



# Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment 2008

Stavanger, Norway, 17 to 21 June 2008



United Nations Environment Programme

YOUNG  
AGENDA 21



# Welcome to Tunza 2008!

## WHAT?

Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment

## WHERE?

Stavanger, Norway

## WHEN?

17–21 June 2008

## FOR WHOM?

Children involved in the environment from the age of 10 to 14 and their adult chaperones.

## WHY?



To learn more about environmental challenges and solutions; to meet other children who care about the environment; to speak their minds to the decision makers of today; and to make new friends!



"The specific interests of children need to be taken fully into account in the participatory process on environment and development in order to safeguard the future sustainability of any actions taken to improve the environment."



## What is Tunza?

Tunza in Kiswahili, a language used in East Africa, means "to nurture with care and devotion". Just like children and adults all over the world would like our common home, the Earth, to be treated.

## The world listens to the children

The Tunza International Children's Conferences are built upon Agenda 21, the document adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It states that children's opinions should be incorporated in decisions regarding the environment.

## Involvement with results

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organizes the Tunza International Children's Conference in different parts of the world in collaboration with local organizations. Through the conference, thousands of children have exchanged knowledge and ideas and shared experiences on the environment.

## Come with us to Norway!

The 2008 Tunza International Children's Conference will be held in June 2008 in Stavanger, Norway, in collaboration with the foundation "Young Agenda 21". Children between the ages of 10 and 14 years from all over the world are welcomed to Stavanger to experience the Scandinavian summer nights and a multitude of activities and to make new friends.

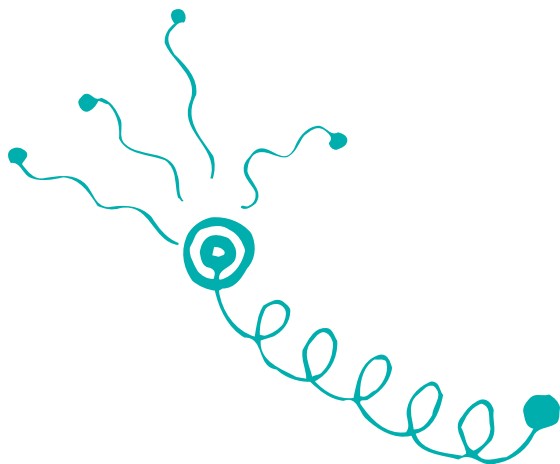
*"I am looking forward to meeting children from all over the world."*







"can we share  
the resources  
of the world  
in a fair way?"

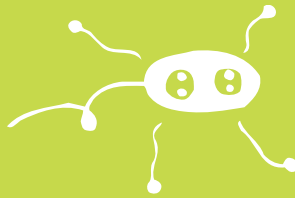


## The world needs a conference for children

The 2008 Tunza International Children's Conference will provide an arena for practical work and fun activities. New knowledge will be shared by children and converted into action. The goals of the conference are:

- to increase the children's understanding of environmental challenges by exchanging experiences and opinions
- to demonstrate new ideas and initiative for a better environment
- to provide participants with an opportunity to get to know each other and develop friendships across nationalities and other barriers
- to provide children with an opportunity to express their collective opinions and concerns for the environment
- to inspire the children to think globally and act locally
- to have fun together!

"can you build factories which  
do not pollute water and air?"



## Conference activities

Various environmental themes will be considered for the conference, such as energy, water, consumption of resources and our relationship with the surrounding nature. The United Nations' Millennium Development Goal of decreasing poverty will also be considered for the conference agenda.

Activities will consist of

- plenary sessions, where competent professionals present the theme of the day
- presentations of children's projects
- several workshops for children to attend
- educational visits to nature reserves, companies, museums and other exciting places
- visits to "Eco Schools"
- groups for discussion
- cultural activities



Participants will formulate a set of challenges and wishes which will be sent to leaders of the world through the United Nations. The conference will provide a platform for children's voices to be heard!

