

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

I am delighted to see you once again here in London for my Foundation's annual awards ceremony.

After a summer when Olympic medals poured over this beautiful capital city, the awards we will be presenting shortly may seem modest. However I believe that like the Olympic spirit which is also very special to me, action in support of the environment is at its pinnacle when it rallies together so much diverse talent from every region of the world around a single ambition.

In this respect, seeing you all here, I can say that although our global fight for the environment is far from won, at least we have won the battle of solidarity and generosity.

My Foundation is pursuing, as you know, a three-fold objective.

This involves firstly the fight against global warming - a universal human-induced scourge which from year to year wreaks havoc on the ecosystems, making our planet more fragile and jeopardising its future. By limiting global warming, we can prevent humankind from destroying the Earth.

Through my Foundation, I am also eager to combat damage to biodiversity; threats to biodiversity are producing a tragedy which is beyond recovery. They raise the question of the role of human-beings in nature whose duty it is to preserve every particle.

Finally, water is the third motivation for this initiative. Because water, today a rare and precious commodity, is still the point of encounter between environmental issues and human challenges. It is often its shortage or poor quality that make humans aware of an environment that is becoming increasingly hostile. And it is water improvement that opens up the path to sustainable development.

With these three issues, I therefore aim to place humans face to face with their responsibilities. To place *us*, each and every one of us, face to face with *our* responsibilities and to endeavour to accept them.

Six years after it was first established, this Foundation has conducted over 200 projects throughout the world. It has successfully initiated major mobilisation efforts.

From China to the shores of the Mediterranean, from Africa to South America, thanks to dozens of concrete projects as well as the implementation of high-level think tanks, it has above all shown that action is possible.

Although reasons for despair in these areas sadly are not lacking, over the last six years we have been able to give hope to women, men and children who had none. At an often local scale - and this is an essential starting point - we have helped to pave the way for progress, especially in particularly vulnerable regions such as the Poles and the Mediterranean, where we are actively and deeply involved. And we have succeeded in making various experts work alongside each other, bringing together institutions and companies, uniting differing viewpoints.

This is undoubtedly the greatest source of pride for me and one which I am very happy to share with you today: to have made this Foundation a tool in supporting joint action. I would like to thank each one of you, who have all helped to achieve such a fantastic result.

The Foundation's teams in Monaco and in its eight foreign branches, whose day-to-day dedication and involvement are for me of course the most invaluable support.

The scientists with whom we work very closely, whom we bring on board depending on each individual project and whose knowledge forms an essential support for us. Thanks to their expertise and knowledge of local conditions, we can guarantee the efficiency of our initiatives, so as to achieve the goals we are pursuing.

The companies and patrons that have placed their trust in us and without whom many of the missions we have undertaken would not have been possible.

Finally our partners with whom we implement concrete action in the field, making environmental protection a reality.

It is this same spirit of dialogue and cooperation that brings us together today - a time to pay tribute to institutions, great figures and great minds that for us, are invaluable guides as well as exceptional allies. All of those to whom we are paying homage today are, in their own way, examples of action open to others, focused on sharing and emulation. They too have raised the question of the responsibilities of human-beings vis-à-vis their environment.

I would like to start with the Stockholm International Water Institute whose Executive Director, Torngny Holmgren, we are pleased to welcome here today. Representing twenty years of discussions and actions carried out since 1991, the SIWI is currently the instigator of many projects devoted to water management. It is also a platform for the exchange of knowledge and a network connecting companies, governments and representatives of political, scientific and civil communities.

Above all, SIWI fosters the harmonious use of this essential resource, in particular through the promotion of integrated water resource management programmes: water usage which is both helpful to the populations and environmentally friendly.

Sir David Attenborough, who unfortunately is unable to be with us today, stands at the interplay between research and action, dissemination of knowledge and mobilisation of consciences. Through his scientific work on the protection of species, his films and scenarios, in addition to his commitment to coming up with solutions to the contradictions of our world, he is above all an outstanding purveyor regarding biodiversity. He is capable of raising awareness and motivating our contemporaries on topics which are often difficult.

Last but not least, we are rendering honour today to Jean Jouzel, whose extensive work for many years has made a key contribution to our knowledge of climate change. Starting with chemical and geochemical research, Jean Jouzel's work has led him to take a wider interest in atmospheric circulation. He is also known for the significant research he has conducted around the Poles, which has directly helped to improve knowledge of the ice fields. Today he is an international climate expert and an eminent IPCC member, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

Through the remarkable actions we are honouring today, I would like to pay tribute to the common commitment of all those I have mentioned towards the conservation of nature of course, but also to human progress - and most of all to the conciliation of these two essential ambitions.

In their own way and in their specific fields, they have all opened the way to responsible action, action which reconciles humans with the environment on which they depend.

I believe that this same ambition is at the heart of the approach adopted by our partner Disney Nature, which once again this year is kindly offering us an exclusive showing of their latest film. I would like to extend my deepest thanks to Disney

Nature's representatives Jean-François Camilleri, Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

I started by mentioning the Olympic spirit that still prevails over London. I think that this evening's award winners will agree that science, like sport, is the pursuit of a common goal, the quest for shared progress, which is for each of them the true reward for their constant efforts.

And yet, I feel it is also important to make time for these distinctions. Not to establish hierarchies or set individuals and institutions against each other, but to express our appreciation for these men and women to whom we owe so much.

"Science has no homeland", said Pasteur. It nevertheless has heroes who deserve our admiration.

I would like to say a big thank you to all of you.