

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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MEDIA NOTE

2008 Doors to Diplomacy Award Winners Announced

The Department of State is pleased to announce the selection of two winning websites for its 2008 Doors to Diplomacy Award, which is co-sponsored by Global SchoolNet. The awards recognize the websites that best teach young people about the importance of international affairs and diplomacy. Participants, ranging in age from 13 to 18, included more than 190 student teams from 38 countries.

The winning sites are:

--**"The Fight Against Radiation,"** <http://greenimpulse.hit.bg/home.htm>. This website was built by a team of students from Joan Ekzarh Language School in Vratsa, Bulgaria. Their site investigates the relationship between nuclear energy and ecological issues.

--**"Pier2Pier,"** <http://www.pier2pier.net/index.html>, was developed by a team of students from Plantation High School in Plantation, Florida. Their website raises awareness of the threats to marine environments.

Each student member of the two winning Doors to Diplomacy Award teams will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. In addition, the winning coaches will each receive a \$500 cash award.

Judging was performed by student peers and educational professionals, with the final selections made by a team of State Department judges from the Bureau of Public Affairs. The winning sites will be linked from the State Department's youth site at <http://www.future.state.gov> later this month.

Global SchoolNet, <http://www.globalschoolnet.org>, is a non-profit, Internet-based education program. The Doors to Diplomacy Award was specially created for CyberFair, a contest that encourages students and educators to join together to build high-quality, educational websites on a variety of topics. These website entries will be available on the web as learning tools to millions of people around the globe.

To learn more about Doors to Diplomacy projects, visit <http://globalschoolhouse.org/doors>.

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