

Achim Steiner joins celebration for Beijing Olympic Volunteers

WHAT: The United Nations' Beijing Olympic Volunteer Celebration will reward volunteers for their service in the Games and for their key contribution to development in China.

WHEN: Thursday 7 August 2008 at 4p.m.

WHERE: United Nations Compound, 2 Liangmahe Nanlu, Beijing

WHO:

- Mr Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
- Mr Khalid Malik, United Nations Resident Coordinator in China
- Ms Tessa Jowell, Minister of London and the Olympics
- Mr Liu Jian, Director of the Beijing Olympic Committee's Volunteer Department and Secretary General of the Beijing Youth League
- Ms Yang Yang, former Olympic champion
- Ms Zhou Xun, actress and UNDP China National Goodwill Ambassador.

WHY: Many of Beijing's hundreds of thousands of Olympic volunteers have made significant contributions to addressing development issues such as the environment, education and poverty alleviation. Volunteers in China have also played a key role in disaster response following the devastating Wenchuan earthquake of 12 May 2008.

Achim Steiner, who will be in Beijing as part of UNEP's support for the Greening of the Olympic Games, will talk about the role of volunteers in environmental protection and awareness building.

Please confirm participation by 3pm 6 August with Ms. Zhang Xiaodan, Country Operations Assistant for UN Volunteers at (8610) 85320911, or xiaodan.zhang@undp.org

PROGRAMME:

4:00 Opening by Mr Khalid Malik, UN Resident Coordinator in China
4:05 Remarks from BOCOG Volunteer Department and Beijing Youth League
4:10 Remarks from Mr Achim Steiner, UN USG and Executive Director, UNEP
4:15 Remarks from Volunteer Ambassadors
4:20 Stories from selected Olympic volunteers on their service to the Games and development
4:40 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony
4:45 Remarks from Ms Tessa Jowell, Minister of London and the Olympics
4:50 Remarks from Chinese Government Representative
4:55 Closing remarks from Mr. Liu Jian, BOCOG Volunteer Dept Director and Beijing Youth League Secretary General
5:00 Reception and Media Interviews