

Tue, 13 July 2010

Ishita Manoj Shah from Oman -

The United Nations Environment Programme has announced the winners of the children's painting competition for West Asia. A twelve-year-old girl from Dubai has won the UNEP 2010 Painting Competition for West Asia: Charlotte Chalkley responded to this year theme Biodiversity: connecting with nature and her work splendidly showed a harmony with nature.

"I am the girl playing the violin in the picture. As I create harmony with my violin, the animals, children, and the nature are all happy and they work together for a happy planet. This painting shows elephants, horses, and giraffes because they are my favourite animals", she said.

Charlotte will represent West Asia in the global competition selection at the Tunza International Children's Conference in Nagoya, Japan from October 20 to 26, where global winners will be announced.

Simran Kumari, 10, is the winner of the second prize and Rahul Murugan, 13, is the winner of the third prize for West Asia. The other West Asia top ten entrants are Aby Abraham (Qatar), **Ishita Shah (Oman)**, Danya al Malki (Saudi Arabia), Rose al Ali (Syria), Maria El Hajj (Lebanon), Zeina Najjar (Lebanon), and Zainab al Mandi (Bahrain). Top ten entrants' paintings will be displayed in the global competition selection.

All regional and global winners will receive a cash prize (\$ 1,000 for the regional winners, \$ 2,000 for the First prize winner).

The regional and global winners will also receive an all expense paid trip to Tunza International Children Conference in Nagoya, Japan, from October 20 to 26.

A selection of winning paintings will be shown in exhibitions around the world. They will also be exhibited on the Internet and will be used for posters, post cards, calendars, and in publications to raise awareness and actions to conserve biodiversity.

The annual competition, which was launched in 1991, and has a growing following from children in over 100 countries, is jointly organised by UNEP, the Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment, Bayer and Nikon Corporation.