MAJOR CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

“The University shall devote its work to research into the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations and its agencies.”

— [UNU Charter Article I.2]

While some research projects focus on specific, well-defined issues or fields of study, much of the work of UNU is multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral in nature. Projects and activities often cut across and complement the various thematic areas described in previous sections, or may incorporate and integrate divergent elements that would once have been considered quite unrelated. Yet in today’s world — where new developments in science and technology can transform or even obliterate traditional social and economic foundations, and political or social ideologies can have far-reaching global repercussions — a cross-cutting perspective that brings together different approaches and disparate perspectives is often essential.

Some of the thematic areas described in the Peace and Governance section and the Environment and Sustainable Development section — viz., Human Rights and Ethics, Solutions to Water Crises, or Environmental Governance — incorporate obvious cross-cutting components. Some issues, however — such as globalization, world trade regimes, sustainable development governance and development financing, or inequality and poverty — so inextricably intertwine the core areas of Peace and Governance as well as Environment and Sustainable Development that they are best discussed here. Still other issues — such as gender, or information and communication technology — cannot be properly addressed in isolation, since they are vital components of many (if not most) of UNU’s research and capacity development activities.

Globalization with a Human Face

In July, more than 30 experts and 400 members of the public met in Tokyo to discuss ways in which globalization can be made to benefit all of humankind rather than just a fortunate elite. The conference on “Globalization with a Human Face — Benefitting All” was co-organized by UNU and UNESCO.

Conference participants reviewed our current understanding of the multiple interlinkages between the economic and political driving forces of globalization and socio-cultural development. Their goal was to evaluate the effectiveness of the political action taken so far to balance the negative with the positive effects of globalization, and to identify areas and means for improving policy responses to the challenges of globalization at all levels (international, regional, national and local) and by all actors (governmental, nongovernmental and civil society).

Participants concurred that globalization is permanent rather than a temporary phenomenon, and one that cannot be reversed, so it therefore is incumbent on policy makers and economic and social actors worldwide to manage and re-fashion the globalization process in ways that can better serve humanity as a whole. Examples of policies to offset the negative side effects of globalization were discussed in four working groups focusing on cultural policy, education policy, environmental policy, and the role of media and communication.

Trade-led Growth and Developing Countries

During successive rounds of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and, since 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) regime, the world community
has been trying to move towards freer trade. The sometimes-turbulent public protests and the concerns voiced by developing countries notwithstanding, the potential role of international trade in helping poor nations to embark on a path of positive economic growth is well grounded in economic theory. The broad objective of the UNU-WIDER project The Impact of the WTO Regime on Developing Countries was to evaluate the prospects and the challenges of such trade-led growth.

Unilateral preferential trade arrangements — One aspect of the project was to assess the extent to which the actual flow of trade is affected by such trade-related policies as the most favoured nation principle and preferential trading arrangements (PTAs). While the recent proliferation of PTAs is often cited as an indication that WTO is a failing process, a differing interpretation suggests, rather, that WTO has been an important catalyst in triggering PTAs and enhancing trade flows between countries. Examination of a number of preferential trading arrangements initiated by the US and Japan reveals significant incremental exports resulting from these initiatives for several developing and least developed countries (LDCs). At the same time, projections suggest that in 2000 LDC exports could have been almost US$7 billion (148 per cent) higher had the US levied no import tariffs, while removal of existing barriers in Japan could have increased imports from LDCs by about 69 per cent. Thus, there is still considerable scope for unilateral trade liberalization.

Liberalization of agriculture — The role of OECD domestic support measures is crucial in the debate about liberalization of trade in agriculture. Indexes calculated over the past three decades for selected crops (grains and oilseeds that receive a large share of domestic support in OECD countries) show, with few exceptions, substantial declines. Analysis suggests that an across-the-board 50 per cent cut in domestic support for OECD agriculture would lead to welfare losses for most developing regions and for developing countries overall. Such action is unlikely, however, since it would also result in significant declines in farm incomes, particularly in Europe. An alternative approach would be to focus on a broad-based shift from market price support to land-based payment, which modelling results indicate could generate a “win-win” outcome that would maintain farm incomes while reducing world price distortions.

Tariff escalation — Although average tariff rates have declined in almost every country, an average tariff for a particular sector conceals important information about specific products and, thus, is not a reliable indicator of the degree of that sector’s “openness.” Close examination often reveals continuing tariff escalation, which is likely to benefit skilled labour and capital owners in developed countries by preserving differential rates of protection between stages of production. The project’s theoretical model predicts that if skilled labour groups are an equally influential lobby in developing countries, liberalization of the service sector in those countries will be slow and difficult. An important implication is that removal of tariff escalation is a “win-win” strategy which could promote processed exports from developing countries, benefit unskilled workers in the North and generate support for liberalization of the service sector in the South.

Sustainable Development Governance

A number of activities were undertaken in 2003 under the UNU-IAS Sustainable Development Governance programme. At a UNU-IAS roundtable in May on “Post-WSSD Development in Sustainable Development Governance,” participants from various sectors discussed how business organizations, civil society organizations and government agencies can engage one another in boundary-spanning dialogues and develop mutually beneficial working partnerships. Two roundtables convened in June brought together American and Japanese scholars to further develop an analytical framework for investigating the disenfranchisement of civil society actors and delegates from developing countries. The framework and areas of investigation will be explained in a preliminary policy report to be issued early in 2004.

In June, UNU-IAS collaborated with the WTO Institute for Training and Technical Co-operation and National University of Malaysia to hold the first University Professor Training Programme on the WTO and Sustainable Development. The objective is to promote capacity development in Asian countries by establishing long-term training to increase understanding and knowledge of WTO rules and their implications for sustainable development. The June programme gave university deans from Southeast and Central Asian countries a perspective of the necessity to begin thinking of how to fit WTO rules and sustainable development into their respective university curriculums. Intensive regional courses for
university professors were held in October in Kuala Lumpur (with a focus on Southeast and Central Asian countries) and in November in Macao (focusing on East Asian countries). Two edited volumes will be published in 2004.

