



**THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER, 2009  
MEDIA ALERT**

**Office of the Parliament of the World's Religions**

The Hub 17 Waterview Walk Docklands Victoria 3008

Phone: +61 3 8622 4809 Fax: +61 3 9417 0899

Email: [info@parliamentofreligions2009.org](mailto:info@parliamentofreligions2009.org)

### **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar helps open 2009 Parliament of the World Religions**

His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar will be central to the opening ceremony for the largest and most diverse multifaith gathering of religious and spiritual communities in the world, The Parliament of the World's Religions.

The world's diverse religious and spiritual traditions will be honoured in tonight's event, through an array of performances, addresses and blessings.

His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar will be a key speaker, urging people and communities of faith, spirit and goodwill to "*Make a World of Difference*" in the midst of the challenges facing the global community.

The 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions features more than 1300 world-class speakers and breathtaking performers from Australia and around the world. The event has drawn together more than 650 programs under the theme *Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other, Healing the earth*.

Nine blessings will signify the beginning of event – Zoroastrian, Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Bahai.

Other performers and speakers include:

- Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra
- Melbourne University Choral Society and Melbourne Percussion Ensemble
- A range of Aboriginal performers including Western Creation
- Professor Joy Murphy Wandin, AO
- Dr. Sakena Yacoobi
- Dr Haruhisa Handa
- Rabbi David Saperstein

To download official event images please go to [www.flickr.com/photos/raymessner](http://www.flickr.com/photos/raymessner)

For further interview requests, accreditation or further media information please contact **Porter Novelli Melbourne** on 03 9289 9555, [pwrmelbourne@porternovelli.com.au](mailto:pwrmelbourne@porternovelli.com.au)