



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة
联合国环境规划署



Ref: DCPI/BTC/lw

27 March 2009

Dear Mr. Ridge,

I am pleased to send a message of goodwill to the people of Brisbane during the launch of the Greenfest programme for 2009.

Brisbane's support and promotion of the World Environment Day, through a public environmental festival is a timely and important initiative for our planet. When the people of Brisbane come together at Greenfest to share their hopes and commitments for the future, they will be joining millions of others around the globe on World Environment Day.

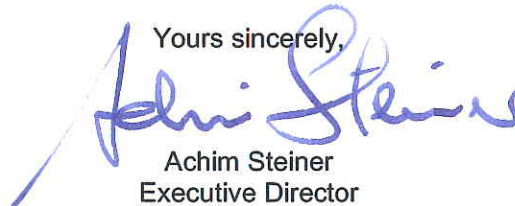
Commemorated each year on 5 June, World Environment Day is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. The theme for 2009 World Environment Day is "Your Planet Needs You – Unite to Combat Climate Change". It reflects the urgency of nations and communities to agree on a new deal at the crucial UN climate convention meeting in Copenhagen less than 180 days away.

Leaders recognize the unprecedented alignment of economic and environmental opportunity. We can stimulate the global economy and win the race against climate change with the same investment directed to developing a greener economy. I urge the grassroots innovators throughout Brisbane to participate in the city's mission to become a leading example of vibrant urban sustainability in the years ahead.

In recently joining the Climate Neutral Network led by UNEP, Greenfest and the Brisbane City Council have together joined a global team sharing ideas, resources and capability to solve problems and promote sustainability. Greenfest's participation in the UNEP Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign will contribute to the fight against global warming and other sustainability challenges such as the loss of biodiversity and water scarcity. I urge other businesses and organizations in your region to join the Climate Neutral Network and the Billion Tree Campaign.

Brisbane, I hope you enjoy World Environment Day and thank you for your commitment to a greener and cooler planet!

Yours sincerely,



Achim Steiner
Executive Director

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