

CROATIA: Celebration, commemoration and thanks on the banks of the Danube

Festivities and commemoration spread the Danube Day message in Croatia with Vukovar and Zlatna Greda (in Baranja County) hosting the main events.

For the third year in a row, a fabulous day of festivities at Zlatna Greda Eco Centre near Kopacki rit Nature Park got everyone saluting the Danube River. More than 100 visitors enjoyed a great day of adventures with horse riding, carriage trips, forest hikes, boat rides and a coach tour through the Baranja region. Traditional musicians and entertainers were on hand to get everyone dancing and laughing and crafts, local food, Danube displays and eco-products were featured.

Later in the year, the eco centre hosted the opening of the new cross-border Osijek-Sombor cycle path. Linking Croatia and Serbia, the cycle path will help develop relations between people living on either side of the Danube.

Vukovar's Danube Day combined celebration, commemoration and a day of thanks to those who had worked so hard during the dramatic Danube floods of April 2006. Organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Water Management and Croatian Waters, the day saw the premier of a documentary on the effort and bravery of workers to limit the flooding. *Days of the Great Waves* demonstrated the immense power of the Danube and Drava and the day and night battle that took place last April to contain the high waters.

The actions of Croatian Waters, the Croatian Army, Police, Fire Brigades, Civil Protection and local citizens prevented major damage. Employees were singled out for special commendation in speeches by Petar Čobanković, Croatian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry & Water Management; Zdravko Krmek, State Secretary for Water Management; Božo Galić, Vukovarsko-srijemska District Prefect and Slavko Rajnović, General Manager of Croatian Waters. Beautiful traditional Slavonian songs and dance heightened the celebratory atmosphere. During the

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river trip, the Minister commemorated all victims of the war in Croatia, laying a wreath in the waters of the Danube.

“We all want that Danube serves to the people. Still, we have to be aware of adverse effects of water, as we had opportunity to get know it on spring this year. Therefore, it is necessary to take joint action in order to prevent that Danube shows its other face.”

Petar Čobanković, Minister for Agriculture Forestry and Water Management

Partners

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