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## ANNUAL AFRICA DAY SYMPOSIUM SET FOR MAY 13 AT UN HOUSE IN TOKYO

On Tuesday, 13 May, the African Diplomatic Corps in Japan (ADC) and the United Nations University (UNU) will co-host the 2003 Africa Day Symposium. The theme of this symposium, which will be held at UN House in Tokyo, will be "The Role of Infrastructure in the Development and Integration of Africa."

The symposium's keynote speaker will be President **Abdoulaye Wade** of Senegal. Other scheduled speakers include **Torao Tokuda** (House of Representatives, Japan), **Shunji Yanai** (professor, Chuo University), and representatives of G8 (Ambassador of France to Japan) and the Government of Japan. **Abdou Aziz Sow** (Minister in Charge of NEPAD, Senegal) will chair a panel discussion on the topic of financing infrastructure projects. A copy of the programme is attached for your reference.

The focus of 2003 Africa Day shall be on ways to strengthen the link between the three concepts of infrastructures, integration and development, and highlighting their interdependence in relation to African Development. "Infrastructures" is a broad concept that encompasses both "hard" (physical) structures, such as railways, roads and building, and "soft" (social) infrastructures, such as education, health and governance systems. The 2003 Africa Day Symposium will highlight the importance of these infrastructures in achieving development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000.

The 2003 Africa Day Symposium is also intended to provide input for the G8 Summit that will be held in Evian, France, in June 2003, and for the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III), scheduled for September/October 2003.

The symposium will begin at 9:45 a.m. on 13 May in the U Thant International Conference Hall (3F) of UN House. Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Japanese will be provided.

Building on the successes of the previous Africa Day Symposiums in Tokyo, the ADC and UNU have agreed to establish the Africa Day Symposium as an annual event.

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