastures and groundcovers. While Kurrajong has become an educational showpiece for sustainable farming, Cox has encouraged others to get involved in Landcare and has liberally shared her expertise and leadership experience. She guided the resurgence of the Deepwater Landcare Group and also successfully helped steer the Granite Borders Landcare Committee through a period of fundamental change. She helped organize the two-day New England North West Landcare Adventure and was on the steering committee for "Our Land, Our Soil, Our Future – Granite Borders," which helped 28 farmers carry out soil erosion and land management projects. Very active in sports and community activities, Cox also works for the Red Cross and the Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme. Age 49 (b. 31 August 1958).

- ALBERT WOOLER – "Alby" Wooler is a 76-year-old, founding member and President of the Capricorn Coast Landcare Group – where he is known as "Mr. Landcare" – and has been a leader in voluntary environmental work for more than 20 years. He was a Queensland winner of the 2005 National Landcare Program Individual Landcarer Award and a finalist for National Individual Landcarer in 2006. He also has received an Australia Day Citizen of the Year award. Upon retirement from careers in the building and hardware businesses, he established a rare fruits orchard on his property "Tralee," on Queensland's Capricorn Coast. He founded the Capricornia branch of the Rare Fruits Council of Australia and helped the rare fruits industry thrive in the district. Tackling issues such as salinity, drought and water quality, Wooler comes up with innovative, sustainable ways of keeping farmers on the land. His home property is even used as a showcase and reference for pioneering farm forestry practices. He is a founding member of the Community Nursery, which engages in native seed propagation and re-vegetation projects. He also was a force within a local Olympic Landcare 2000 project that sparked the planting of up to 9,000 trees, the rehabilitation of a coastal lagoon, and the formation of the Emu Park Bushcare Group. Wooler represents Landcare regionally on the Central Queensland Farm Forestry Association Board. He also has been active in developing the Fitzroy Basin Association. Locally, he sits on the Remnant Vegetation Study Group Steering Committee, the Waterpark Creek Reference Group and the Livingstone Shire Land Protection and Pest Management Group. He is highly regarded for inspiring young people to become passionate landcare supporters. Among his crowning achievements was his creation in the early 1990s of a Junior Landcare program, believing that if youth are armed with better knowledge and skills, they will manage the environment better than past generations. Junior Landcare has spread widely throughout Queensland, and Wooler still spends time every week with groups at four schools in his district. He also gives time to schools in more-remote areas, often in conjunction with the annual Schools Harbour Day Program. His other school initiatives have included water-

saving projects and construction of “environmental/culture arenas.” Age 76 (b. 24 April 1931).

- **WOLFORD PARSONS** – Wolford Parsons is a self-employed farmer from Port Vincent, South Australia, noted for his achievements in biodiversity and sustainable agriculture. To overcome devastating dryland salinity on “The Springs,” their Yorke Peninsula farm, Wolford and wife Marie spent painstaking years re-planning and converting their land from cropping to grazing, which required the planting of 150,000 saltbush and other select vegetation, plus physical improvements. The Parsons are now genetically breeding animals with large meat frames and high-quality wool and there has been an explosive regeneration of native plants on the property, creating new habitat for indigenous birds and animals. For their efforts in rehabilitating salinity-damaged land, the couple earned a South Australia National Landcare Award for Primary Producers. In recent years, the Parsons have been collaborators on a research project with staff from the University of Adelaide, examining the values of saline pastures and saltbush, which attracted national scientific interest. They have ongoing involvement with Port Vincent Primary School – involving students in tree planting, salinity measurements and studies of flora and fauna – and host other schools take that field trips to their farm. Wolford Parsons is a board member of the National Committee for Saline Grazing on Saline Lands and also served a decade on the board of the Yorke Peninsula Soil Conservation Board. Recently, he helped establish the national photographic competition, “Pride in Saltland.” Because their son Nigel lost an arm at age 8, Wolford Parsons (a passionate sportsman and former schoolboy champion athlete) became President of the Amputee Sporting Association of Australia and a board member of the local Paralympic Games organization. The couple also set up the Allyson Parsons Art Centre Research Fund (named after their daughter, an artist who is deaf), which so far has raised approximately AUD\$100,000 for this charity from the Parsons’ small family art business. Age 67 (b. 17 May 1940).
- **MARGARET SCOTT** – Self-employed Duranillin farmer Margaret Scott is a master’s student of ecologically sustainable development at Murdoch University, near Perth, Western Australia, and intends to resume an environmental consultancy with her daughter. She also is entering her 13th year of directorship with Landcare Australia Ltd. Since childhood, she has exhibited a passion for the land, flora and fauna, exploring bush and wetlands along Perth’s river. A Churchill Fellowship to study community monitoring programs in the United States helped Scott develop skills in agroforestry, water monitoring and salt-land mitigation strategies. With her husband, she has farmed merino sheep for their superior wool, grown timer trees and conserved bushland as breeding grounds for the rare marsupial phascogales and bettongs, as well as for cockatoos. The well-traveled Scott has been a long-term Landcare advocate and generously shares her technical knowledge and skills with various environmental committees. Since the 1980s, she has facilitated partnerships among communities, businesses and government agencies – particularly in Western Australia, where the results have included restoration of salt-damaged land and waterways and the reinstatement of freshwater flow to Lake

