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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

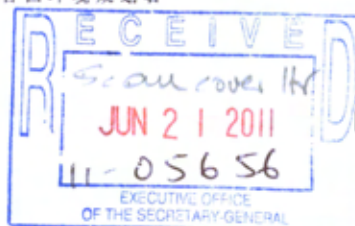
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Our Reference: DEWA-UYB-2011/SB



Date: 21 April 2011

Dear Mr. Ki-Moon,

I am delighted to attach a copy of the UNEP Year Book 2011 entitled: Emerging Issues in our Global Environment, which was launched on Thursday, 17 February 2011 in advance of the 26th Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC.26/GMEF).

The UNEP Year Book 2011 highlights the achievements possible when science works in tandem with sustainable development. An overview of events and developments during 2010 shows how cutting edge science reveal new opportunities for solving issues at the core of a green economy and key environmental indicators present the latest data and trends for the global environment.

The Year Book also highlights three emerging issues, which include: -

- The concern that plastic debris in the ocean can transport toxic substances which may end up in the food chain thus causing potential harm to ecosystems and human health
- The wider impact of the use of phosphorus fertilizer in food production, and
- The need to halt the loss of forest biodiversity in order for forests to adapt to mounting pressures, including climate change and pest outbreaks.

The Year Book is available for free download at: www.unep.org/yearbook/2011 . In addition, language versions in French and Spanish will soon be available.

I hope the snapshot of the global environment presented in the Year Book will be a useful resource and provide new insights.

Yours sincerely,

Achim Steiner
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