

Positive YOUTH News



PART OF THE
POSITIVE NEWS
INTERNATIONAL
NETWORK

Page 8

A New Generation
of Social
Entrepreneurs



Page 8

EcoACTIVE's
Green Education
for Everyone



Page 9

SEI United:
Voices for
the Future



Page 10

Miles of Fun
on a Zero-Carbon
Budget



Page 10

National
Tree Week: Get
Involved!



Children of the Earth Lead the Way

This summer, young people from all over the world have been gathering in the name of peace. *The Meeting of Spirit Youth Elders* held in Canada, *The Human Rights Leadership Forum* in Ghana and the *YESS Peace Marathon* in Nepal, have been just a few of the events on the Children of the Earth calendar for 2007.

"Children of the Earth offers youth leadership programmes, educational workshops, conferences and presentations at national and international forums," says President and Founder, Dr Nina Meyerhof. "We are a United Nations, not-for-profit, Non-Governmental Organisation, dedicated to building a better future for us all. Our goal is for young people all over the world to become socially responsible and active peace builders."

Children of the Earth flies the flag for The World Spirit Youth Council. To date, young people have met in Japan, Nepal and Switzerland to discuss and develop this movement. They are now in the process of forming a Council of governance to develop ideas.

Another ongoing initiative is the *Youth to Youth 'Bear Hugs Project'*, which is led by a Youth Leadership Team to unite children around the world and promote

International Day of Peace, held on 21st September each year. "Bear representatives have travelled out to meet young survivors of Hurricane Katrina and the Tsunami, a Ugandan orphanage and a Liberian refugee camp," says Nina.

Children of the Earth is establishing Chapters around the world that support local youth initiatives, offer resources of information and help them develop. These are evolving in the Philippines, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, the USA and other countries. The goal is to establish at least 50 operating Chapters within the next three years.

In the future, Children of the Earth will be building a One Peace Institute for all youth leaders of the world. This will help organise themselves into a spiritual peacemakers movement. 'Click here to find your niche,' they say on the website homepage, 'we believe in the possibility of World peace: one Earth with all her children smiling'.

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Dr Nina Meyerhof hands out awards for an ethical quiz, held in Dhammakaya in Thailand. Photo: © Children of the Earth