

## Climate ambassador captures the stage

COPENHAGEN, 7 December 2009 – Hundreds of COP15 participants listened as newly minted Climate Ambassador Axam Maumoon, 15, Maldives, captured the stage during a conference with prominent co-panelists as Danish Prime Minister and host of COP15 Lars Lokke Rasmussen and CEO Jose Maria Figueres, Concordia21.



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Axam Maumoon, young climate ambassador from Maldives, spoke today at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen

"The voices, the concerns and the pain of all the children of the world ring true in my heart. My eyes go moist, not when I see a movie, not when I lose a football game, certainly not when I give away my toys, but because I understand how it feels to see my future and be forced to let it go," Mahmoud began his talk.

Speaking about living in an era of climate injustice, the young climate ambassador pointed out that "Those with more than enough are damaging our world blindly in the common cause of development, while those with nothing suffer to the point at which we just cannot see the end of it."



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Left to Right, Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Danish Prime Minister and Axam Maumoon, young climate ambassador from Maldives during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen

Maumoon is one of eight climate ambassadors selected after last week's Children's Climate Forum to represent the youth at the COP15.

He was the last speaker and the only one except for Lars Lokke Rasmussen using the podium. "This is how I practiced," he said. "Since the future is for our children, you must first think about this: how old will your children be in 2050? Or will they be lucky to survive this dying earth? We are late, but not too late. Trust me; the best time to act is now. Thank you, I am Mohamed Axam Maumoon from the Maldives, representing and carrying all the voices of all the children of the world, including your own."

Maumoon's talk ended with the audience applauding standing and clapping .

Other speakers included Kumi Naidoo, Executive Director, Greenpeace International, Wang Guangtao, Chairman, Environment Protection and Resources Conservation Committee, National People's Congress of China, David Blood, Senior Partner, Generation Investment Management and Katherine Richardson, Vice Dean, University of Copenhagen.