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MANY STRONG VOICES LAUNCHES PUBLICATION, ACTIVE AT COP15

COPENHAGEN: The Many Strong Voices group, a unique ad-hoc grouping of small island developing states (SIDS) and Arctic peoples bound by a common interest in combating climate change, is in Copenhagen to push for a strong successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol.

Many Strong Voices (MSV) is also raising international awareness of the plight of its members, which include some of the most vulnerable peoples and regions of the world.

In cooperation with partner organization the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research - Oslo (CICERO), MSV has a booth displaying images from member countries and making available its publications and other materials.

Among the publications to be made available is *Many Strong Voices: Turning Vulnerability into Strength*, which will be made available for the first time to participants at COP15 and is available for download at <http://www.manystrongvoices.org>

The booklet highlights the work of MSV, outlines some of the latest science trends and highlights climate-related impacts now being experienced by its members. Personal narratives and photographs from individuals in MSV countries feature prominently. Innovative maps and illustrations created for the booklet by UNEP/GRID-Arendal help to visualize climate change issues in these regions as never before.

MSV has organized or is a partner in a number of events during the 15th Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen from 7-18 December. Ranging from celebrations of Arctic and island cultures to policy debates on the human rights element of the climate issue, these events offer insight into the nature of the group's work. A diverse range of speakers and performers includes Nobel Peace Prize nominee Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Ambassador Ronny Jumeau of the Seychelles, and the Inuit cultural performance group PANG. A complete list of events and activities is available from <http://www.manystrongvoices.org>.

The MSV-sponsored initiative entitled *Portraits of Resilience* features photographs from five youth groups throughout the Arctic displayed at the Danish National Museum. Presentations by the *Portraits* photographers and related cultural performers will take place throughout the COP at various locations in Copenhagen. The exhibition itself will run through 30 December at the Danish National Museum. More information is available at <http://www.manystrongvoices.org/news/4067.aspx>.

MSV is an alliance of Indigenous Peoples Organizations, NGOs, researchers, policymakers, community organizations and others in over 20 Arctic and SIDS nations. MSV works to build alliances in these countries raise awareness of the impacts of climate change these people face and to generate practical mitigation and adaptation solutions through innovative community-based research and knowledge exchange. The programme is coordinated by UNEP/GRID-Arendal and the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research - Oslo (CICERO).

The 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will meet in Copenhagen from 7-18 December.

For more information:

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