

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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FINALISTS ANNOUNCED IN THE 11TH INTERNATIONAL THIESS RIVERPRIZE

Outstanding river restoration projects from England, Canada, Central America, China and USA are vying for the coveted 2009 International ThieSS Riverprize. Awarded by the International Riverfoundation for demonstrated best practice in river restoration or management, International ThieSS Riverprize is valued at \$AUD 350,000.

International ThieSS Riverprize Judging Panel Chair, Professor Paul Greenfield, said this year's finalists are truly yin and yang as they range from a project in Guatemala Polochic Basin involving 26 families, to the improved management of the Yellow River, China, at over 5,000km and everything in-between. Nominations for this year's International ThieSS Riverprize were of such a high standard that judges chose five finalists for their outstanding efforts to restore waterways:

1. Avon River, England - submitted by Natural England for demonstrating innovative measures to engage local communities in protecting and enhancing important river habitats
2. Lake Simcoe, Canada - submitted by Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority for a sustainable approach to managing its watershed
3. Lower Owens River, USA - submitted by City of Los Angeles for significant improvement of an urban river.
4. Polochic Basin, Guatemala - submitted by WWF (Central America) for an innovative project integrating economic and environmental outcomes.
5. Yellow River, China - submitted by Yellow River Conservancy Commission for reducing sedimentation and capping extraction to ensure the river reaches the sea every year.

The winner of the 2009 International ThieSS Riverprize will be announced at the gala Riverprize presentation dinner on Tuesday 22 September at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland during the 12th International Riversymposium (21-24 September 2009).

International Riverfoundation is a proud partner of the International Riversymposium – a vibrant four day international event that brings together key players in river management from a wide range of science, education, governmental, NGO and business backgrounds from around the world to share and discuss the latest developments in river, lake and wetlands management. Riverfoundation's website www.riverfoundation.org.au

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Further information on each finalist and images are available on request. Contact:

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