

## **WORLD CONGRESS OF SCIENCE AND FACTUAL PRODUCERS SET TO BRING TOGETHER BROADCASTERS AND PRODUCERS IN MANCHESTER, UK**

**NOVEMBER 11 – 14, 2006 – MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM**

Toronto, June 7, 2006 - The World Congress of Science and Factual Producers (WCSFP) will welcome hundreds of leading international broadcasters and producers to its 14th annual conference in Manchester, United Kingdom, from November 11 through 14, 2006.

The WCSFP is anticipating the attendance of more than 400 international broadcasters, producers and distributors of factual and science television from more than 20 countries. Hosted by broadcasters in different territories each year, the BBC will be supporting the 2006 edition, in strong collaboration and partnership with other leading UK broadcasters and production companies. John Lynch (Head of Science and History, BBC), this year's WCSFP Steering Committee chair, comments, "It is both refreshing and very exciting to hold this year's Congress in Manchester, which is a leading creative centre for UK-based television projects and an increasingly active production centre. The BBC has strong ties to the region, and the vibrant renewals to the city of Manchester make it a welcoming destination for international delegates."

Most recently held in Tokyo, Japan (2005) and Toronto, Canada (2004), the Congress has become a must-attend event for producers and broadcasters working in factual television. By offering invaluable networking opportunities, the Congress aids in developing international co-production arrangements and provides the impetus for new and renewed business partnerships. Formerly known as the World Congress of Science Producers, the event has grown to attract television professionals working across a variety of genres. The updated name reflects the programming and conversations that have characterized recent editions, where the overlapping of science-based programming with other factual genres, including history, religion, politics and point-of-view documentary, has been a central focus.

"The name change reflects the desire of Congress delegates," says Daryl Karp (CEO of Film Australia), a member of the WCSFP Board of Directors and Steering Committee. "Broadcasters and producers who attend often work in many genres, reflecting contemporary trends in production and programming."

This year's WCSFP features an outstanding program of 20+ workshops, networking events, pitch sessions, and panels that will reveal emerging content trends and highlight important industry issues. Last year, more than 100 commissioning editors attended, representing broadcasters which included: ARTE, BBC, CBC, Channel 4, Channel 5, Discovery Channel US, Discovery Channel Canada, Discovery Science, France 5, National Geographic Int., NDR, NHK, ABC TV, WGBH/NOVA and WNET. The highly successful 2005 event maintained a three-to-one ratio of independent producers to broadcasters, ensuring plenty of valuable time for networking and deal-making.

The WCSFP will also feature the return of popular services including commissioning editor lunches, an on-demand video library of delegates' productions, as well as evening networking events and special social activities that will explore Manchester's vibrant city-centre.

The World Congress of Science and Factual Producers is a not-for-profit, member-run organization dedicated to celebrating the best in science and factual production. Past Congresses have been held in Tokyo (2005), Toronto (2004), Paris (2003), Berlin (2002), and Washington, D.C. (2001). It is administered by a board of directors and a steering committee that deals primarily with editorial matters. The 14th annual Congress is managed by Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival on behalf of the WCSFP. For more information, visit [www.scienceproducers.com](http://www.scienceproducers.com).

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