



ANNOUNCEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LIFE JOINS WIKIMANIA 2012 AS A COPPER-LEVEL SPONSOR

WASHINGTON, D.C., MARCH 30, 2012: Wikimedia District of Columbia (Wikimedia DC) is pleased to announce that the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) has joined Wikimania 2012 as a Copper Level sponsor.

"The success of Wikimania depends on the kind support of donors, sponsors, and volunteers, and we're extremely grateful for Encyclopedia of Life's support," says Nicholas Michael Bashour, Wikimedia DC President and General Manager of Wikimania 2012. "EOL is an invaluable resource that contributors across Wikimedia Projects can use to expand and enhance content on Wikimedia Projects that are accessible to millions of users around the globe. We are certain that the global Wikimedia community will benefit from EOL's presence at Wikimania and we invite attendees to connect with EOL's staff during the conference to learn more about this wonderful resource."

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LIFE (EOL) aggregates data on living organisms stored in databases around the world into an open, freely-accessible and trusted resource. On EOL species pages - one for every form of life known to science - users will find text, maps, videos, sound and literature references, as well as active communities of volunteer scientists, educators, students and nature enthusiasts who work together to review, organize and extend EOL content. Organized as a consortium of leading research institutions and museums from across the world, EOL is pleased to collaborate with the Wikipedia community to provide global access to knowledge about life on Earth. To learn more and get involved, please visit eol.org

WIKIMANIA has been, since 2005, the premier annual international gathering of experts, academics, and enthusiasts whose vision is to empower people around the world through free access to global knowledge. Wikipedia and Wikimedia Projects are the principal tools of the Wikimedia movement, encompassing resources that span more than 280 languages and include, aside from Wikipedia, a repository of more than 12 million free-use media files (Wikimedia Commons), a library of free and open source educational textbooks (WikiBooks), and a vast library of online library of free content publications (WikiSource), amongst others. It has been previously held in Frankfurt, Germany; Boston, Mass.; Taipei, Taiwan; Alexandria, Egypt; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Gdańsk, Poland; and Haifa, Israel. For more information and to join Wikimania 2012's list of elite sponsors, visit www.wikimania2012.org

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