

## LONDON 2012: TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE



In the summer of 2012, the UK will come alive with the Olympic and Paralympic Games - a fantastic experience for participants and viewers, both within and outside of the UK. In the run up to the Games, the British Embassy plans to hold a series of events to mark the occasion and highlight some of the British Government's key messages in Syria. This year the focus of these events will be on climate change and the environment. Britain, which employs 400,000 people in an environment industry worth £25 billion, is taking the lead in tackling climate security - undoubtedly one of the greatest challenges of our generation, which demands mass global response.

In December 2008 British Embassy volunteers joined a group to clean up selected areas in Damascus and distribute brochures and canvas bags, as part of a UNDP

campaign for environmental awareness. The Embassy is also planning a tree plantation event, called the Olympic Forest Project, with the participation of British Embassy staff, Syrian officials, volunteers and local sports personalities.

For Syria, the management of general domestic waste and medical waste has been identified as an environmental priority by the Syrian Ministry of Local Government and Environment. The Syrian Ministry of Health has echoed this immediate need. In response, the Foreign & Commonwealth office is helping to provide a British expert from the Environmental Services Association to address a forthcoming seminar in Syria on domestic and medical waste management and disposal of oil production and refining waste.

The British Government is also



taking forward the agenda for environmental awareness in Syria by offering Syrian graduates the opportunity to study in Britain for a Masters degree in the fields of sustainable development and the environment. This is part of the Chevening Scholarship Programme, administered by the British Council (see [www.chevening.com](http://www.chevening.com) for more details). Britain is home to three of the top ten universities in the world and we welcome a million people every year from overseas to study in the UK - so if you are a graduate and aged between 25 - 35 you should consider applying for a scholarship.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a major worldwide tree planting campaign. Under the Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign, people, communities, business and industry, civil society organizations and governments are encouraged to enter tree planting pledges online with the objective of planting at least one billion trees worldwide each year. In a call to further individual and collective action, UNEP has set a new goal of planting 7 billion trees by the end of 2009. The campaign strongly encourages the planting of indigenous trees and trees that are appropriate to the local environment.



ESA represents the UK's waste management and secondary resources industry.



The Members provide essential waste and secondary resources management services to the public and private sectors.

SA works with governments, Parliaments and regulators to bring about a sustainable system of waste management.

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