



21 March 2011

Celebrating forests for people

A photographic competition celebrating the International Year of Forests will be launched today at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra.

A collaborative venture between the United Nations Information Centre, the Canberra Institute of Technology and the Australian National Botanic Gardens, the competition involves CIT students creating a portfolio of photographs based on the theme: This is my forest.

The photographs will be assessed as part of the students' coursework and presented at two major public exhibitions to be hosted by the High Court of Australia in September and at the Australian National Botanic Gardens during December.

Executive Director of the Gardens, Dr Judy West, said the exhibition was a great way to celebrate the International Year of Forests.

"The Gardens Rainforest and Eucalypt lawn has been an ongoing inspiration to many hobby and professional photographers. There is nowhere else in the world you can explore the world's largest collection of Australian native plants," Dr West said.

"The United Nations Information Centre and CIT students are helping to raise awareness of native conservation through this public exhibition. It's a wonderful initiative."

Speaking at the launch, Director of the United Nations Information Centre Christopher Woodthorpe said, "We are very excited to be able to continue our work with the CIT and the Australian National Botanic Gardens as it presents a great opportunity to put the key role that forests play in our lives at centre stage."

"I am delighted that this unique partnership is able to promote these important issues. I urge everyone to attend the exhibitions."

"The students are looking forward to the challenge of photographing images in a way that will engage public interest in the importance of our global forests," Chief Executive of the Canberra Institute of Technology Adrian Marron said.

The overall portfolio winner will receive an international photographic internship with the United Nations in the Pacific region. Category winners will receive internships with the Australian National Botanic Gardens, the ACT Government's National Arboretum and the Canberra Times.

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