For a number of reasons (including the end of the cold war), the volume of net official flows has been decreasing while net private flows have been volatile and geographically lopsided in favour of just a few countries. The central question addressed by the UNU-WIDER project Sustainability of External Development Finance is how the dwindling of net official financial flows can be arrested or reversed, and the lopsided pattern of private flows rectified. The project focuses on the totality of external financing rather than on official flows alone. Accordingly, it covers the supply and allocation of bilateral official finance, donors’ financing of multilateral aid agencies, and official as well as private foreign financing of private sector development.

Bilateral official development finance — The fall in the volume of financial assistance to developing countries appears more pronounced for bilateral than for multilateral aid. Also, there seems to be more scope for improving on allocation and terms of bilateral aid to promote the welfare of recipients. One of the project’s studies seeks to empirically identify the factors accounting for the observed pattern of aid allocation, while another attempts to prescribe normative criteria for aid allocation. The relevant political and economic factors are being empirically identified, and theoretical insights are provided about the economics and politics underlying aid processes in donor countries.

Multilateral issues and perspectives — A multilateral framework is generally regarded as a more humane approach for channelling external development funds to developing countries because there are likely to be economies of scale (and, perhaps, of scope). Furthermore, through a multilateral approach, the self-interests of donor countries are less likely to influence decisions regarding which recipient country gets what, and when. The project identifies problems inherent in the current aid delivery systems, reviews the roles and division of responsibilities among UN agencies, Bretton Woods Institutions, regional development banks, etc., and offers suggestions for change. The research also identifies and assesses potential innovative sources of development financing. The project seeks to clarify the concept of global public goods (GPG) and addresses the issue of institutional arrangements for ensuring that external GPG financing does not crowd out conventional aid. It also tries to shed light on recent controversies about whether resource transfers to developing countries should be in the form of pure grants or loans and, if loans, the extent of concessionality.

Private sector development — The philosophy of foreign development finance and assistance has been changing. No longer is such assistance channelled more or less exclusively to the recipient countries’ public sectors; increasing attention is being focused on the private sector, with a portion of aid resources being earmarked for private sector development. An important segment of the project seeks to answer such questions as: What is the

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**World Summit on the Information Society**

UNU was extensively involved in preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), organized by the International Telecommunications Union. The first phase of the summit was held in December in Geneva; the second phase will convene in 2005 in Tunis. UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel serves as a member of the WSIS High-Level Summit Organizing Committee.

In January 2003, UNU worked with the Japan Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and UNDP to co-organize side events for the WSIS Asia Regional Conference in Tokyo. UNU and its Media Studio partners demonstrated Internet Protocol (IP) broadcasting and video-on-demand applications. UNU representatives also participated in the 2nd and 3rd WSIS Preparatory Committees (in February and September) and organized side events related to the Global Virtual University (GVU), Asia-Pacific Initiative, and Information Technology and Environment Initiative. At the December phase of the WSIS in Geneva, UNU promoted the theme of software for development, focusing on the work of UNU-IIST, UNU-INWEH’s Water Virtual Learning Centre and other e-learning projects. UNU-GVU also co-organized a side event on the “Future of E-learning.”
current state of things? How effectively have stated goals been achieved? To what extent can official bilateral and multilateral finance leverage and catalyse private capital flows? Why is the distribution of private flows so lop-sided? And, what is the way forward?

Inequality, Poverty and Well-Being

More than a billion people live on less than one dollar per day, and gaps in living conditions are growing within and between countries. Although we know more about the core issues of inequality, poverty and human well-being than ever before, the quality of analysis still leaves much to be desired — particularly with respect to the world’s poorest countries, where the need for action is most urgent.

A conference on “Inequality, Poverty and Human Well-being” was organized by UNU-WIDER in Helsinki in May. Conference participants examined such themes as measuring human well-being, global trends in inequality and poverty, spatial inequality, and micro-simulation of policy reforms. More than 150 representatives from the policy and research communities attended the conference, including most of the world’s leading researchers on the above themes. Most of the approximately 100 papers presented at the conference by specialists from more than 30 countries are available online.4

Gender

Gender-related activities have long represented a regular component of research and capacity development agendas throughout the UNU system. In the new millennium, UNU has expressed a strategic commitment to better “mainstreaming gender,” reflecting the recognition that gender is not a topic to be addressed only in isolation; rather, gender perspectives are an essential consideration in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of all UNU activities.

Some projects, however, do focus specifically on the gender-related aspects of vital issues. These include the Small Arms and Gender project and the Women and Children in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding project (which are discussed under the Human Rights and Ethics heading in the Peace and Governance section).

UNU-INRA has been active in undertaking studies that emphasize the critical role played by African women in the conservation and management of natural resources, as well as highlighting policies and interventions to minimize gender inequalities. In 2003, two research projects

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focusing on the role of African women in natural resources management were completed at UNU-INRA.

The project Credit Availability to African Women in Natural Resources Enterprises documented the success stories of 35 women natural resources entrepreneurs from seven African countries. The project studies revealed that, of the problems that confront women entrepreneurs, lack of access to credit is pervasive. Lack of access to credit translates into low start-up funds as well as few or no opportunities for expansion. The project suggests that a gender-sensitive credit delivery policy framework is needed to guide governments in the empowerment of women involved in natural resource management enterprises. As African countries prepare for the 5th World Conference on Women and Environment, the findings of this project will attempt to identify such a policy framework that can guide gender-sensitive credit delivery systems to empower women.

Another UNU-INRA study examined the validity of “women-specific” development projects. It found that while women-specific projects have visibly reduced the poverty level among women on a national scale, at the household level they also have enabled women to improve their standards of living and made women more socially visible and more conscious of their abilities and capabilities. The results of this study have been published under the title The Impact of Women-specific Projects Involving Natural Resources Management: Experiences from Ghana.