*"I wonder what  
Norwegian  
children play?"*



*"How can a city  
expand whilst  
maintaining its  
agriculture?"*

*"Do children and adults  
think differently?"*





# Welcome to Stavanger!

Stavanger is situated on the South West coast of Norway. With only 115,000 inhabitants, it is one of the biggest cities in Norway! The city was founded 1,000 years ago and has inhabitants from all over the world.

Its closeness to the sea characterizes the region – the city has been in contact with people from different countries at all times. For Stavanger, the sea provides diversity and important resources such as fish and marine life, oil and gas.

Surrounded by the sea and the fjords, mountains and rich farmland, the region provides a variety of experiences with nature.

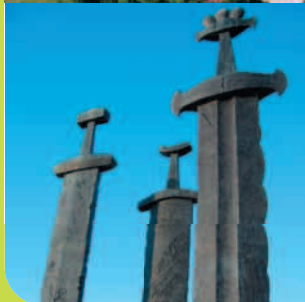
Stavanger and its neighbouring city Sandnes have been given the status of European Capital of Culture in 2008, with the motto "Open Port". What then could be more appropriate than having children from all over the world in the region?

The conference will be held at the University of Stavanger, situated in green surroundings outside of the city centre.



## Young Agenda 21 is the local organizer

Young Agenda 21 was founded in 2000 by Rogaland county council, Stavanger, Sandnes, Sola and Gjesdal city councils, Lyse, Inter municipal water- sewage- and waste works (IVAR), Statoil and the Environment Northern Seas foundation. Young Agenda 21 has organized various environmental projects and conferences. Since 1997, there have been held 5 large international children's conferences in the region of Stavanger.







## Who can participate?

You can apply to participate at the conference if you

- are interested in environmental challenges and actively involved in an environmental project
- will be between 10 and 14 years of age, on the 17 June 2008
- have been selected as a representative for a school or an organization.



Each group of children must have an adult leader who is at least 19 years of age.

The language of the conference will be English. Interpretation services will be offered during main discussions for French and Spanish speakers.

## How do you apply?

The application form will be available at UNEP's conference web site:

[www.unep.org/tunza](http://www.unep.org/tunza) by June 2007. Information on the conference

will also be available at the Young Agenda 21's homepage: [www.ua21.no/tunza](http://www.ua21.no/tunza).

Only a specified number of participants will be selected to attend the conference from each country.

Financial support for travel and accommodation will be offered to some children and their chaperones from developing countries.



## Green Conference

As an environmental conference, the 2008 Tunza Children's Conference will attempt to reduce, as much as possible, its impact on the environment. Printed matter and office supplies, transport and overall energy consumption, food and waste management are among areas where more environmentally friendly options will be used by the organizers.

Young Agenda 21 is a certified "Eco-lighthouse" organization. "Eco-lighthouse" is a national Norwegian branding arrangement for companies and organizations that fulfil strict standards for sustainable practise. Achieving this environmental certification is among the objectives for the 2008 Tunza Children's Conference.

*"can you invent something  
which makes it possible to grow  
food in the desert?"*



## Conference Organizers

The planning and execution of this conference will be a collaborative effort between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Young Agenda 21.

The Executive Committee has six members, appointed from UNEP and from Young Agenda 21: Mr. Eric Falt, Information Director, UNEP; Mr. Theo Oben, Head of the Outreach Section, UNEP; Mr. Wondwosen (Wondy) K. Asnake, UNEP/Regional Office for Europe; Mr. Leif Johan Sevland, Mayor of Stavanger; Ms. Idunn Eidheim, Department Director, Norwegian Ministry of the Environment; Ms. Anne-Kari Aas Eielsen, Chair of the Board, Young Agenda 21.

UNEP and the Norway Organizing Committee will prepare the programme and the logistics of the conference. They will work closely with the Conference Junior Board, consisting of 12 children from all over the world, elected at the 2006 Tunza Children's Conference in Malaysia.

## Contact us!

Keep posted at the conference web site from October 2006: **[www.ua21.no/tunza](http://www.ua21.no/tunza)**

From year 2007 regular newsletters will be published and available for subscription

– information in this regard will be made available at the web site.

### Conference administration:

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