

WORLD ENVIRONMENT WEEK – 1 – 5 JUNE (WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 5 JUNE 2009)

The theme for World Environment Week, this year, is “Combating Climate Change”

In 1972, in Stockholm, Sweden, the United Nations General Assembly established World Environment Day.

It is known that humans have the greatest impact on our environment. These impacts are brought about by our economic activities, distribution of wealth and resources, cultural values and lifestyles.

World Environment Week aims to highlight and encourage active support of prolonged and fair living for all. Our Constitution declares that all citizens have a right to an environment that is not harmful to our health and well-being. As citizens of this country we need to be informed about environmental problems and we need to become involved in making environmental decisions. These decisions will be how we use our natural resources – soil, water, air, plants and animals. Decisions also need to be made about the quality of our built environments – homes, places of work, cities and towns. Decisions that will make a difference between our sickness and health that impact the quality of life of many people. Decisions of public interest and concern, such as the safety of drinking water.

Communities play a central role in promoting awareness and understanding in changing attitudes towards environmental problems. Development of partnerships will ensure people enjoy a safer and more fulfilling future.

What will you do during World Environment Week and beyond and what decisions will you make to ensure current and future generations will live a safe and healthy life? To celebrate and appreciate our unique planet and make an effort to save energy, walk or cycle to work, recycle wastes, support local fresh produce markets, wasteful packaging or avoid goods that are harmful to the environment. Or you may want to set up petitions that lead to permanent political action in caring for the environment.

The time is long overdue to stop talking and to take action.

For more on what you can do contact Jeanette Stewart from “Learning through Nature”. Contact details – 033 330 5980, 079 184 5011 or enviro.education@telkomsa.net or contact Share-Net on 033 330 3931 ext 144 or 124