Advances in information and communication technology (ICT) impact all activities of UNU: not only research projects, but administration, capacity building, and networking and dissemination efforts. In recognition of the importance of advanced technology for competitiveness and growth, UNU’s ICT agenda focuses on four core areas: infrastructural improvements, UN system integration, research, and mainstreaming of ICT into all spheres of UNU information activities.

The UNU Campus Computing Centre (UNU-C3) is committed to supporting and furthering the goals of UNU and enabling the University to attain a sustainable competitive edge in addressing pressing global issues. Efforts to modernize the UNU Centre network culminated in 2003 in a blueprint for development of a converged storage and multimedia gigabit network. Internet connectivity will also be improved in the process by linking UNU to the Science Information Network (SINET), the biggest academic network in Japan. It is envisaged that this state-of-the-art infrastructure will be a catalyst for ICT-led innovations that will further improve the way UNU communicates and collaborates, both internally and with its networks of partners. UNU has also become more closely connected with the rest of the UN system through ongoing participation in inter-agency ICT initiatives. UNU was among the first UN agencies connected to the pilot UN System Extranet using virtual private network (VPN) connectivity over the Internet.

The scope of UNU-C3’s responsibilities and involvement broadened in 2003 to serve a growing number of users and meet increasingly complex requirements. In this connection, UNU-C3 assisted in the development of media and telecommunication facilities, and local- and wide-area network connectivity of the new Media Studio, and provided support to Online Learning, the UNU Financial Assistance Programme, UNU-IAS, UNU-BIOLAC, UNU-INRA and a number of the UN agencies in UN House in Tokyo.

UNU research and development in computer-mediated communications and learning technologies resulted in a number of academic publications and presentations in 2003. UNU has achieved considerable progress of mainstreaming ICT into the operations within and across its boundaries.
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

“In its postgraduate training the University shall assist scholars, especially young scholars … to increase their capability to contribute to the extension, application and diffusion of knowledge.”

— [UNU Charter Article I.7]

All parts of the UNU system have a strong commitment to capacity development activities. These activities are aimed, in particular, at strengthening academic institutions in developing countries by enhancing individual, group and institutional capabilities for self-sustained learning as well as generating appropriate technological capacity. Many of UNU’s capacity development programmes are organized in cooperation with partner institutions throughout the world; these institutions are selected on the basis of excellence in their respective fields of specialization and a proven track record in advanced training.

Recognizing that training needs are vast while resources are limited, UNU seeks to achieve a multiplier effect by focusing its capacity development efforts on training the trainers, research leaders and policy/decision makers. UNU attempts to implement new and innovative approaches (involving short courses, curriculum development and fellowship faculty exchanges) and to make the best use of new information and communication technologies. UNU emphasizes the concept of “integrated capacity development” by contextualizing its activities along three trajectories: (a) as an integral part of the research and policy studies undertaken by UNU, (b) as a reflection of the inter-disciplinary approach stressed in all UNU academic activities, and (c) as an integral part of the policy-making, development and advocacy processes to which UNU’s activities contribute.

The two main types of capacity development activities undertaken by UNU are:

- **Specialized advanced training programmes** for postgraduate scholars and young professionals, particularly those from developing countries; these include short- and long-duration training programmes as well as degree-oriented education programmes covering a wide variety of subject fields within UNU priority programme areas;

- **Project-based capacity development**, whereby UNU helps individuals, groups or institutions to upgrade their skills and knowledge through involvement in UNU project work. UNU also supports networking activities of developing country academics, with the aim of promoting their integration into regional and global academic, professional and policy-making communities.

### Specialized Advanced Training Programmes

#### Short-duration Training Programmes

UNU’s short-duration training programmes are courses and workshops, mainly for postgraduate academics and professionals, of up to two-months’ duration.

#### UNU International Courses

UNU Centre organizes an annual six-week training programme in Tokyo focusing on various issues of global concern. The aim of this programme is to provide postgraduate students and young professionals who are seeking to pursue an international career in public service or private organizations with the knowledge and skills to analyse these issues from a truly global perspective, both theoretically and empirically.

The fourth regular session of UNU International Courses (UNU-IC) was held in Tokyo from 17 May to 27 June. UNU-IC brought together a diverse group of students and lecturers, in terms of both cultural background and professional experience. Fifty-three students from 32 countries (selected from a total of 350 applicants) attended — among them, 33 women and 33 students from developing countries (of whom 21 received UNU fellowships covering the cost of their participation). The teaching faculty included UNU academic staff and more than 20 external experts from academia, the UN system and governmental and non-governmental institutions.

Courses offered in 2003 were focused on the themes of “Armed Conflict and Peacekeeping,” “Environment and Sustainable Development,” “Human Rights: Concepts and Issues” and “International Cooperation and Development.”

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3 Key features of UNU’s Capacity Development Programme and descriptions of individual capacity development programmes are available online at http://www.unu.edu/capacitybuilding/index.htm.
Strategy and Defence
In October, UNU launched a new programme of postgraduate courses in cooperation with Australian National University (ANU). The inaugural session of the UNU/ANU programme, held in Tokyo, offered four one- and two-week courses on “Strategic Concepts,” “North-east Asian Security,” “Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism,” and “Intelligence and Security.”

Conflict Resolution
The annual INCORE International Summer School provides a structured learning opportunity in which to analyse the dynamic and constantly changing field of conflict resolution and peace-building. In June 2003, 75 students from countries worldwide attended one-week sessions on “The Management of Peace Processes,” “Second-Track Diplomacy and Conflict Transformation,” and “Evaluation and Impact Assessment of Peace-building Programmes.” A wide range of representatives from NGOs, research institutes and universities, and UN system agencies also participated.

