

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

Good Evening,

I am delighted to be among you tonight for an evening focused on conviviality and dialogue.

Let me first thank Jacky Deromedi, President of my Foundation's Singapore branch, who also acts as our Consul General of Monaco, and her team for organising this event. We will experience exceptional moments of sharing on issues for which we all have a common awareness.

Despite the oceans that separate our countries, despite the different specificities of our lives, despite the good fortune we have, in Singapore and in Monaco alike, of being preserved to some extent from the tumults and the crisis the world is facing, we share the same awareness, the same concern and the same need to act in the face of the dangers that threaten our planet and our environment.

We are seeing an increase in extreme phenomena - hurricanes, floods, drought and tsunamis - proof of the general disruption to the global climate system linked to the warming of the atmosphere and its countless consequences.

You have probably seen the latest figures published just a few days ago, which show that global greenhouse gas emissions rose by 2.5% in 2011, meaning that they have increased by over 50% since 1990. This situation seriously jeopardises any hope of limiting the global average temperature rise to 2°C over the course of this century, an increase above which significant upheaval is considered unavoidable by scientists.

We can also see that the Arctic sea ice, which seemed to be eternal, is already endangered, and that its retreat, now forecast, will in turn accelerate global warming.

We know that ocean acidity levels are constantly increasing, already posing problems not only for certain species and certain economic activities, but for the entire marine ecosystem.

We cannot remain indifferent to the fact that 5,000m² of primary forest is destroyed every second, that 3 species die out every hour, and that finally it is a little piece of each of us that disappears.

We are all aware of these phenomenon. Passiveness, inevitability or abandonment is not acceptable. It is the reason of our presence this evening.

Moreover, I know that you, as citizens, are making efforts and committed to finding an effective solution in these dangers. You, as consumers, are also engaging whatever possible, vigilant to the impact of your actions. Finally, you, as company directors, are taking action as economic growth cannot eternally impact on the degradation of natural resources.

The green economy is considered a profitable perspective and therefore cannot be ignored.

With my responsibilities, I too have been taking action by way of these various measures. I do so by actively taking part in many international fora where the future of our environment is decided. I do so by strongly supporting the scientists who enlighten us on these realities. And I do so by encouraging, in Monaco and elsewhere, various innovative companies in the fields of renewable energies and environmental protection.

Faced with these global issues, which bring into play many parameters and many players, no one can act effectively in the change of the course of the events if acting alone.

It is one of the reasons why in 2006 I created a tool that would be more efficient, more concrete and more readily operational. This tool is my Foundation for which we are gathered here tonight.

In its six years of existence, my Foundation has already conducted over two hundred projects across the globe, in three key areas: climate, biodiversity and water. From the African deserts to Canada's northern forests, from the Mediterranean shores to the South-East Asian forests, all these activities are implemented in close cooperation with local partners.

The challenge is, for each project, ensuring the greatest effectiveness possible, through maximally targeted action, both on fauna and flora, but also on the activity and life of the local populations.

Having met many of these communities suffering from environmental degradation, I know that no progress can be achieved without their implication, and more importantly nothing can be achieved if acting against them.

Our actions must be guided with a spirit of partnership and dialogue. With States, international organisations and major environmental protection institutions, which for us are natural partners. With companies and local stakeholders who represent an essential power of initiative. And with the populations who are the prerequisite for success at the same time as the goal of any earnest action for the preservation of nature.

Through fauna, flora and the climate, it is always life that we are endeavouring to preserve.

The life and the environment for future generations who will succeed us on this planet and to whom we have the duty to hand down an unspoilt nature.

It is a heavy burden of responsibility but it is also an exciting mission. Together, we can make changes in a truly effective, sustainable and shared manner.

Though, it may sometimes seem impossible considering the scale of the task, we must never lose hope, but on the contrary, we must remember the words of the First Lady of the United States, Eleanor Roosevelt: "You must do the thing you think you cannot do".

This evening, I have come to thank you for doing with us what many people think is still impossible: Improve the future of our world. Thank you.