



UNECE Weekly

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It's just happened ...

Winners of International Photo Contest «Water is Life» Announced



The UNECE and the United Nations Office in Uzbekistan have announced the prize winners in the international photo contest held on the occasion of the International Year of Freshwater 2003. The competition was organized in cooperation with the Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan and the Tashkent House of Photography and sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and Steinert Industries Company (see UNECE Weekly No. 19). Over 1,000 colour and black and white submissions from 271 photographers in 19 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS region as well as from China, India, Italy, France, and Thailand were received. The age of the contestants ranged from 15 to 68, while their areas of occupation included photography, arts, journalism, science and engineering, teaching, medicine, and aviation. Entries were judged by the criteria of interest, message, originality and aesthetics by a jury comprising 8 representatives of international development organizations and professionals in the field of photography from around the world

First prize was awarded to Mikhail Golovachyov of Uzbekistan, for a series of photographs entitled "On the Way Home". Second prize went to Ali Isik from Turkey, for the photo "A Drop of Life". Third prize was awarded jointly to Vetre Antanaviciute of Lithuania for a photo from the series "Mystery of Birth" and Vladimir Sokolov of Uzbekistan for the photo entitled "Black Cloud". Apart from the top four prizes, the jury also awarded special prizes to Vladimir Vyatkin from the Russian Federation ("Mankind and Water"), Valerie Volontir of the Republic of Moldova ("Dry") and Rolandas Parafinavicius from Lithuania ("Missing Water").

The awards ceremony will take place on 18 December in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, during the opening of the exhibition "Water is Life". For further information contact the UN Office in Uzbekistan Information Centre (infocentre.uz@undp.org) or UNECE Information Service (info.ece@unece.org)

Off the press

Discover the UN and have fun! – A CD-ROM for youngsters from 6 to 96 years



The UNECE has released a CD-ROM featuring three interactive games that permit the young - and the not so young - to discover the United Nations and the UNECE, and to test their knowledge of sustainable development.

"How long is the term of the Secretary-General of the United Nations?"

"How many regional commissions does the United Nations have?"

"When does World Environment Day take place?"

These are just three questions among many others that you have to answer in a frenetic race to defeat the terrible "Bug". The aim of the game is to beat the "Bug" that represents all the problems the United Nations struggles to resolve. To achieve this, you must respond correctly to the questions that appear accompanied by colourful images and sounds.

The CD-ROM is available, quoting Sales No. GV.E/F.03.0.32 or ISBN No. 92-1-101068-3, from the United Nations Office at Geneva: United Nations Publications Sales and Marketing Section, Palais des Nations, CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

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E-mail: unpubli@unog.ch, Web site: <http://www.un.org/Pubs>

Further information can be obtained from the UNECE Information Service (info.ece@unece.org)

Web site: <http://www.unece.org>

Not an official record - For information only

Statistical Confidentiality and Access to Microdata

The book includes the proceedings of the Seminar on Statistical Confidentiality and Access to Microdata, held during the 51st plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians, 10-12 June 2003. Confidentiality is one of the fundamental principles of official statistics. It is a top priority issue on the policy agenda of statistical offices and an indispensable element to maintaining the trust of the respondents and thus ensuring the quality of the data. At the same time, statistical offices experience increasing pressure from scientists and governments to provide access to detailed data for research, policy making and monitoring, local planning, etc. The main challenge for statistical offices is to ensure that the improved access to microdata will not undermine the confidentiality principle, both in reality and in the perception of the public and respondents to statistical surveys. The book provides an overview of the present status, problems and challenges related to confidentiality and access to microdata in UNECE member countries. Special attention is paid to confidentiality protection in central and eastern European and the CIS countries.

UNECE helps Armenia to publish its State-of-the-Environment Report



Armenia's State-of-the-Environment Report, just published, follows the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Governmental Reports on the State and Protection of the Environment* issued by the UNECE and adopted at the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Kiev in May 2003. The report was made possible thanks to close cooperation with UNECE and financial assistance from the European Commission. Air pollution is one of many concerns raised in the report, together with water quality and supply and wastewater treatment. Only 55% of homes in urban areas and 20% in rural areas are connected to sewage systems. Armenia suffers from soil erosion too. Up to 82% of the country is affected by desertification to some degree, mainly as a result of uncontrolled mining, logging and overgrazing. Illegal landfilling is widespread and soil pollution is a real problem. It is the 2nd comprehensive report on the environment since Armenia became independent 12 years ago and is a step in the direction of sustainable development. Armenia has come a long way in strengthening its environmental institutions and management but more still needs to be done to boost funding for environmental protection, establish up-to-date environmental norms and standards compatible with international practices, and promote the use of economic instruments in environmental policy.



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Facts and figures:

Hourly earnings in manufacturing, growth rates
selected UNECE economies

	2000	2001	2002	2003		
				Q1	Q2	Q3
France	4.7	4.5	3.4	2.8	2.7	2.7
Germany	2.6	1.6	1.6	2.7	2.8	2.1
Italy	2.0	1.9	2.7	2.5	1.8	3.2
Austria	2.4	3.2	2.3	4.5
Belgium	2.1	2.8	2.5	2.4	1.7	1.9
Finland	4.5	4.8	3.9	4.0	4.2	3.9
Ireland	5.5	8.7	5.8	7.0	8.4	...
Luxembourg	5.1	5.3	-0.2	0.4	-0.5	...
Netherlands	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.2	2.5	2.1
Spain	2.8	4.1	5.0	3.1	9.3	...
United Kingdom	4.6	4.3	3.5	5.0	2.9	3.2
Denmark	3.5	4.3	4.0	4.4	4.0	4.3
Sweden	3.4	2.9	3.4	2.4	3.0	3.1
Norway	4.1	4.5	5.2	5.3	5.4	4.3
Turkey	55.6	35.2	32.1	20.1	16.5	...
Canada	2.6	1.6	2.7	1.8	2.9	4.0
United States	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.0	3.0

Source: UNECE secretariat estimates based on OECD, *Main Economic Indicators*.

Notes: Quarterly growth rates are changes over the same period of the previous year.

Rates are not adjusted for inflation.

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