



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

ENO Programme is celebrating its 10th anniversary today. Environment Online – ENO is a global virtual school and network for sustainable development where schools around the world study same environmental topics and concrete deeds for the environment. Millions of children and youth have been involved with their teachers and local communities. ENO is an example that small can become big and one can make a difference, also at schools.

Tree planting is the most popular activity in the ENO Programme. It is a concrete deed for the environment. Today trees are planted in the North, South, East and West. Thousands of schools in about 150 countries are planting trees today. Schools have already planted 5 million trees and are working on to 100 million trees by 2017 when Finland will celebrate its 100th anniversary. This forest has no borders.

Tree planting is also a deed for peace. Today is the international day of peace. The United Nations has chosen the theme Youth, Peace and Development for this year's observance. The Millennium Development Goals are eight international development goals that all United Nations member states have agreed to achieve by the year 2015. They include reducing extreme poverty, reducing child mortality rates, fighting disease epidemics such as AIDS, and developing a global partnership for development. All of them are based upon the premise that **development must be for peace**. Children and youth around the world are reminding us of peace today and plant trees together.

Warm congratulations to the ENO Programme and all the participants. Make this a memorable day locally and globally.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tarja Halonen".

Tarja Halonen

The President of the Republic of Finland