



Media Release

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Prize money increased for Riverprize awards

The International Riverfoundation today announced a \$100,000 increase in prize money for the prestigious National and International Thiess Riverprizes, in turn increasing the stature and focus of the awards.

Mr Martin Albrecht, Chair of International Riverfoundation, said it is fitting to increase the prize money, given the dire situation faced by many groups and organisations working to save our international rivers and waterways.

“There has never been a more important time to increase awareness of water management and to recognise those groups achieving world class results. The awards are a fundamental part of driving interest in water issues both nationally and internationally. Of further relevance is that this year marks the celebration of the 10th International Riversymposium,” Mr Albrecht said.

“Increasing the prize money not only makes the award more appealing to nominees, it comes at a time when the topic of water management and sustainability is everyone’s priority.

“The National and International Thiess Riverprizes are a critical part of identifying the world’s best practice in water management and we know the increased prize money will be put to good use to save our waterways,” he said.

Nominations for the National and International Thiess Riverprizes, worth a total of \$400,000, close on Friday March 30.

Winners will be given their prize during a special ceremony at the 10th International Riversymposium and Environmental Flows Conference from 3 – 6 September 2007. Award recipients are encouraged to establish a twinning project with another catchment in need of knowledge and expertise to ensure the award-winning water management techniques of Riverprize winners are passed on to other groups.

The Thiess Riverprize is a partnership between the International Riverfoundation and Riverfestival, an annual 10 day celebration of Brisbane’s river, people, culture and environment.

Riversymposium Chair, Professor Paul Greenfield, said the \$100,000 National Thiess Riverprize and the \$300,000 International Thiess Riverprize offers organisations committed to water sustainability a unique opportunity to put their river rescue ideas into action.

“The prizes recognise best practice in the restoration and preservation of waterways in both Australia and overseas with past entries coming from Australia, U.S.A, China, Canada and Europe,” Professor Greenfield said.

“Like many countries, Australia is in the grip of a water crisis and now more than ever it is encouraging to see projects both here and overseas combining science, public policy and community action to address river and global warming issues.”

“The extraordinary achievements by individuals and groups who are passionate about good water management never cease to amaze the judging panel.”

Since the first Thiess Riverprize winner was announced at Riverfestival in 1999, the award has evolved into one of the most highly regarded and richest international water management awards.

Information and nomination guidelines for Riverprize can be found at www.riversymposium.com.

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