



Global environmental volunteering gets a boost ahead of World Environment Day

Author: Vanessa Von der Muhll
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26 May 2008 - Volunteering to improve the environment has been given a significant boost following the announcement today that up to 28 million Scouts in 156 countries will take part in community based environmental initiatives as part of a new alliance with the global Clean Up the World campaign.

Scouts will play a vital role in protecting the environment for future generations following today's announcement that the World Organization of the Scout Movement has formed an alliance with the Clean Up the World campaign.

The new relationship announced today in Australia by the Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Volunteering Sector, Senator Ursula Stephens, Clean Up the World Chairman and Founder Ian Kiernan AO* and Scouts Australia Chief Commissioner John Ravenhall AM*, will add substantial volunteering power to Clean Up the World, already mobilising an estimated 35 million people each year.

As participants in the Clean Up the World campaign, National Scout Organizations across the globe will take further steps to help limit the impacts of climate change and protect the environment for future generations.

The Sydney, Australia-based Chairman and Founder of Clean Up the World, Ian Kiernan AO said Clean Up the World volunteers and Scouts across the world will be active throughout the year, including on World Environment Day, June 5th, and the Clean Up the World Weekend in September.

'Scouts have always been active in environmental conservation but by joining forces with Clean Up the World's other volunteers even greater environmental achievements can be made,' Mr Kiernan said.

'Climate change is a major concern for people all over the world. We can already see the impacts and people don't want to leave the problems for their children and grandchildren to deal with.

Mr Kiernan highlighted revegetation programs and environmental education campaigns as examples of the kind of steps Clean Up the World volunteers will be taking in 2008.

'Communities across the globe are looking for practical actions to take to help limit the impacts of climate change and Clean Up the World provides people with those practical steps,' he said.

Acting Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement Luc Panissod said the new alliance will act as further inspiration for Scouts across the world to take part in environmental activities.

'Clean Up the World and the World Organization of the Scout Movement are natural allies when it comes to environmental preservation - after all, Scouts represent the future generations that are going to benefit from today's environmental

actions," Mr Panissod said.

"This new alliance shows that the youth of today are more than prepared to play their part in helping protect our environment," he said.

* AO/AM Order of Australia awarded for distinguished service of a high degree to Australia or to humanity at large.