Hello Everyone. I am Dr. Tony Murphy, Director of the GLOBE Implementation Office speaking to you from Boulder, Colorado, USA.

I am very pleased to be with you today to celebrate a significant educational achievement in Croatia: The 20th Anniversary of GLOBE in Croatia, which has contributed to a strong national program in Earth System Science. My sincere thanks to Croatia’s National Coordinator Diana Garacic, for providing this opportunity to speak to you; and to

* Director of the Education and Teacher Training Agency

JADRANKA ŽARKOVIĆ PEČENKOVIĆ

* Minister of Science and Education Dr. Vedran Mornar,
* US Ambassador Ms. Juliette Vallis Noyes

…and all of you there today in Zagreb, for participating.

I have some impressive statistics to share with you about GLOBE in Croatia, but before I get to that --for the sake of everyone who is new to GLOBE-- let me share with you a brief description of this amazing worldwide program that unites all of us here today.

The Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (or GLOBE) Program was launched on Earth Day 1995, emerging from a vision of a science and education program that would involve students from around the world in inquiry – based investigations of the Earth System. The GLOBE Community has made that vision a reality by involving millions of students in 116 countries in contributing more than 130 million environmental measurements to the GLOBE database. Students and scientists use that database in valuable research about the Earth System. Today is a day to celebrate the commitment and passion of the GLOBE Community in Croatia and to honor the contributions of Croatia’s students, teachers, alumni, partners, scientists and supporters.

Those of you who have been involved with GLOBE will find much to reflect upon today because you know how far we have come. GLOBE has shown us that Earth Science is important and can influence our way of life, from lesson learned through hands-on investigations in the classroom and out-of-doors. GLOBE fosters international cooperation and collaboration, giving students and all of us the opportunity to interact with each other across borders and oceans. GLOBE takes us outside to take measurements of key indicators of the Earth system, and encourages students to share their results, research and experiences. While doing GLOBE we develop a keen love and respect for the natural world and realize our potential for being caretakers of Earth.

GLOBE is fun, hands-on science. But GLOBE is also a challenge. For twenty years, GLOBE has been summoning students to play an active role in adding to our global awareness of our home planet and, for 20 years, students and teachers in Croatia have been rising to that challenge.

Currently there are 249 teachers, and 31 pre-service teachers trained in GLOBE working in 195 schools, in Croatia. In April of this year, in celebration of Earth Day, we held a Data Entry Challenge and asked students in GLOBE countries all over the world to report their valuable environmental measurements to the GLOBE database. We announced our top data contributors in each of GLOBE’s six regions. Did you know that Croatia came in ***first place in all Europe and Eurasia*** in collecting and reporting measurements of the Atmosphere and Biosphere, and ranked among the top three countries in Hydrosphere and Soil? Croatia also ranked***first in the region overall*** for **total number** of environmental measurements contributed during the Challenge. Over the past 20 years, GLOBE students in Croatia have contributed almost 7 million measurements! Croatia has in fact, become a model of student engagement; and students and teachers in Croatia have a lot to be proud of today.

This past July, I invited Diana Garasic, one of GLOBE’s ardent supporters and advocates, to address our Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, to share with others in the community her knowledge of how to build a successful national program. Her talk was very inspiring and you are fortunate to have her there with you today. Diana represented Europe and Eurasia on the GLOBE International Advisory from 2010-2012, has been part of the Tree Ring Project and many events and trainings, and she will always be considered an important builder of the worldwide GLOBE Community. Thank you Diana for your dedications, your years of service, and your valuable contributions to the students of Croatia and to GLOBE.

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Our planet is changing. Our aim is to help prepare students for the future by developing in them a life-long love of science and a commitment to life-long stewardship of the Earth. GLOBE is a powerful tool for inspiring students in this important work.

Some of you will be staying for the Training Event tomorrow, which will introduce you to GLOBE’s hands-on approach to learning. I am pleased to be able to connect with you at the beginning of your journey to become part of the worldwide GLOBE community and I look forward to seeing Croatia continue to be a world leader in GLOBE. I hope you’ll take a look at our website ([www.globe.gov](http://www.globe.gov)), try out our new mobile app for data collection, and encourage your students to enter the International Virtual Science Fair this Spring.

GLOBE has grown into a vibrant community throughout the entire world and I thank you for being a part of it. I wish you all an enjoyable and productive meeting and training session over the next two days. Happy Anniversary everyone. Dobra Don!