Dear Friends,

Since its inception over 30 years ago, the United Nations University has remained committed to continuing to find new ways to reach out to people around the world. In times of environmental or security crisis, this unique center of research and capacity building is sometimes taken for granted. The United Nations University has long supplied the world with knowledge and academic excellence. We expect that it will continue to be equipped and staffed to provide the very latest and most competent knowledge available anywhere to fulfill its mission of researching into the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations and its Peoples.

We all recognize the contributions of the officers and staff of the University, but let me emphasize the contributions made by the private sector. From its founding in 1975, private companies have served the United Nations University with their expertise, time and resources. The UNU’s performance record would certainly be negatively affected without this abiding support.

Now, this year, we all are needed to lend our support to the United Nations University by becoming Corporate Partners under the United Nations University Partnership Initiative. This initiative makes every effort to engage private enterprises in the work of the United Nations by creating cross-sector partnerships, by building sustainable and equitable societies together, and by mobilizing our comparative advantages in pursuit of a world free from want and from fear. It is our turn to help this center for academic excellence meet our expectations, to carry out its mission, and to be adequately equipped to provide solutions to the world’s most pressing problems.

Your thoughtful consideration of participating in our programme is sincerely appreciated.

Prof. Itaru Yasui
Vice Rector, United Nations University