Biotechnology
UNU-BIOLAC promotes the production and use of biotechnology in the Latin American and Caribbean region by focusing its capacity building activities on “training the trainers” in order to multiply dissemination of the acquired knowledge and skills. In 2003, UNU-BIOLAC implemented six one-week training courses on such topics as bioinformatics, quality control in biotechnology, genetically modified organisms in the food chain, immunology, haematology and cell cycle control.

Food Composition Data in Nutrition
The long-standing cooperation between UNU and FAO in the field of nutrition data management was continued in 2003 with a three-week training course on “Production and Use of Food Composition Data in Nutrition” held in Wageningen (The Netherlands) in October. The course provided comprehensive training in the production of analytical data for nutrients in foods, and the compilation of these data into food composition tables and nutritional databases. UNU provided fellowships to seven participants. UNU also plans to support five or six participants in a course for French-speaking participants to be organized in Dakar, Senegal (rescheduled from November 2003 to March 2004).

Coastal Biodiversity
The third joint UNU/UNESCO international training course on “Biodiversity in Mangrove Ecosystems” was held at the Centre of Advanced Studies in Marine Biology, Annamalai University (India) for two weeks in March. The course provided young professionals holding a postgraduate degree in marine sciences or a closely related field with training in the methodology for assessing, monitoring and conserving biodiversity in mangrove ecosystems. UNU provided fellowships to nine of the 15 participants (three of them women), all of whom came from developing countries.
Environmental Management
In collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, UNU-IAS co-organized one-day courses on “Environment Management in Cuba” (5 February) and “Management of Heavy Metal and Other Substance Pollution Control” (25 July), and a two-day course on “Environmental Policy and Environmental Management Systems” (12–13 June).

Environment and Sustainable Development
K-JIST held its first postgraduate training workshop on “Environment and Sustainable Development” in Gwangju, Republic of Korea, in late October. The workshop, attended by 17 participants from 9 Asian countries, focused on environmental monitoring and pollution reduction issues.

Land Degradation
In 2003, UNU, in cooperation with the Overseas Development Group at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, UK, and Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC) of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology, co-organized a two-week training course on “Land Degradation and Sustainable Rural Livelihoods.” UNU supported participants from four developing countries in this course, which was held at University of East Anglia and at the CSIC’s Centre for Soils and Applied Biology of the Segura Region.

Computer Applications to Natural Resource Management
In July, UNU-INRA held its 4th international training course on “Application of Computer Technology to Natural Resource Management.” The month-long course, attended by 15 university lecturers and national research scientists from Francophone African countries, was held at University of Yaounde I. The emphasis of the course, conducted by computer scientists and geographers from Cameroon, was on practical skills in the use of relevant software and related equipment.

Natural Disaster Risk Management
UNU cooperates with the University of Geneva (Switzerland) and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in a two-month training course on “Analysis and Management of Geological Risks.” This course is aimed at training advisers for the public and private sectors in preventive measures to reduce the impact of natural disasters. The sixteenth session of this training course began on 28 April in Geneva.

Long-duration Training Programmes
UNU supports a variety of long-duration training programmes, lasting for 3 and 12 months.

Biological Diversity
UNU awarded 10 fellowships (to candidates from eight developing countries) for the six-month UNU Training Programme in Biological Diversity, which began at the University of Ghent (Belgium) in October. This programme offers professionals in the fields of monitoring, conservation and management of biological diversity with in-depth training to broaden their theoretical knowledge and practical capabilities. As the initial agreement of cooperation between UNU, the Government of the Flemish Community and the University of Ghent to jointly organize and fund this training programme expired in 2003, the cooperating parties have agreed to undertake an external review and evaluation to assess the programme’s future viability; the evaluation report is expected by March 2004.

Food Technology
With funding from Kirin Brewery Company (Japan), UNU organizes an annual year-long training programme in food science and technology at the National Food Research Institute in Tsukuba (Japan). The programme assists scientists from universities or research institutes in developing countries, with a particular emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region. In 2003, five UNU-Kirin Fellows (two of them women) joined the programme, while five others completed their training in Japan and received grants to return to their home countries for follow-up research projects.

In 2003, UNU also awarded a fellowship to one student from Sudan for a ten-month course of training at the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) in Mysore, India.

Information Technology
UNU-IIST provides young software engineers from developing countries with advanced training in software development methods, techniques and tools that are
widely used in industries. Courses cover project management, object-oriented and component-based software development, and software testing. In 2003, UNU-IIST organized or sponsored courses at three training schools (in Argentina, China and Tunisia). Some 160 participants from 30 countries attended the training courses, which were taught by experts from universities and industries as well as UNU-IIST staff.

Biotechnology
In 2003, UNU-BIOLAC awarded fellowships, for up to four months of individualized training at research centres in Latin America and the Caribbean, to 17 biotechnology trainees from seven countries.

Fisheries
The six-month UNU Fisheries Training Programme (UNU-FTP) in Iceland provides advanced training in various fisheries-related areas to specialists from the public, private and academic sectors. Provincial fisheries administrators, fisheries scientists and operational managers, economists, planners and technical personnel receive in-depth, individualized training in fisheries policy and planning; marine and inland waters resources assessment and monitoring; quality management of fish handling and processing; management of fisheries companies and marketing; fishing technology; fleet operations; aquaculture; or environmental protection assessment and monitoring. UNU awarded 16 fellowships to candidates from 14 developing countries for participation in the 2003 session of the programme, which started in August.

Geothermal Energy
The main goal of the UNU Geothermal Training Programme (UNU-GTP), operated at the National Energy Authority of Iceland, is to develop capacity in the sustainable use of geothermal energy resources. The programme’s aim is to assist developing and transition countries with significant geothermal potential in building up groups of specialists in geothermal exploration and development. The annual six-month training course includes specializations in geothermal utilization, environmental studies, chemistry of thermal fluids, geological exploration, borehole geology and geophysical exploration. Fellowships for the 2003 course, which started in April, were awarded to 20 candidates from 12 countries.

