

Danube Day in Hungary

Hungary's fifth Danube Day is being celebrated across the country - along both the River Danube (in Budapest, Győr, Baja, Szekszárd) and the River Tisza (in Szolnok and Gyula). Official meetings combine with fun activities that will entertain, educate and enthral, spreading the Danube Day message to a huge audience.

The River Danube provides the setting for a wide variety of events that will get people thinking about, looking after and enjoying their Danube. The city of **Baja** kicks off Danube Day with a **scientific conference** (25-28 June) and related events dedicated to the late Professor István Zsuffa.

29th June sees a day of family events in Baja including the naming of the young **Danube Art Master** of Hungary 2008. Part of a basin-wide event, overseen by the Danube Environmental Forum, this international competition invites children to let their creativity run wild and make a piece of environmental art inspired by their river. Youngsters are encouraged to think about how the river can continue to be used without detriment to the people and wildlife that rely on it. Be inspired and you might find yourself crowned Master of the Danube.

Győr's fifth annual Danube Day celebration will take place on 26th June at the confluence of the Mosoni-Danube and the Raba (14:00-17:00). An **afternoon of Danube events** under the theme "Together for Clean Water" is being organised by the North-Transdanubian Environmental and Water Directorate. Come along and find out more about your river!

Residents of the capital will also be celebrating Danube Day with a **Danube family fun-day** at 'Children's Island' in **Budapest**. Come along and join in environmental games; learn about water infrastructure with large-scale interactive models and see science in action in an electro-microscope presentation (29 June).

The city of **Szekszárd** will mark Danube Day with a **visit to a 100 year-old water pumping station** and other sites. Experts will be on hand to advise on water usage while children will be entertained with environmental games and quizzes (28 June).

Further east, the **River Tisza** will also see festivities for Danube Day. **Szolnok** will be the location for the Tisza Stakeholder Forum meeting to discuss the **2007 Tisza Analysis Report** (26 June). While in **Gyula**, the public is invited to salute the Danube rivers at a series of **Danube information days**. Alongside a striking

Danube photographic exhibition, the events include children's activities; lectures; water quality measuring; water creature identification and information on water and water uses (27 June–4 July).

In addition, the sound of ship horns will reverberate across Hungary and the rest of the Danube Basin at 14:00 on Danube Day, as Danube workers pay a very special tribute to their river. 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:

Please contact **Jozsef Gayer** (gayer@mail.kvvm.hu; +36 1 457 3242) or **Maria Galambos** (galambos@mail.kvvm.hu; +36 1 457 3489) of the Ministry of Environment and Water. For full details of all events, see also: www.duna-nap.hu.

Organisers:

Ministry of Environment and Water; District Water Authorities; Budapest Waterworks Authority; Duna Múzeum; Danube Environmental Forum; municipal authorities, Global Water Partnership Hungary (GWP) and local partners.

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.