

BILL CLINTON'S GLOBAL INITIATIVE

"One commitment of action inspires a myriad others"

According to experts, pundits and journalists, the Clinton Global Initiative (referred to as the *Clinton summit* by some) achieves more than the United Nations or the World Economic Forum
By Sam Cherribi



President Clinton and Olafur Grimsson, President of Iceland



Star activists for hunger



Former President of Ireland and President of Realizing Rights Mary Robinson, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, José Ramos Horta, and Chairman and CEO of News Corporation, Rupert Murdoch.



The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) has become the Mecca for philanthropists and philanthropic activity around the globe. The global political agenda on education, climate change, global health, and poverty elevation are determined here at the Clinton summit. The summit functions as a consensus machine for large corporations, political leaders, NGOs, and grass roots organizations. The charismatic ex-President Clinton is charming, full of energy, wisdom, and great

vision. All the participants share the feeling of inspiration when he looks at the public, smiles, and lays out his vision for a better global future. From Angelina Jolie to John Chambers (CEO of Cisco Systems), from Rupert Murdoch to Muhammad Yunus (winner of the Nobel Peace Prize), from Jalal Talabani (President of Iraq) to Mohammed al Gergawi (the United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Chairman of The Executive Office, and the Executive Chairman and CEO of

Dubai Holding, the UAE's leading multi-industry holding company), Clinton's message resonates well. As he delivers closing remarks after three days of hard work at his third successful annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative, he says that when the commitments are fully implemented, they will have a positive impact on the lives of over 100 million people around the globe. "I'm ecstatic about the work that's been done here over the past three days. We have seen firsthand that one

commitment of action inspires a myriad others. The quality and level of commitments that we have seen this year are a testament to the positive impact our CGI members and initiatives are having around the world." Now consider this: five million children will be enabled to enroll in school for the first time; fifty million people will have access to treatment of neglected tropical diseases; 170 million acres of forests will be protected or restored, and 1.2 million people will be empowered with increased access to

sustainable incomes. Clinton continues, "I believe the world has never needed a community of givers more than it does today. CGI-U will serve as a catalyst for commitments of action by young people around the country to make a difference in their world." This year, more than 1300 political, business, and NGO leaders came to New York from all over the world to meet at the Clinton Global Initiative. Online videos and podcasts were broadcast more than

500,000 times via the internet to others who wished to share the experience but could not be present. Since the initiative's inception in 2005, hundreds of leaders from dozens of countries have spoken at the summit. They have made in excess of six hundred commitments to address poverty, education, climate change, and health issues. Over a thousand organizations in over a hundred countries are working towards these goals. <