



MEDIA RELEASE

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Finalists from four countries vie for International Thies Riverprize

Four groundbreaking river management projects from Canada, New Zealand, China and Austria have been announced as finalists in the prestigious AUD\$300,000 International Thies Riverprize - the world's largest prize in its field.

Government and community groups from across the globe have received recognition from the Australian prize for their work in tackling pollution, water quality, erosion and flooding.

Riversymposium Chair Professor Paul Greenfield said the innovative projects combined science, public policy and community action and exemplified the spirit of the International Thies Riverprize.

"The four international finalists competing for the AUD\$300,000 International Thies Riverprize are; a collaborative approach by 13 European Union countries to improve the Danube River in Austria, a community development project managing stormwater and beautification projects in Waitakere in New Zealand, a project tackling flood control and water resource management for The Yellow River in China and a cooperative effort to improve water quality and restore coldwater fish stocks in Lake Simcoe in Canada."

"The inspirational outcomes of each finalist project were made possible through collaboration between scientists, landowners, community groups and government agencies and have changed the future of many irreplaceable waterways," he said.

Professor Greenfield said many countries are facing a water crisis and now more than ever it is important to reward and promote projects addressing river and global warming issues through science, public policy and community action.

The winners will be announced at a special ceremony on Tuesday 4 September 2007 during the 10th International Riversymposium and Environmental Flows Conference in Brisbane, 3 to 6 September.

The International Thies Riverprize is a partnership between the International Riverfoundation (IRF) and Riverfestival, an annual 10 day celebration of Brisbane's river, people, culture and environment. The prize money is funded by IRF and the awards are managed by Riverfestival.

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

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Additional information and images for International Thies Riverprize finalists are available upon request.

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