

Part of ML Tri's Graduation Speech, June 2008

We have heard the words global and green many times, but it is so crucial that it must be repeated and repeated, again and again.

The planet earth is our one and only home.

But we are not treating her as we would our own houses

- Imagine, what would happen to our comfortable houses if we used them as we are treating the earth.
- Imagine, that everything we need, want, and eat must be made from pieces of the house – its floor, its roof, its walls. If we don't control ourselves, how long will the house last?
- Imagine, burning pieces of the house to cook, to keep warm, to make light.
- Imagine, that the size of our family keeps increasing.
- Imagine, that the house's windows are sealed. The air we breath is only what is in the house.
- Imagine, that the house is floating in space. There is no way to move to another.
- Then imagine, that some members of the family want more of the house than others and, in the conflict, the house is burned down.

What we are doing to the planet earth, our only home, is unfortunately,
not imaginary

It is

a very disturbing reality

All my life I have been told that, if population growth is not contained, then in the future there would not be enough food, water, natural resources for all and the environment would be changed entirely. I always thought that these were problems for future generations to solve.

I never thought global warming, food shortages, massive pollution, and wars over diminishing petroleum and other natural resources could occur in my life time.

Yet, this is happening ever more rapidly –

not century by century

not decade by decade

not year by year

not month by month

but day by day

Is it too late?

Some say it is.

But, still we must have hope.

I firmly believe

that hope comes through.

Be global in all your future thoughts and actions.

This is the only way to bring peace and cooperation throughout the world

I urge you to keep GLOBAL and GREEN as your life's principles.

Being GREEN is being conscious of the effects of every action one takes.