Remote Sensing
UNU supports an annual eight-month course at the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE) in Brazil for postgraduate professionals working in the field of remote sensing technology. The course familiarizes participants with the physical principles of remote sensing, spectral behaviour of natural targets, sensor systems and satellites, radar, visual analysis of remote sensing data, digital image processing, scientific research methodology and the ERS-1 programme. In 2003, UNU awarded fellowships to nine participants.

Akino Memorial Research Fellowships and Internships
With a portion of a donation from the Government of Japan in memory of Dr. Yutaka Akino, who was killed in 1998 while on mission for the UN in Tajikistan, UNU funds annual research fellowships to support Japanese Ph.D. candidates and postdoctoral fellows for field research activities within the general theme of “Peace and Environment in Central Asia.” In 2003, six young Japanese scholars (among them, three women) were awarded Akino Memorial Research Fellowships for field studies in Central Asia.

Nine grants were also awarded in 2003 to young Japanese university graduates who have made arrangements for internships at UN system organizations outside of Japan. Since the start of this Akino Memorial Internship programme in 2001, a total of 19 such grants have been awarded.

Economics of Development
The UNU-WIDER Undergraduate Teaching Programme provides a useful link to the Finnish academic community and helps build interest in development economics in the Institute’s host country. In autumn 2003, 30 participants took a course on “The Economics of Development” offered at the Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration.

Online Learning
In September, UNU Online Learning launched a four-month course, in collaboration with Keio University, on “Sustainable Development in the Asia Pacific.” Some sixty Japanese professionals and students participated in the course, which included videoconference lectures. UNU provided the students with access to course
materials via the University’s online learning management system.

September also saw the launch of an online course as part of the Global Virtual University. Some 20 students took a course on “The UNEP Global Environmental Outlook Reports,” taught by instructors from UNU, Agder University College and Agricultural University, Makerere University, Griffith University and University of Pretoria.

Degree-oriented Programmes
UNU assists young researchers, particularly those from developing countries, to upgrade their academic qualifications with fellowships for M.Sc. and Ph.D. programmes and postdoctoral training.

Master’s and Ph.D. Internships
UNU provides candidates who have been accepted into master’s and Ph.D. programmes, particularly at universities in developing countries, with the opportunity to conduct part of the research for their dissertation at one of UNU’s Research and Training Centres, where as interns they have access to the latest scientific information, receive expert advice from the institute’s academic staff and can link with the local academic community.

- UNU-IAS accepts master’s degree candidates of the FASID-GRIPS Joint Graduate Programme in International Development Studies as six-month interns. Two students who had finished their course requirements joined UNU-IAS as interns in October.
- UNU-INTECH provides opportunities to Ph.D. students specializing in the broad area of the economics of technological change. Primarily targeted at students from developing countries, the UNU-INTECH Ph.D. Internship Programme funded two interns in 2003.
- Ph.D. students can work with UNU-WIDER faculty and conduct research for dissertations on topics related to development and transition economics. In 2003, seven Ph.D. interns joined UNU-WIDER as research associates for periods of up to six months.
- UNU-CRIS has launched a Ph.D. Internship Programme in collaboration with Flemish universities. Three Ph.D. interns worked at UNU-CRIS in 2003.
- In 2003, UNU-IAS hosted five Fellows through its Ph.D. Fellowship programme.

Degree Programmes
In 2003, UNU provided support to postgraduate students from developing countries through the following programmes:

- One UNU Fellow (from Somalia) was admitted to the two-year Master’s Programme in Applied Human Nutrition offered by the University of Nairobi.
- Two M.Sc. Fellowships and one Ph.D. Fellowship were granted to candidates from African academic institutions for tenure at universities in Africa under the UNU/African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI) Postgraduate Fellowship Programme.
- Two UNU Fellows from Peru joined the Master’s Course on Development Planning for the Humid Tropics, organized by the Universidad Federal do Pará in Brazil.
- Four new students joined the Ph.D. programme on the economic and policy dimensions of technical change offered by UNU-INTECH and the Maastricht Economic Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (MERIT; a division of the University of Maastricht).
- Four former UNU-GTP Fellows from Asia and Africa have undertaken M.Sc. studies in Geothermal Science and Engineering under a cooperation agreement with the University of Iceland.

Plans are underway to establish a joint graduate programme by UNU and various public and private universities in Japan in the field of international relations.

Postdoctoral Fellowships
- In 2003, UNU awarded one African Conference on Research on Computer Science (CARI) Postdoctoral Fellowship in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science to a scientist from Tunisia.
- UNU-IAS offers Postdoctoral Fellowships in a variety of areas. In 2003, the Institute hosted four UNU-IAS Postdoctoral Fellows as well as several Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)-UNU Fellows.
The 25th anniversary of the United Nations University Geothermal Training Programme (UNU-GTP) was celebrated in 2003. The agreement on its establishment was made between UNU and the Government of Iceland in 1978, and the first two UNU Fellows came (from the Philippines) to Iceland for specialized training in 1979. Since then, 6-month specialized courses on geothermal energy have been held every year. During 1979–2003, 300 scientists and engineers from 39 countries have completed the 6-month courses, and over 70 have received shorter training (2 weeks to 4 months). To that can be added 7 participants in the new M.Sc. programme, 3 of whom that have already graduated.

The programme gives university graduates engaged in geothermal work very intensive on-the-job training in their chosen fields of specialization. The trainees work side-by-side with geothermal professionals in Iceland. The training is tailored for the individual and the needs of his or her institution/country. The aim is to assist developing countries with significant geothermal potential to build up groups of specialists that cover most aspects of geothermal exploration and development. Priority is given to candidates from institutions where geothermal work is already underway.

