

Dear participants in the Annual GLOBE Conference,  
Dear Ambassador of USA in the Republic of Macedonia Mp.Reeker,  
Dear colleague Todorovski, Minister of Education and Science,  
Dear Mayor of Ohrid Mr. Petreski,  
Dear friends:

Today, I have the special pleasure and honour to address you and on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and on my own behalf, and welcome you in the Republic of Macedonia and the City of Ohrid. I feel privileged and happy in the role of a host to a respectable meeting of this scale, gathering representatives of 23 countries from Europe and Eurasia and advocating exceptionally important and noble mission in two areas of crucial relevance for the future of our world - protection of our environment through learning of it and education of young generations that will inherit it and look after it.

**The GLOBE Program is international project for environmental education or, we may also say, environment protection through education.** It combines the science, the education and the technology at international level, involving around 23.000 schools from more than 111 countries in the world. As such, from the very beginning in 1998, at our delight and pleasure, it has met with the great interest and acceptance both by teachers and students in the schools throughout the Republic of Macedonia and made continuous advancement during the past years, achieving successes worth for respect.

Of course, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning which coordinates the GLOBE related activities in the Republic of Macedonia and manages the international cooperation can not attribute all the merits for this only to itself. On the contrary, this development would not have been possible without the exceptionally good cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, but also without the generous assistance by our friends from the Peace Corps who have contributed significantly to the GLOBE development at national level, as well as all teachers and students who work on the GLOBE Program activities on daily basis.

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We hope that in the coming period, by working with equal dedication and intensifying the cooperation with all stakeholders, we will manage to expand the network to more schools in the country. We are convinced that their results and achievements will contribute to the further development of GLOBE and reach the level of achievements of their fellows from other countries.

We all know that children learn with ease of new technologies and skills and exactly for this reason their contribution to science, under the professional and careful guidance by their educators, can be invaluable. No single national government or international organization is able to provide such a high number of different measurements in real time at that many locations as can be provided by the network of GLOBE students. Today, in the world of rapid technological and even more climate change, this is of enormous importance and unique opportunity for international scientists to acquire real picture of the state in different parts of the world and thus broadcast and project the possible paths of development and steps and measures necessary for mankind adaptation in order to survive on our Planet.

On the other side, by providing undisputable contribution to global science, GLOBE students cultivate their sense for science, mathematics and advanced technology and observe the results from their research directly and these are ***to the benefit of all of us, our global environment and our future.***

Dear participants,

I hope that you will have a pleasant stay during these few days in Ohrid, which rightfully enjoys the protection of UNESCO as world cultural and natural heritage and take with you nice impressions for the natural beauties, but also for the people of this country who offer to you their hospitality and sincere feelings and wishes for coexistence of all nations in the world, and all this towards the protection of the environment and sustaining the wellbeing in our common home - the Earth.

Thank you