



MEDIA RELEASE

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Chinese Yellow River project chosen as finalist in International Thies Riverprize

A groundbreaking Chinese river management project has been announced as a finalist in the prestigious AUD\$300,000 (EU\$189,000) International Thies Riverprize - the world's largest prize in its field.

The Yellow River project, initiated by the Yellow River Conservancy Commission (YRCC), was chosen as a finalist for tackling flood control and soil erosion in China's second largest river.

The winners of the International Thies Riverprize will be announced at a special ceremony on Tuesday 4 September 2007 during the 10th International Riversymposium and Environmental Flows Conference in the city of Brisbane, Australia, from 3 to 6 September. The International Thies Riverprize is a partnership between the International Riverfoundation (IRF) and Riverfestival.

YRCC Director General Professor Hongqi Shang said the Commission has worked hard to address water management for the "mother river" of Chinese civilisation.

"Over the past 50 years rapid development in the Yellow River basin caused flooding, soil erosion, water shortages and the deterioration of water quality," Professor Shang said.

"The YRCC successfully united nine independent provinces covered by the Yellow River to address flood control, environmental and ecological protection and social and economic development of the Yellow River basin," he said.

"More than 28,000 people have worked on the YRCC project to maintain good river health for the 150 million people living in the Yellow River basin.

"The Yellow River is experiencing a new era and we are proud to be witnessing positive change. We believe the International Thies Riverprize provides an opportunity to exchange ideas and further enable best practice water resource management around the world."

Riversymposium Chair Professor Paul Greenfield said the YRCC project exemplifies the spirit of the International Thies Riverprize.

"Many countries are facing a water crisis and now more than ever it is important for the International Thies Riverprize to reward and promote best practice water management. All people involved in the Yellow River project should feel proud their efforts have been recognised in this way."

Three other government and community groups from Austria, New Zealand and Canada received recognition as finalists for the Australian prize for their work in tackling pollution, water quality, erosion and flooding.

More information on the International Thies Riverprize can be found at www.riversymposium.com.

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Additional information and images are available upon request.

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