

## **Contest "Young Ambassadors against Climate Change – a message for Copenhagen"**

Bucharest, March 3, 2009

Pupils in V-VIII grades concerned about the threat of climate change can participate, between March 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in the second edition of the national contest on this topic – YOUNG AMBASSADORS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE – organized by The Danish Embassy in Bucharest, in partnership with TERRA Mileniul III Foundation and ALMA-RO Association.

The contest was launched on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> by Mr. Ulrik Helweg-Larsen, the Danish Ambassador at his residence, with the participation of Secretaries of State from Ministries of Environment Education, and Foreign Affairs – Mr. Doru Bădulescu, Ms. Adriana Pana and Mrs. Antoaneta Barta. Representatives of the civil society, pupils and teachers were also present.

The contest is part of an environmental education project, in the context of climate change, which is carried out by TERRA Mileniul III Foundation and ALMA-RO Association between February and July 2009, with the support of the Climate Action Network –Romania (RAC-RO) and Didactica Publishing House.

The contest "Young Ambassadors against Climate Change" addresses the pupils in V-VIII grades, this being its second edition; the first edition took place in 2008, in partnership with the British Embassy in Bucharest and has been a remarkable success among young participants – more than 200 applications were submitted from 22 counties. The Ministers of Environment and Education and Research were members of the jury.

Taking into consideration the experience gained after the first edition of contest and the United Nations' Conference on Climate Change COP15 announced for December 2009 in Copenhagen, we are launching a new edition of the contest, giving the young people in Romania the opportunity to present their messages to the officials from the COP-15 Summit, which will take decisions regarding the Romania's commitments in the fight against climate change.

On this occasion, the Ambassador Ulrik Helweg-Larsen stated: "today's children are tomorrow's decision makers. They do not only have to live with the decisions we make today, they also have to make wise decisions themselves when their time comes. That is why it is of paramount importance that our children understand and are occupied with the imminent dangers to our environment. Why Copenhagen? Because the conference taking place in Copenhagen in December 2009 promises to become a milestone in the global fight against climate changes and for our common environment."

As a result of the contest, four of the pupils will be designated Young Ambassadors, they will be rewarded with an educational trip in Carpathian Mountains and promoted in both Romania and Europe as leaders and opinion makers. The winners will be announced in May 2009.

For more information, please contact the Project Manager, TERRA Mileniul III Foundation, Ms. Roxana Damian, email: [Roxana.damian@terraiii.ngo.ro](mailto:Roxana.damian@terraiii.ngo.ro), phone: 0730081017.