

GERMANY: Enhancing the Danube identity

Celebrations took place on both eastern and western sections of the Danube in Germany with festivities in the magnificent historic towns of Regensburg, Bavaria, and Riedlingen, Baden-Württemberg.

400 Regensburg children were captivated by creepy-crawlies and fun water experiments at a *Water and Life Day* on the Danube island of Jahninsel. Junior explorers not only learnt about water biology and science but also tracked the elusive beaver on a mammal hunt along the water front. Also they could learn about impacts on the bavarian Danube by planned hydropower plant. The event was organised by the Water Management Agency with Bund Naturschutz, LBV, f.u.n.-Umweltbildungsstätte, Erfahrungsfeld zur Entfaltung der Sinne from Nürnberg Council and REWAG (Regensburg Energy and Water Supply Agency).

Adults didn't miss out on the fun with a major *Water Is the Future* exhibition and Action Weekends at the Danube Shopping Centre. Interactive models, games and computer simulations caught the attention of shoppers and the media, organized by the Water Management Agency Regensburg. 1000+ visitors per day had the chance to learn more about the Danube environment and flood protection (including impacts of flooding in Romania and Bulgaria plus protection for their own city). Families enjoyed coming face-to-face with the weird and wonderful creatures that lurk deep in the Danube.

The search to find 2006's Danube Art Master focused on 7 schools from the Regensburg area, whose pupils were inspired to produce 400 delightful artworks in a myriad of vibrant colours. Organised by the Water Management Agency Regensburg with Bund Naturschutz Bayern and REWAG, a jury of famous artists awarded the top prize of 1500 € to Water Carpet – a vivid patchwork of Danube images in every hue - and Danube Sprite – a glowing silver water spirit swimming amongst rainbow fish. In a true show of Danube Solidarity, the artworks were auctioned and proceeds distributed to flood victims in Romania and Bulgaria.

Danube Day: more than just water!

For general information view www.danubeday.org or email: jasmine.bachmann@unvienna.org.



Further up the Danube, the city of Riedlingen made ecology fun with the ecological car, a mobile classroom dedicated to the environment. Classes of 10-13 year olds spent the day designing ecological flood protection projects in an event organised by the Tübingen Regional Council, Aktion lebendige Donau des BUND, the German Environmental Union and the City of Riedlingen. An opening ceremony and Danube lectures were attended by government officials and the press.

“Flood protection and water ecology are two sides of the same coin.”

Hubert Wicker, President of the governmental district of Tübingen on the occasion of Danube Day 2006 in Riedlingen.

Germany

Bavarian Water Management Agency of Regensburg • Bavarian State Ministry of Environment, Health & Consumer Protection • Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety • REWAG (Regensburg Energy & Water Supply Agency) • Bund Naturschutz in Bayern • Landesbund für Vogelschutz (LBV) • Erfahrungsfeld der Sinne (Nürnberg) • Donumenta Regensburg • Forum Umwelt und Natur (f.u.n) /Regensburg • Umweltbildungsstätte Tübingen • Regional Council (Water & Environment Management dept.) • Aktion lebendige Donau des BUND • German Environmental Union • Riedlingen City • Ecological Regional Tours • local schools •

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