In many countries in Africa, Asia, Central America and Central and Eastern Europe, UNU-GTP graduates are among the leading specialists in geothermal research and development. They have contributed significantly to energy development in their parts of the world. The total installed geothermal electric capacity in the world was about 2,800 MWe when UNU-GTP was established; today, the installed capacity is about 8,000 MWe. A part of this growth is in countries where former UNU-GTP students are key geothermal specialists (e.g., the Philippines, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Kenya and Indonesia). Many former students are also key specialists in the direct use of geothermal energy for heating houses. In this respect, particular mention can be made of China and countries in Central and Eastern Europe (e.g., Poland and Turkey), where great progress is being made in replacing the use of coal for house heating with environmentally clean geothermal energy.

Participants are selected by private interviews during site visits to countries where representatives of UNU-GTP visit geothermal fields, research institutions and energy utilities, and commonly give lecture series or participate in local or regional geothermal energy conferences/seminars. These site visits have played a very significant part in the work and in the success of UNU-GTP. Since 1979, an average of 5–6 site visits have been conducted annually to countries requesting training, or a total of 138 visits. The highest numbers of visits have been to China (15), Kenya (10), the Philippines (9), El Salvador (8), Costa Rica (8) and Ethiopia (6). The visits have been made by the permanent staff of UNU-GTP (66%), members of the Studies Board (22%), and other geothermal specialists (12%).

The site visits are extremely valuable for the quality of the training, and the private interviews with candidates aim to ensure the quality of the selected Fellows. During the 25 years, only 7 UNU Fellows have been unable to complete their six months of training, mostly for medical reasons. The visits to institutions and geothermal fields aim to tailor the training to the needs of the country and the institutions from which the candidates come. The site visits have, without doubt, contributed very significantly to the successful transfer of technology from Iceland to the recipient countries, and have contributed significantly to make UNU-GTP an international centre and network of learning.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary, the Foreign Minister of Iceland, Mr. Halldor Asgrimson, and UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel attended the Opening Ceremony of the 25th annual session and addressed the Fellows. The Conference of Directors of the institutions of UNU was also held in Reykjavik during the opening week, and the directors and the senior staff of UNU met with the UNU Fellows at a seminar held at UNU-GTP premises at Orkustofnun.

The main celebrations were held in connection with the International Geothermal Conference, IGC2003, organized by the Geothermal Association of Iceland in Reykjavik in September 2003. The title of the conference was “Multiple Integrated Uses of Geothermal Resources.” Amongst 200 participants from 32 countries were 24 UNU Fellows studying in Iceland at the time and 20 former UNU Fellows who came to Iceland from all continents to participate in the conference and the anniversary celebrations. Of the 80 papers presented, over 30 per cent were authored by former UNU Fellows.

The conference was opened by addresses from the President of Iceland, Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, and the Permanent Secretary of the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Gunnar Snorri Gunnarsson. Special presentations were given by UNU Rector van Ginkel and the Director of UNU-GTP, Dr. Ingvar B. Fridleifsson. One of the conference sessions consisted of five papers on the contribution of UNU-GTP to geothermal development in Africa, Asia (apart from China), China, Central America, and Central and Eastern Europe. The closing session was addressed by the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mrs. Valgerdur Sverrisdottir, and a presentation was given by the President of the International Geothermal Association, Dr. Guido Cappetti. The conference was preceded by a three-day international course on the Sustainable Use and Operating Policy for Geothermal Resources. Links to the conference proceedings and the short course book are on the UNU-GTP website (http://www.os.is/unugtp/), and papers in the Proceedings related to UNU-GTP have been published separately on a CD-ROM by UNU-GTP.
Apart from programmes specifically designed for advanced training, capacity development activities are another integral component of the research projects developed and managed within the two programme areas at UNU Centre and by the UNU RTC/Ps. By providing opportunities for involvement in UNU project work, such activities contribute to enhancing the skills and knowledge of individuals and/or the capacity of academic or other institutions.

Project-based capacity development also includes (a) the numerous non-regular training seminars and workshops that are conducted by UNU in direct connection with ongoing research and policy study projects for UN or national/local government officials and civil society actors, and (b) community-based, multi-stakeholder participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of UNU projects. To mention just a few of the many examples of project-based capacity development implemented in 2003:

- The Inter-linkages Initiative conducted workshops on Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Colombo, Kingston (Jamaica) and Kuala Lumpur.
- The UNU Centre project Environmental Monitoring and Governance in the East Asian Coastal Hydrosphere has been assisting eight research and educational institutions in the East Asian region in building their technological capacity to undertake environmental monitoring. The project held a five-day training workshop in Tokyo.
- The UNU-WIDER Building African Capacity for Policy Simulation project held week-long training workshops in Finland, South Africa and Uganda.
- The UNU-INTECH Innovation Policy and Technological Capability Building project held week-long joint training workshops with partner institutions in Lesotho, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe.
- The UNU-IAS Biodiplomacy Initiative conducted a four-day workshop on Biosecurity for representatives from government, academia and civil society organizations in Kyrgyzstan, and a one-day Central Asian Network Meeting in Montreal.
- The UNU-INWEH Far’a & Jerash Integrated Watershed Management project conducted month-long field training in Jordan and Palestine.
- UNU-CRIS held a three-day Regional Integration and Conflict workshop in Zambia.

The UNU-WIDER Short-Visits Programme encourages key researchers in related topics to come to Helsinki for visits of up to four weeks, where they collaborate with resident staff on projects and give presentations of their work in the form of public lectures or in-house seminars. Five such visits took place during the year. A Short-Term Sabbatical Programme, which offers a monthly stipend to cover living expenses, gives researchers and scholars an opportunity to spend up to five months at UNU-WIDER and to interact with the resident research staff. Each participant is expected to contribute one publishable research report related to the Institute’s research programme. In 2003, eight scholars participated in this sabbatical programme.

Scientific exchange is a vital component of individual as well as institutional academic development. Scholars and professionals from developing countries, however, often lack the financial means to travel to international conferences where the latest research results are discussed and much academic exchange is initiated. To help alleviate the isolation of researchers and scholars in developing countries and raise their capacity for research and teaching, UNU endeavours to facilitate their integration into relevant international academic communities by providing travel grants to important events or support for the organization of workshops and conferences in developing countries. UNU-WIDER, for example, provides travel grants for developing country academics to attend its Development Conferences.

