

Premier & Treasurer

The Hon. Peter Beattie MP

29 July 2005

International Conference on Engaging Communities Brisbane

International Conference on Engaging Communities Brisbane, Australia 14 - 17 August 2005

Community Engagement will be in the spotlight in August when Queensland, Australia's Smart State, hosts the United Nations-backed international conference on Engaging Communities.

Peter Beattie, Premier of Queensland - Australia said today, "I am very pleased to announce a joint Queensland Government and United Nations conference on engaging communities. This conference will examine theoretical and contemporary practices of citizen involvement in government decision-making".

The conference is expected to attract over 1500 business leaders, government officials, academia, leading researchers, and key international development agency representatives from across the globe. It will focus on engaged governance, public participation and practical engagement strategies between the community and government.

Topics include natural resource management, post-disaster (conflict and natural) management, private sector partnerships, universities and public law, to name a few. A highlight of the conference will be an opening night panel on democracy, which will feature a number of the key note speakers, leading academics and senior politicians.

Key note speakers include: Mary Robinson, Executive Director - Realizing Rights and former President of Ireland; Dr Jose Ramos-Horta, Foreign Minister for Timor-Leste and 1996 Nobel Peace Prize winner; Prof Robert Putnam, Harvard University; Prof Stephen Coleman, Oxford Internet Institute; Ms Georgina Beyer, New Zealand MP; Dame Mavis McDonald, Permanent Secretary - Office of the UK Deputy Prime Minister; Erna Witoelar, UN Special Ambassador - Millennium Development Goals, Asia Pacific; Olivio Dutra, Brazilian Minister for Cities and Rev Tim Costello, CEO World Vision, Australia.

Premier Beattie strongly encouraged business leaders and community groups to attend the Queensland Conference. "This is the first conference of its type and it presents an unparalleled opportunity for community engagement and development practitioners to interact with leading international thinkers", he said.

29 July 2005

For information contact Graham Wright - Chair Marketing, Sponsorship and Logistics Committee on +61 7 3306 7244 or email: info@engagingcommunities2005.org