



Event note

13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP13) Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future 22-29 October 2018 | Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Opening Ceremony

On Monday evening, 22 October COP13 opened under the theme, "Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future" in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The theme for COP13 seeks to highlight the great value of wetlands in cities.

Ministerial Delegations representing 157 countries to the Convention met to assess the progress of the Convention, negotiate 26 resolutions and consider emerging issues and priority actions.

During opening ceremonies, Uruguay, the COP12 host country, handed over the ceremonial Ramsar flag to UAE, transferring the COP Presidency for the next triennium.

Delegates heard opening remarks from Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE, Jorge Rucks, Chair of the Standing Committee and Martha Rojas Urrego Ramsar Convention Secretary General.

Elizabeth Marema, Law and Conventions Division UNEP and Ambassador Thomson UN Secretary General 's Special Envoy for the Ocean, welcomed delegates, considered the Ramsar Convention in the international context. Ambassador Thomson highlighted in particular the critical role of the Convention for the conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems under Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Fundación Global Nature and the Youth Climate Action Network of Samoa (YCAN) were presented with the prestigious Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards in the categories of "Wetland Wise Use" and "Young Wetland Champions" and the Evian Special Prize. Mr. Ma Guangren, China, received a Merit award for lifetime achievement in wetlands conservation and restoration projects in China and Asia.

The Ramsar Awards night also marked 20 years of partnership between the Convention and Danone Group. Within its framework the Danone Group established the Danone-Evian Fund for Water and the Danone Fund for Nature to support the Convention's work to raise awareness and promote the sustainable use and management of wetlands as a source of water.



Jorge Rucks, Vice Minister of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment, Uruguay



Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE



Ambassador Peter Thomson
UN Special Envoy for the Ocean



Martha Rojas Urrego Secretary General
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands



Elizabeth Mrema, UN Environment
Programme (UNEP)



Stewart Maginnis, IUCN



L-R: Facundo Etchebehere, Danone; Cosme Morillo, Fundación Global Nature, Spain; Jorge Rucks, Vice Minister of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment, Uruguay; Samantha Kwan, Youth Climate Action Network, Samoa; Martha Rojas Urrego, Ramsar Secretary General; and Ma Guangren, Director General, China Wetland Conservation Association

See more at: <https://www.ramsar.org/search?f%5B0%5D=type%3Anews#search-news>

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