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MEDIA RELEASE

Young scientist wins award for helping to save Australia's rivers

Brisbane PHD student Simon Linke from Yeronga was today awarded the 2007 *Riversymposium* Young Water Scientist Award for his research project which is helping to improve Australia's waterways.

Simon Linke was presented with the award during a gala dinner at the 10th International *Riversymposium* & Environmental Flows Conference in Brisbane on Tuesday 4 September.

He was awarded \$3,000 for his research project – a computerised analysis that helps identify freshwater rivers in danger and suggests ways land owners and managers can best manage their valuable ecosystems.

A prototype for the software is currently being developed and discussions are being held with Brisbane City Council and the NSW Environmental Protection Authority to implement the system in late 2008.

Riversymposium Chair Professor Paul Greenfield said the International *Riversymposium* was pleased with the high standard and level of innovation shown by this year's finalists.

"The judging panel was extremely impressed by the three groundbreaking research projects. They each demonstrated they possess the qualities we are looking for - good communication skills, a real understanding of industry needs and knowledge of high-quality science," Professor Greenfield said.

The two other finalists were Heather McGinness from Canberra who revealed the importance of links between rivers and catchments and Yaron Zinger from Melbourne who invented a mechanism to reduce the nitrogen levels of unhealthy rivers.

The International *Riversymposium* Young Scientist Award is conducted in partnership with GHD and the Water Forum Cooperative Research Centres and invites young scientists to present papers outlining their water research projects.

The judges – GHD business manager for water and environment Ross Fryar, Griffith University's Michelle Burford, and consultants Ian Rae and Nick Schofield – praised Mr Linke's research and commended all finalists on their high standard of entry.

Since its inception in 1998 the award has evolved into a prestigious annual event to celebrate the excellence of young Australian water scientists.

More information on the award and the 10th International *Riversymposium* & Environmental Flows Conference can be found at www.riversymposium.com.

For more information or to arrange an interview with award finalists or spokespeople, please contact:

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International *Riversymposium* is part of Riverfestival, an initiative of Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Government.

