



Danube Day in Germany

Germany will be celebrating Danube Day at both ends of the German Danube. Events will take place at both Donaueschingen, SW of the country (at the source of the Danube) and in Deggendorf in the SE, close to where the river leaves German soil for Austria.

Deggendorf will host the main celebration, calling on the Danube's past and future in an event that will connect today's Danube users with those who worked on the river over 400 years ago. On the 20th June (3.00pm), State Minister, Dr. Otmar Bernhard, will officially open the newly restored *Ship Master's House*. Built in 1590, it now houses an exciting new venue for environmental education. Focussing on the Danube, water and environmental issues, the new centre will provide an important opportunity for engaging school pupils, students, cyclists and tourists in the sustainable use of their river. It will also provide a fascinating insight into the lives of those who relied on the Danube in the past. Visitors to the Danube Day festivities will have the chance to tour the new building, enjoy local food and dance along to the big band sounds of the Comenius-Gymnasium of Deggendorf.

The event will also see the culmination of the search to find Germany's young **Danube Art Master** for 2008. Pupils from 14 secondary schools from Straubing to Passau have been invited to join the international Danube competition. Young artists are challenged to let their creativity run wild and create a piece of art inspired by their river on the theme of "Together for Clean Water." The winning Art Master will be crowned by Dr Bernhard and their work will be displayed, along with others, at the new centre. To join in the competition and win some great prizes, contact Vinzenz Ritter (details below) and see: www.danubeday.org.

Danube Day in SW Germany will see a number of events along the river from **Donaueschingen-Wolterdingen to Tuttlingen**. The Baden-Württemberg Water Management Administration will host a Danube information day with presentations on the new flood protection dam; the local beaver population; the Water Framework Directive and the Integrated Danube Programme (IDP), with an official opening by the President of the Freiburg District Council, Julian Würtenberger. The afternoon will see participants take to their bikes for a guided tour from Wolterdingen via Donaueschingen to Tuttlingen. During the tour, there will be opportunities to learn more about river restoration projects; the hydrology, ecology and geology of the region; flood prevention and protection; measures to create fish route-ways and other ways to re-establish the ecological balance of the river. Along with a mobile 'Green Classroom' and schools art competition, there will be plenty to stimulate, engage and connect everyone with their Danube.

The sound of ship horns will reverberate across the Danube Basin at 14:00 on Danube Day, as Danube workers pay a very special tribute to their river – a river that provides them with food, water, power, recreation and, crucially, their livelihoods. The annual **Greet the Danube ship blast**, organised by the Global Water Partnership (GWP), will see ships along the Danube from Germany to Ukraine simultaneously sound their horns in a salute to the rivers.

Further information:

Deggendorf event (Schiffmeisterhaus, Schiffmeisterweg 12, 94469 Deggendorf). Please contact: **Vinzenz Ritter**, State Office for Water Management, Deggendorf (vinzenz.ritter@wwa-deg.bayern.de; + 49 171 6710030). See also: www.wwa-deg.bayern.de.

Donaueschingen-Wolterdingen event:

Marlene Reichegger (marlene.reichegger@rpf.bwl.de; +49 771 8966300) and **Oliver Stenzel** (oliver.stenzel@rpf.bwl.de; +49 771 8966302) of the Freiburg District Administration. See also: www.donaueschingen.de.

Organisers:

Deggendorf: State Office for Water Management, Deggendorf in partnership with the Federal State of Bavaria; Municipality of Deggendorf; *Wasserversorgung Bayerischer Wald* administration and 14 secondary schools. Financial support provided by European Union Leader+/ LAG Deggendorf.

Donaueschingen-Wolterdingen: Water Management Administration of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg & the Freiburg District Administration, in partnership with the City of Donaueschingen; local schools and associations.

The Danube rivers: let's use them – not abuse them!

For general information about the 14-country Danube Day celebrations, view www.danubeday.org or email the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River: jasmine.bachmann@unvienna.org.