In 2003, UNU inaugurated a new programme of support for former UNU Fellows who have been invited to deliver a paper or poster presentation in an international academic conference. The intent of this programme is to enhance the sustainable effect of UNU-supported training efforts by enabling former UNU Fellows to maintain their contacts with the international academic and scientific communities. Five such grants have been awarded to former participants in various UNU training programmes.

UNU also collaborates with the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI) to...
facilitate staff-exchange fellowships that enable academic staff of African universities to teach at universities in other parts of Africa. These staff exchanges help to offset shortages of academic personnel at the host universities, while at the same time providing fellowship recipients with an opportunity to gain teaching experience at institutions other than their home universities. Four such fellowships were awarded in 2003.

Through the project Development of Computer Science Departments in Developing Countries, UNU-IAS arranges for computer science lecturers or professors from universities in developing countries to learn about new courses at partner universities in industrialized countries. Eleven institutions in industrialized countries have participated in this project, and so far 19 institutions in developing countries have benefited. In 2003, lecturers from six universities in four developing countries were trained under the project.

UNU-IIST offers computer science curriculum fellowships of up to four months to help academics in developing countries enhance the work of the computer science departments in their home institutions.

UN Virtual Learning Centre for Water

In 2003, the initial phase for the United Nations Water Virtual Learning Centre (WVLC) was completed. The WVLC is a UNU-INWEH project to create a combined CD-ROM and online-based adult education programme in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The curriculum, specifically directed to water practitioners in developing countries, will offer broad coverage of the principles and practices of IWRM. It will consist of 10 courses (about 250 hours in total) leading to a Diploma in IWRM from UNU.

The eight-course core of the curriculum is now complete; the introduction, overview and final practicum (course 10) will be completed through the regional centres to ensure customization to local conditions. Collaboration on curriculum development has involved over 60 academics and professionals worldwide. During 2003, a comprehensive evaluation of the curriculum materials (by 28 foreign graduate students studying in Canada) was completed to confirm that the information content is understandable and balanced, and that the software is problem-free.

In its second phase, the WVLC programme will be delivered by designated regional centres that will manage the educational process and provide regional “customization.” Planning was initiated for establishment of the first three delivery centres at University of Ghana, University of the South Pacific in Fiji and Asian Institute for Technology in Thailand. Agreements with the regional host institutions are expected in early 2004, to be followed by a week-long “partners workshop” in March in Canada (University of Waterloo). Through a partnership with UNDP Cap-Net, tentative agreement has been reached with the University of Costa Rica to begin translation of the WVLC curriculum into Spanish.
“The University shall have as a central objective of its research and training centres and programmes the continuing growth of vigorous academic and scientific communities everywhere and particularly in the developing countries....”

— [UNU Charter Article I.6]

Given the increasingly international nature of research agendas, driven by rapid advances in information and communications technologies (ICT), networking by practitioners and researchers is critical to effective knowledge generation, education and outreach. UNU in 2003 continued to strengthen its network outreach efforts by enhancing the implementation of advanced ICT to enable the development of broad partnerships that bring together the UNU system with other UN organizations, academic entities, professional associations, private sector bodies and other elements of civil society.

UNU might well be described as a “network of networks.” UNU’s internal, global network of UNU Research and Training Centres and Programmes (RTC/Ps) complements and supports UNU Centre, thereby expanding the depth and breadth of UNU activities. Each RTC/P focuses on a specific set of issues and forges links with universities, national research centres, and other organizations specializing in the relevant subject areas, as well as with appropriate professionals and policy makers.

UNU has been active in building and supporting networks that share knowledge, and continually strives to invigorate its networking activities by starting new initiatives and reaching out to prominent institutions, research groups, international organizations and business groups, and by participating in external formal networks that have objectives similar to its own research agenda. (Annex 2 lists major new agreements signed by UNU in 2003.)

UNU particularly aims at strengthening its connections within and contributions to the United Nations system (discussed separately in the next section, “Links with the United Nations System”), as well as its links with research and other relevant institutions, particularly those in developing countries. (See Annex 3 for a list of UNU’s major non-UN partners in 2003.)

The first subsection below briefly introduces the UNU internal network of RTC/Ps, and described the current thematic focuses of each. The next subsection then outlines a small sample of the thematic areas in which UNU is leading or participating in major external networking activities.

UNU Research and Training Centres and Programmes

Since establishment of the UNU Geothermal Training Programme in 1978, the network of UNU RTC/Ps has grown to encompass 12 institutions, with additions in the planning stage or under discussion. This network of RTC/Ps extends the outreach of UNU in a unique, decentralized way, bringing the benefits of a truly global perspective, improved interaction with academic communities worldwide, and a wider ability to tap global human and financial resources in furtherance of UNU’s objectives.

UNU Research and Training Centres

The mission of the Tokyo-based UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) is to advance the frontiers of knowledge and promote learning for policy-making so as to meet the challenges of sustainable development. In 2003, UNU-IAS sharpened its focus by re-clustering research activities into six thematic areas: (a) biodiplomacy initiative, (b) science and technology policy options for developing countries, (c) urban ecosystems, (d) sustainable development governance, (e) education for sustainable development, and (f) the Ishikawa International Cooperation Research Centre (IICRC).

Website: http://www.ias.unu.edu/

Many developing countries face a lack of software professionals for industrial growth as well as a chronic shortage of software educators and trainers. And although local software development is essential, most developing countries have few software companies with experience in industrial software development. The mission of UNU International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST), located in Macao, China, is to help developing countries strengthen their indigenous capabilities in three key areas: (a) development of their own and exportable software, (b) development of university education curriculum and (c) participation in international research.

