



World Environment Day 2014

Raise your voice, not the sea level

World Environment Day (WED), celebrated annually on June 05, was established in 1972, as the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. This year, WED will be celebrated under the theme ***“Raise your voice, not the sea level”***.

2014 has been designated by the UN as the International Year, of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). As such, WED this year, will highlight SIDS in the broader context of climate change as its theme.



Over the years World Environment Day has grown to be a broad, global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated by stakeholders in over 100 countries. It also serves as the ‘people’s day’ for doing something positive for the environment, combining individual actions into a collective power to generate wide and positive impacts on the planet.

This year, WED has as two main objectives, namely, to help build momentum towards the 3rd International Conference on SIDS and to encourage a greater understanding of the importance of SIDS and the urgency to help protect islands in the face of growing risks and vulnerabilities, particularly as a result of climate change.

It is important to recognize that our country has much in common with islands regarding the threats of climate change. Our low-lying coast is home to most of our population and the centre of our agriculture and commercial activities. Imminent sea-level rise will also have dire consequences for us. Like islands we continue to face the challenges of high economic costs for constant mitigation measures and disaster preparedness.

The international WED celebration is being hosted this year in Barbados. It provides an excellent opportunity to raise a call for



global unity with islands and to highlight their unique developmental challenges and successes. Climate change is foremost among these challenges as global warming is causing ocean levels to rise. Coastal communities in every country are then threatened with floods and storm surges as a result of location.

WED is also celebrating the contributions that the SIDS group of countries has made to the world. They are home to vibrant and distinct cultures, diversity and heritage. People of SIDS are also at the forefront of efforts to address pressing global issues through innovation and use of traditional knowledge.

Go Greener!

- Humans today are consuming far more resources than our planet can provide or sustain.
- We are polluting our air with carbon emissions, destroying our forests and species, and filling our seas with plastic and waste.
- The time is now to go greener by making choices that are good for people and the planet.

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- We can do it by coming together as communities, businesses, organizations, schools and individuals, to connect our resources and skills to our passion for a more sustainable, resource efficient way of living.
- We can do it by being more informed and by doing business with companies that have demonstrated their commitment to these issues.
- We can plant more trees, grow more kitchen gardens and just think more carefully about how the decisions we make impact our one and only Planet Earth.”

For WED 2014, take the time to do someone positive for the environment and help to secure your future. Find out about the activities in your area or be instrumental in spearheading an activity for the environment.

Happy World Environment Day 2014!

Source: <http://www.unep.org/wed/>

You can share your ideas and questions by sending letters to: “Our Earth, Our Environment”, C/O EIT Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Ganges Street, Sophia, GEORGETOWN, or email us at: eit.epaguyana@gmail.com