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Alcoafoundation assists the ICPDR to keep the Danube clean

VIENNA, 26 April (UN Information Service) -- Today Alcoa Foundation is handing over a 100.000 US\$ grant to the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) to support transboundary water management in the Danube River Basin.

This grant is designated for the purchase of technical equipment for water research institutions to support transboundary water management on the Crisuri river in Romania in cooperation with Hungarian Authorities. With the new technical equipment, the local laboratory in the Northwest of Romania will now fully participate on the Transnational Monitoring System (TNMN) managed by all countries in the Danube Basin. The TNMN is an integrative monitoring system for microbiological, biological and chemical substances.

"To effectively manage water resources and to reduce pollution there is a need for expanded technical capacity to monitor the quality of the water", says Philip Weller, Executive Secretary of the ICPDR. "Only if we know what is in the water, we can develop strategies to remove these pollutants and Alcoa Foundation assists us in those efforts", he adds. "Alcoa's grant to the ICPDR reflects our commitment to the environment, which is based on the principle of sustainable development," said Juerg Furrer, Director EHS (Environment Health and Safety) Europe. "At Alcoa and all our worldwide facilities, we are not just in the business of making aluminum, but in safeguarding the communities and environment in which we live and work."

The cooperation between the ICPDR and the Alcoa Foundation began in 2003, when the Alcoa Foundation supported activities in the largest river basin in the world. In June last year, Alcoa Foundation donated a Total Organic Carbon/Total Nitrogen Analyzer to the National Institute for Marine Research and Development in Constanta, Romanian, at the mouth of the Danube in the Black Sea. Also, this equipment is fully integrated in the TNMN and is working to keep the Danube clean.

The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River is an intergovernmental platform for the cooperation between all Danube basin countries (Germany, Austria, Czech republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia-Montenegro, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine), as well as the European Commission. The ICPDR aims to reduce the pollution and to achieve sustainable use of the water and the natural resources of the Danube Basin for the benefit of its people.

Alcoa Foundation, established in 1952, is a global resource that actively invests in improving the quality of life in more than 32 countries around the world where Alcoa operates. The Foundation's grants address global and local needs in Areas of Excellence that include: Conservation and Sustainability, Global Education and Workplace Skills, Business and Community Partnerships and Safe and Healthy Children and Families. Alcoa Foundation manages the ACTION and Bravo! employee volunteer programs. For more information about Alcoa Foundation, visit www.alcoa.com, under Community.

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