



PRESS RELEASE
Wed, 26 November, 2008

**FIRST SWISS BOAT TO ENTER THE RACE;
The TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition Yacht ready to take on the Rolex
Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race!**

TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition began in 2002, and is a non-profit organisation of volunteers from 28 nations, based in Switzerland, under the patronage of the United Nations Environment Program and the Swiss Government. The expedition will achieve a world record, by being the first to travel over the seven seas to the seven summits using only Nature's Power! The yacht, PACHAMAMA, (Incan word for "Mother Earth"), is sailing under the flag of the Cruising Yacht club of Switzerland. It is a 15m yacht, designed by Joubert Nivelt in France, and has an aluminium hull. It is equipped with 11 Solar Panels and 2 Wind turbines, making it THE example for the cruising world, demonstrating what is possible in extreme conditions with smart renewable technologies!

Their challenge is to travel to the highest peak in each seven continents, connecting all the major climate zones, using only their own strength and natural energy such as the wind and the sun. This unique initiative is based on environmental sustainability and to prove that great things can be achieved in balance with nature.

The goal of the expedition is:

- to bring awareness of environmental issues,
- to promote the search for environmentally compatible solutions and
- to encourage the start of projects beneficial to the environment.

A major part of their mission is to inspire children to achieve a better future. They share examples of nature's beauty and innovations for a green planet in class rooms all over the world and also give presentations to universities, service clubs and other organisations throughout the world. Already, they have taught over 35, 000 Children across the globe! Whilst in Australia, Sabine and Dario have given public presentations and visited schools at each destination. They teach children about the importance of nature and give them various fun projects to learn all about sustainability. The children are then encouraged to express their own ideas about how we can care more for our environment and climate in the TOPtoTOP International Climate Solution Contest.

TOPtoTOP has chosen this expedition as an adventurous means to create awareness of global climate change and inspire the world to research and support lasting, environmentally friendly solutions. To expand the reach of this expedition and its aim, TOPtoTOP is working closely with the media, scientists and business worldwide.

Another aspect of the expedition is the active participation with the “clean up the world” campaign based in Sydney. They have done cleans ups at each and every one of their destinations, and are planning a big clean up event at their next stop; EVEREST! It is estimated that the TOPToTOP expedition has collected 15 tonnes of waste so far!

After starting the expedition from Switzerland, the TOPToTOP team has since accomplished climbing to the highest TOP in Europe, Mont Blanc, and the highest TOP in South America, Aconcagua, and a recent venture up Mt Kosciusko! They also attempted the highest TOP in Antarctica, Mount Vinson; however after a close encounter with a floating shipping container, with a year of repairs in Chile, Mount Vinson has been rescheduled to be their last stop. But for now, the Swiss couple Sabine and Dario Schwoerer are ready to take part in the famous Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race! Their two little children Salina and Andri (both born in Patagonia on the expedition) will sadly not be able to take part in the race.

The race is a significant event for the TOPToTOP team, as PACHAMAMA will be the first ever boat to proudly represent their homeland; Switzerland! But the race is truly a means for PACHAMAMA to promote to all the boats taking part, the importance of sustainability, and a means to demonstrate to all cruising vessels worldwide, that renewable energy is the way to go! The family are looking forward to the race, and hope that it will add a fun and exciting element to the expedition.

All these amazing achievements would never have been made possible without the generous support of their sponsors, particularly their two major sponsors SGS and Victorinox. SGS and Victorinox have both been actively involved in getting PACHAMAMA ready for participation in the race! Their amazing support is a crucial aspect of the success of the TOPToTOP expedition. Both companies are great examples of organisations that are increasingly embracing the principles of environmental sustainability in their planning, reporting and decision-making.

Sabine & Dario hope that all people will be inspired to take action once they become aware of the global richness in natural beauty and the very real threat it is under. They also aim to encourage as many people as possible to move towards solidarity for the people affected by climate change and to connect everyone to nature and sport.

For further information and live updates on the expedition’s progress, please visit the TOPToTOP website: www.toptotop.org

To arrange for film material and pictures or interviews with the team, kindly contact us:

Email; jacqui@toptotop.org, Phone; 0421846751 On board: 0011 872 7625 68 933

