



United Nations Association of New York
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**The United Nations Association of New York Hosts
2008 Annual Humanitarian Awards Gala Dinner**

Annual event to focus on UN Millennium Development Goals and highlight environmental sustainability by honoring efforts to address global climate change

NEW YORK, October 1, 2008 – The United Nations Association of New York (UNA-NY) has announced it will host the 2008 Annual Humanitarian Awards Gala Dinner on Thursday, October 23, 2008 to celebrate UN Day and honor the efforts of individuals and corporations seeking to combat global warming.

This year's event is themed around "Climate Change – A Call for Action." Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland and Mr. Sadayuki Sakakibara, President of Toray Industries, Inc. will be honored for their work to address the impact of global climate change. Among other effects, global warming exacerbates hurricanes, droughts, floods and other erratic weather patterns that dramatically increase political, economic and social tension.

"Climate change is not a theoretical issue to be debated exclusively in scientific circles. It is a very real problem that all countries must respond to through bold and decisive engagement," said Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. "The UNA-NY, with its ability to educate, inspire and mobilize the New York City community in support of the principles and priorities of the United Nations, is making a significant contribution to both individual and international efforts to address this pressing global challenge."

"We are delighted to receive this award from the United Nations Association of New York and are pleased to join efforts to alleviate the difficulties associated with climate change," said Sadayuki Sakakibara, President of Toray Industries. "Global environmental issues are reaching a point of no return. We are striving to create resolutions through innovative ideas, technologies and products together with the United Nations in business areas such as secure water supply and the conservation of resources and energy."

The 2008 event will also raise funds for the UNA-NY Worldview Institute, a corporate executive forum for young leaders that fosters greater understanding of political, economic and social issues around the world.

Sponsors include IBM, Dupont and Alcoa, Inc. Past UNA-NY Humanitarian Award recipients include Antony Burgmans, former Chairman of Unilever; Robert L. Corcoran, President of General Electric Foundation; Ann M. Veneman, Executive Director of UNICEF; and Guy Laliberte, Founder and Chief Executive of Cirque du Soleil and the One Drop Foundation.

The reception will begin at 6:30 PM in the Visitors Lobby at the United Nations Headquarters followed by dinner in the UN Delegates Dining Room. For reservations and more information, please visit www.unanyc.org or contact Ann Nicol, Executive Director of United Nations Association of New York, at 212-907-1353.

About the United Nations Association of New York

The United Nations Association of New York (UNA-NY) is the UN's host-city chapter of UNA-USA, America's largest grassroots foreign policy organization dedicated to supporting the work of the UN. UNA-NY runs programs to educate and engage the New York City community on issues pertaining to the UN. UNA-NY's educational and humanitarian campaigns include working with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees bringing fresh drinking water to roughly 150 families or 1,000 individuals in Afghanistan.

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