

UN Recognizes Environmentalists

A prominent Turkish bank, a Nobel Prize winning chemist, and a 13-year-old South Korean boy were among the organizations and individuals honored by the United Nations this year for their extraordinary commitment to environmental protection. In a 9 June 1996 ceremony in Istanbul, the United Nations Environment Programme recognized 21 environmentalists from around the world by adding their names to the ranks of its Global 500 Roll of Honour. The event, which took place during the Habitat II Conference, was part of this year's World Environment Day celebrations. The list of winners included scientists, activists, and corporations that have made protecting the earth's environment a top priority.

One winner, the late Ken Saro-Wiwa, had acted in opposition to the Nigerian government by leading a campaign against oil pollution in the homeland of the minority Ogoni people. He and eight other activists were executed by the Nigerian government seven months before the Global 500 ceremony. Saro-Wiwa's daughter, Zina, said the award would help



bring attention to the plight of many African lands and peoples at the hands of corrupt governments and multinational oil companies. "It is important to have a symbol of an African man who has led a fight for the environment of his country," she told the Associated Press.

The man who first suggested that nitrogen oxides are capable of destroying atmospheric ozone was also awarded by the United Nations for his work. Research by Paul Crutzen, a professor at the Max Planck Institute, led directly to the identification of chlorofluorocarbons as a threat to the earth's ozone, and he identified tropical biomass burning as an important source of atmospheric pollution. His 'nuclear winter' theory, which describes possible climatic changes resulting from a large-scale nuclear war, helped influence the debate concerning nuclear disarmament. Crutzen was also awarded the 1995 Nobel Prize for chemistry.

Garanti Bank of Turkey received the

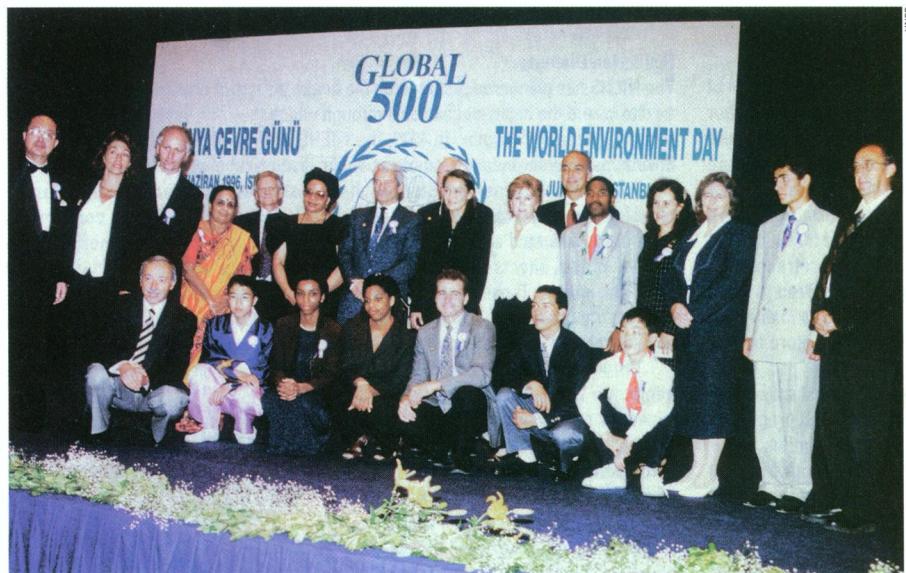
1996 Global 500 Laureates

Lalita Balakrishnan	India
Paul Joseph Crutzen	Netherlands
Earth Love Fund	United Kingdom
Environment 2000	Zimbabwe
Garanti Bank	Turkey
Tansu Gulpinar	Turkey
Carlos Roberto Hasbun	El Salvador
Herederos del Planet	Colombia
A High School Student Group of Junior Journalists for Environment	People's Republic of China
Rampa and Tom Hormel	United States
Veit Koester	Denmark
Danuse Kvasnickova	Czech Republic
Wahn Lee	Republic of Korea
Akio Morishima	Japan
Bahuddin Hi Pabbite	Indonesia
Sonia Regina de Brito Pereira	Brazil
Miguel A. Reynal	Argentina
Ken Saro-Wiwa	Nigeria
Tatyana Fyodorovna Stepanenko	Russian Federation
Nergis Yazgan	Turkey
Fatih Yilmaz	Turkey

U.N. award for making conservation a central theme of all its enterprises. The bank assists in protecting Turkey's unique wealth of flora by funding several projects managed jointly by the Society for the Protection of Nature and the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society. In addition, recycled paper is used whenever possible in Garanti's publications and its advertising campaign highlights endangered species.

Another laureate, Lalita Balakrishnan, gave up her career as a fashion writer for a women's magazine to spearhead India's wood stove program. The program, which has been instituted in over 3,000 Indian villages, trains women to build and maintain their own wood stoves. The stoves require less wood to be collected, saving women three to six hours worth of work daily. The stoves also aid in the prevention of smoke-related lung diseases such as bronchitis and asthma.

The youngest person to have his name added to the Global 500 Roll of Honour was 13-year-old Wahn Lee from South Korea. Five years ago Lee realized that the frogs in a creek near his house were dying because the water was polluted. He began to write stories about the environment, compiling 18 of them into a book that was published last year.



Environmental heroes. The 1996 Global 500 laureates are recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme at the World Environment Day celebration in Istanbul.