

International Environmental Children's Drawing Contest

IQNet promotes sustainable development globally – over 20,000 children from 52 countries took part in the 8th International Environmental Drawing Contest 2007! "



Mr

*René Wasmer, IQNet President, author of this article at the conference 2007-07*

**Why an international IQNet Environmental Drawing Contest?**

Protecting the environment is a concern of each individual. In order to improve the harmony between human activity and nature, more sensitivity in the perception and care of our ecosystems is required.



Seven years ago, this motivated IQNet and its Japanese member JQA, together with UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund), to launch an annual Environmental Drawing Contest. This Contest is targeted at pupils and young people aged between 7 and 15 years from all over the world, giving them a place to express their views on global environmental protection. The contest strongly promotes the understanding of our natural environment among children, young people, schools, families and society in general and strives to enhance the quality of life.

### **Record participation in the 8th edition of the contest**

This year, the contest took place for the 8th time. The theme was "man in harmony with nature" to be implemented as effectively as possible through artistic talent and by projecting a clear message.

The participation and commitment not only of the students but also of the teachers and the educational institutes were unusually high. Never before that many drawings have been received, and the diversity and quality of the works is impressive. An international jury<sup>1)</sup>, directed by Koji Kinutani, Painter and Professor of the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music was thrilled when they had to assess the artworks on 21 June 2007 for the prize-giving ceremony.



*The judging committee<sup>1)</sup>*

Overall, 20,748 drawings were submitted from 53 countries from Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America. Most drawings came from Switzerland, Sri Lanka, Romania and Japan.

## International award ceremony by IQNet, JQA and UNICEF in Tokyo

At the awarding ceremony on the 31 July 2007, the following prizes were awarded in the following categories in the presence of the winners.

- Best Environmental Prize
- International Best Prize
- Special Prizes from Supporters of the Contest
- First Prizes
- Honorable Mentions

The Best Environmental Prize was awarded to the "The Penguins" by Tsuboi Yuki (8) from Japan.



*My favourite, "The Penguins" came to Tokyo. That made me happy, but what about them? We want to protect our beautiful earth by ourselves!*

The International Best Prize was awarded to the work, "The value of trees" by Abeyrathna Manoja Amali (14) from Sri Lanka



## **For the first time an additional national award ceremony by IQNet and SQS in Switzerland**

In the run-up to the international environmental drawing contest, a national contest was held in Switzerland for the first time, organized by our Swiss IQNet member SQS (Swiss Association for Quality and Management Systems). This gave participants from Switzerland almost a double incentive as the drawings were first evaluated nationally and then later internationally. The Swiss event exceeded all expectations with some 632 schools participating and an extremely gratifying 10,250 drawings were received for the evaluation. The prize-giving ceremony was held in Berne on 25 May 2007.



*Winner Switzerland (age 13 – 15)*

### **Assessment and value of this international environmental drawing contest**

At the international award ceremony in Tokyo on 31 July 2007, the representatives of UNICEF, JQA, IQNet and the jury expressed their thanks and appreciation of the excellent works to the winners, the participants, the initiators and the organizers of the International 8th Environmental Drawing Contest.

The result of this drawing contest was seen as a unanimous global message for environmentally friendly development! This makes winners of all the participants.

It was emphasized that:

- the drawings bear witness to the “fascination of nature” and tell us about the immense wealth of our natural environment.
- the drawings can be understood easily across languages and cultural borders – all can understand the messages

- the message is developed by those who form our coming generation – the drawing contest in that sense, therefore, is also a contribution on the path towards a world “Fit for Children”

IQNet with its 37 partner organizations is strongly committed to the issue of sustainability. The IQNet partners have made available a comprehensive range of certification and evaluation, verification and training services in the area of environmental protection and sustainability. The partners support the implementation and development of the International Environmental Drawing Contest and the announcement of the 2008 Contest will be published shortly. Just have a look at the IQNet Website!



*Group picture of winners, Japan*

René Wasmer, IQNet President

**Links:** <http://www.childrens-drawing.com>  
<http://www.sqs.ch/en/index/zeichnungswettbewerb.htm>  
<http://www.iqnet-certification.com>  
<http://www.iqnet-ltd.com>

**1) Members of the Judging Committee**

- Kinutani Koji (Chairman of Judging Committee, Painter, Professor, Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music)
- Dan Rohrmann (Director, UNICEF)
- Kuroyanagi Tetuko (Actress, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador)
- Endo Yasuhiro (Professor, Aichi Sangyo University Graduate School, Architect)
- Kobayashi Tamae (THE SEIYU,LTD. Executive Officer, SVP)
- Rene Wasmer (IQNet President)
- Morimoto Osamu (President, Japan Quality Assurance Organization)