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Media Release

12th International Riversymposium

Over the last 11 years the International Riversymposium has been addressing the many critical issues important to managing rivers from the protection of wild rivers to the human health implications of polluted rivers, governance and water markets, economics and water front celebrations. The Riversymposium seeks to contribute to global awareness and promotes the exchange of ideas, knowledge and technology between industry, science, community and environmental organisations.

The 12th International Riversymposium is a significant world event for water and river management. Running from 21 – 24 September 2009, the theme is 'Rivers from Source to Sea' and leading international scientists, industry experts, community groups, NGOs, lawyers, economists, bureaucrats and business people will gather to explore the challenges and solutions associated with attaining healthy rivers.

The strength of the Riversymposium lies in the breadth and quality of its program content. The 2009 program will feature presentations on innovative practices and case studies from all over the world and a wide range of perspectives on river management for both people and ecosystem health. With drought and flood having major impacts on the Australian landscape in recent years, there will also be a strong national focus and an emphasis on the many issues facing South East Queensland.

Keynote speakers for 2009 include –

- Phil Anthony, Director, Orange County Water District, California, USA
- Professor Charles Vorosmarty, Director of the City University of New York's Environmental Cross-Roads Initiative
- Jonathon Kaledin, Director of The Nature Conservancy's Blue Water Certification Program
- Mike Muller, Visiting Professor at the Wits University Graduate School of Public and Development Management

Case studies to be presented include –

- The Han River, Korea - Dr Sung Kim, Director of Sustainable Water Resources Research Centre
- The Amur River, Russia - Dr Yury Darman, Ph.D. Director, WWF-Russia, Amur Branch
- The Rhine River, Germany – Anne Schulte-Wülwer-Leidig, Deputy Secretary, International Commission for Protection of the Rhine River

Approximately 150 presentations will be delivered over the 4 days with thematic focuses on –

- Environmental flows for rivers and estuaries
- Upstream effects on downstream communities
- Urban waters
- Challenges for estuarine health
- Water quality – maintenance and monitoring
- Governance and institutional arrangements
- Water markets
- The people issues – community engagement
- Agriculture and water
- Industry and rivers – keeping the balance right
- Climate change and rivers – dealing with droughts, floods and uncertainties.

.../More

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Brisbane Australia 21 - 24 September 2009

For further information regarding these themes and the program, please visit – www.riversymposium.com

For 2009, the 12th International Riversymposium will be held concurrently with the 7th IWA World Congress on Water Reclamation and Reuse, both using the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre. A joint opening session on Monday 21 September will launch both events and delegates will have access to a common exhibition and catering area with the opportunity to attend networking functions.

The Riversymposium recognises excellence with four major prizes awarded during the program. The Thies International Riverprize is the best example of successful river management globally; the National Riverprize recognises outstanding work within Australia. The Young Water Scientist Award is awarded for the best postgraduate work on water following assessment of a report and a presentation of the work during the Riversymposium and a new award for senior high school students will be the Seqwater Future Leaders School Challenge.

Registrations for the 12th International Riversymposium are now open. Registrations are made online and information regarding costs and inclusions can be found at the website – www.riversymposium.com

Riversymposium is managed by an unincorporated joint venture between The University of Queensland, Griffith University, International Riverfoundation and International WaterCentre. Riversymposium is supported by the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council.

The 12th International Riversymposium is presented as part of Brisbane Festival 2009.

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For further information on the 12th International Riversymposium, contact –

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Riversymposium is a joint venture of:



Riversymposium is supported by:



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