Towerrinning. Scott also co-developed a stream foreshore assessment technique. Age 59 (b. 07 February 1949).

NAGANO, JAPAN (APRIL 26)

- **NAO SEKIGUCHI** – Seventeen-year-old Nao Sekiguchi has demonstrated outstanding leadership through her contributions to environmental preservation. She is a key youth member of the Shiretoko Boys & Girls Nature Protection Party on the northernmost Japanese island of Hokkaido. Her group's initiatives contribute to protection of the Shiretoko Peninsula, part of which in 2005 was named by UNESCO as Japan's third "World Natural Heritage Site." For its environmental and nature activities involving local young people at the peninsula for nearly four decades, the Shiretoko Boys & Girls Nature Protection Party was one of 10 organizations to receive a 2007 Coca-Cola Environmental Education Award, from more than 125 nominations nationwide. Known locally as "the end of the land in Japan," Shiretoko is geographically unique as the southernmost part of the Northern Hemisphere where ice floes gather and it is also a place where warm and cold currents collide – encouraging biodiversity and providing an opportunity to examine how ice impacts the relationship between marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Designated a national park in 1964, the subarctic Shiretoko, along the Sea of Okhotsk, is vital as a habitat for rare and endangered birds, such as Steller's sea eagles and Blakiston's fish owls. It also hosts white-tailed sea eagles, brown bears, rare salmonids, Steller's sea lions and some cetacean species. Age 17 (b. 26 December 1990).
- **KAYOKO HOSOKAWA** – Kayoko Hosokawa is Japan's former First Lady, the wife of former Prime Minister Mr. Morihiro Hosokawa. She is the Honorary Chairperson of Special Olympics Japan (SON) and also was Chairperson of the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games Organizing Committee, for the international event in Nagano. For the recent 2008 Special Olympics National Winter Games in Yamagata, SON and Coca-Cola Japan jointly developed environmental education programs under her leadership. Age 65 (b. 14 September 1942).
- **KOSUKE KITAJIMA** – World champion breaststroke swimmer Kosuke Kitajima won two gold medals and one bronze medal at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games and has high hopes for Beijing 2008. He also captured the 200-meter breaststroke event at the 2007 World Championships (long course) in Australia. Out of the water, he helps the Coca-Cola Japan Co. promote youth awareness of the environment, as athlete captain of the classroom environmental education program, "Coca-Cola Begin Your Dream for the Future." Leading classes at elementary schools around the country, Kitajima encourages schoolchildren to deepen their appreciation of the environment and discuss detailed actions to carry out. Age 25 (b. 22 September 1982).

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA (APRIL 27)

- YUL CHOI – Yul Choi is one of Korea's leading environmental figures and a Director of the Green Fund – aka the Korea Green Foundation, which is among the country's most-prominent environmental NGOs. The Korea Green Foundation has built a cooperative network among governments, corporations, civic organizations and individuals to find solutions that simultaneously influence governmental policies, help businesses and preserve the environment. A vocal student activist in the 1970s – who also was imprisoned during the struggle for democracy in South Korea – Choi in 1982 founded the country's first environmental NGO, the upstart Korean Research Institute of Environmental Problems (KRIEP), in response to widespread pollution caused by the nation's rapid industrialization. The subsequent merger of KRIEP with other environmental organizations evolved into the creation in 1993 of the powerful Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM), with Choi as its General Secretary. He also has held high-ranking positions with, among others, the Citizens Institute for Environmental Studies; the Ministry of Environment; the Citizens Information Center for Environment; and the Citizens Committee for Waste Management. A former editor of *Environmental Movement* magazine and the author of "Pollution Map of Korea" (1986) and "All Living Things Are Beautiful" (1996), he is a recipient of the Global 500 Prize from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the 1995 Goldman Environmental Prize, which honors grassroots environmental heroes from the six inhabited continents. Age 59 (b. 19 January 1949).

HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM (APRIL 29)

- NGUYEN MINH THI – Young Nguyen Minh Thi, 18, is the vice representative of The Green Vietnam Club (www.vietnamxanh.org) in Hanoi. The club serves as a forum for examining Vietnam's environment and making it a greener place. Her essay, "For a Green Vietnam," has helped heighten the population's awareness of environmental protection. Thi also participated in "Exhaust Fume-Free Day," a bike-ride campaign on the streets of Hanoi and Hai Phong City that emphasized the harmful effects of exhaust fumes on the environment. Through The Green Vietnam Club, she developed plans for a waste-collection day at Hai Phong Beach, urging residents and tourists to be more aware of the need for environmental protection and scenery preservation. Age 18 (b. 10 March 1989).
- NGUYEN THI HONG LIEU – Among numerous outstanding achievements by 28-year-old Nguyen Thi Hong Lieu is management of the Harmful Wastes Project, sponsored by the World Bank and the Swiss Development Corporation. The Hanoi resident earned a doctorate and is now a researcher at The Environment Protection Bureau under the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. In her article, "Problems of the ecology and environment protection at the valleys," Lieu addressed ways to protect the environment within Vietnam's river valleys, including elements such as water levels and water quality management; wastewater management to limit pollution; water sources (surface, underground, river mouth, coastal); water use

and management in relation to land use and other ecological factors; ecology protection and environmental flows; and the regeneration of water sources. Age 28 (b. 29 May 1979).

- NGUYEN TRI TRUNG – Nguyen Tri Trung is a student at both Ho Chi Minh University of Industry and North Center University. His article, “The Judgment about Vietnam Natural Environment,” examines the exploitation of natural resources and wild animals, which has led to an ecological imbalance in his homeland. It further proposes solutions that enhance people’s sense of environmental protection and wildlife conservation. Trung currently is planning programs that include 1) establishing a “Credit Fund for Social Development,” based on the wise use of recyclable waste; 2) enhancing citizen awareness of the environment; 3) launching an International Students Association on the Environment in Vietnam – supported by Orient Star Education & Travel Ltd., the world's largest student, youth and budget travel organization; and 4) implementing the campaign, “Walk for Nature.” Age 21 (b. 22 February 1987).
- PHAN VU AN – Phan Vu An, 22, is an environmental studies student at Ho Chi Minh City Polytechnic University and the president of the Green Environment Club (GEC), under the university’s Environment Faculty. He was named a 2006 Bayer Environment Ambassador for Vietnam, which included a scholarship award and a one-week, industrial environmental protection study trip to Bayer Group headquarters in Leverkusen, Germany. He also served as vice head of the Organization Board for the fifth Green Environment Contest in 2007. An authored the project, “Privatization of Water Supply Company,” and is a co-founder and executive member of the online forum www.moitruongxanh.info. He also participates in preparation of the “HCMC Information on Environment Day,” staged under the Bayer Group of Environment Ambassadors. The Bayer Environment Ambassador (or Young Environmental Envoy) program in Vietnam is organized by the Bayer Group, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union’s Central Committee, the Environment Protection Agency, and GTZ (an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development). Age 22 (b. 20 November 1985).
- DOAN QUANG HUY – Doan Quang Huy graduated from the Journalism Faculty of Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities and is currently a member of the Green Vietnam Club. During his college days in the late 1990s, he was a “Green Summer Campaign” volunteer. He previously participated in a bare hill tree-planting campaign in Thua Thien Hue (1995) and in canal dredging work in Districts 6 and 8 of Ho Chi Minh City. Since 2002, Huy has been a reporter for *Thanh Nien*, the flagship publication of the Vietnam National Youth Federation and one of the most prestigious and influential newspapers in his country. A sports journalist, he has covered several major athletic events – including the Southeast Asian Games of 2001, 2003 and 2005 – and written numerous articles about the FIFA World Cup™ (2002 and 2006), the UEFA EURO™ tournaments (2000 and 2004) and the AFC Asian Cup 2007. Age 30 (b. 01 January 1978).

###