Website: http://www.iist.unu.edu/
The activities of **UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA)**, in Accra, Ghana, with a Mineral Resources Unit in Lusaka, Zambia, are anchored in the following five planks: (a) strengthening partnerships with African scientists and institutions, (b) developing/strengthening relevant postgraduate programmes in African universities, (c) focusing studies on the role of African women in natural resources management, (d) making relevant information available to African policy makers in a timely manner and (e) engaging the African Diaspora in UNU-INRA’s activities. UNU-INRA’s two main programme themes are (a) restoration and maintenance of the fertility of soils and (b) conservation of biodiversity, genetic improvement and increased utilization of Africa’s indigenous food crops and useful plants.

Website: [http://www.inra.unu.edu/](http://www.inra.unu.edu/)

Strengthening of research capabilities to inform evidence-based policy-making, as well as educating policy makers, is an urgent and vital task for developing countries. **UNU Institute for New Technologies (UNU-INTECH)** in Maastricht, The Netherlands, contributes to this process by analysing global trends and their implications for developing countries, and helping to build capacity among policy makers and researchers in these countries. Current research at UNU-INTECH is focused around three major themes: (a) global governance of innovation, (b) designing the knowledge economy and (c) innovation for development.

Website: [http://www.intech.unu.edu/](http://www.intech.unu.edu/)

**UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)** in Helsinki, Finland, focuses on multidisciplinary research and policy analysis of structural changes that affect the living conditions of the world’s poor, with the aim of actualizing policies that can achieve robust, equitable and environmentally sustainable growth. The UNU-WIDER research programme follows three broad themes: (a) inequality and poverty (micro-economic and distributional issues), (b) globalization, finance and growth (macroeconomic trade and finance topics), and (c) new directions in development economics.

Website: [http://www.wider.unu.edu/](http://www.wider.unu.edu/)

The newest Research and Training Centre, **UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)**, commenced activities on 1 December 2003 with the appointment of its founding director. The institute, located in Bonn, Germany, will focus its research on the consequences of societal and cultural vulnerability to such “creeping” environmental hazards as global environmental change/degradation, water quality/quantity deterioration, population displacement and degradation of the social environment.

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## UNU Research and Training Programmes and Associated Programmes

In line with recent advances in the world of biotechnology, **UNU Programme for Biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNU-BIOLAC)**, based in Caracas, Venezuela, has been analysing and redefining its vision and strategies on biotechnology for development. This analysis focuses on a search for new opportunities and use of the comparative advantages of Latin American and Caribbean countries to benefit from biotechnology to promote development in harmony with their social needs. The main areas of work of UNU-BIOLAC are (a) biosafety, (b) bio-informatics, (c) bio-ethics, (d) genomics and (e) molecular epidemiology.

Website: [http://www.biolac.unu.edu/](http://www.biolac.unu.edu/)

**UNU Programme on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS)**, in Bruges, Belgium, seeks to advance understanding of the complex and multifaceted processes and impacts of intra- and inter-regional integration. The aim is to build policy-relevant knowledge and contribute to capacity building on issues of integration and cooperation, particularly in developing countries. During its second full year of operation in 2003, UNU-CRIS focused efforts on further developing its internal expertise and external network. Research work was grouped into four major thematic areas of regional integration: (a) peace and security, (b) economic development and trade, (c) governance in the regional/global context and (d) identity.

Website: [http://www.cris.unu.edu/](http://www.cris.unu.edu/)

The mission of **UNU Food and Nutrition Programme for Human and Social Development (UNU-FNP)**, coordinated from Cornell University, is threefold: (a) to assist
developing regions to enhance individual, organizational and institutional capacity in the area of food and nutrition, (b) to undertake research efforts that require global effort and (c) to serve as the academic arm of the UN system in areas of food and nutrition that are best addressed in a non-regulatory, non-normative environment.

Website: http://www.unu.edu/capacitybuilding/foodnutrition/cornell.html

UNU Fisheries Training Programme (UNU-FTP), based in Iceland, offers postgraduate research- and work-oriented training for specialists in various disciplines of fisheries. The emphasis of training is on the practical application of knowledge for assessment, development and research.

Website: http://www.hafro.is/unuftp/

UNU Geothermal Training Programme (UNU-GTP), also based in Iceland, offers specialized training to geothermal specialists from developing and transition countries, with the goal of assisting those countries with significant geothermal potential to build up or strengthen groups of specialists capable of undertaking most aspects of geothermal exploration and development. UNU-GTP celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2003.

Website: http://www.os.is/id/472

With hostilities in neighbouring Iraq forcing the evacuation of senior staff during part of 2003, and continuing to impact organization of activities involving visitors from outside of Jordan, UNU International Leadership Academy (UNU-ILA) in Amman, Jordan, focused its efforts on development of a research programme to underpin a revamped global course programme, to be relaunched in 2004. The Academy has established a network of researchers in nine countries who will conduct research and develop case studies on leadership for incorporation into future global courses.

Website: http://www.la.unu.edu/

The mission of UNU International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), located in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, is to contribute to efforts to resolve pressing global water problems through capacity development and directed research. UNU-INWEH’s programme portfolio is directed to five issue areas: (a) UNU-INWEH centres of excellence, (b) drylands water management, (c) integrated coastal zone management, (d) training and distance education in water, environment and health, and (e) groundwater and water quality management.

Website: http://www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh/

UNU Pilot Programme on Science and Technology for Sustainability (UNU-ISTS), in the Republic of Korea, focuses on three key aspects of sustainability technology: (a) environmental monitoring and assessment, (b) clean-technology development and (c) remedial technology development. Activities in 2003 focused on organization of the UNU-ISTS centre, development of research and education programmes, and preparation of a long-term plan.

INCORE, the Institute for Conflict Research, is a joint initiative set up by UNU and University of Ulster to undertake research and policy work that is useful to the resolution of ethnic, political and religious conflicts. INCORE’s research focus is (a) post-conflict issues, (b) issues of governance and diversity, and (c) research methodology in violent societies.

Website: http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/

External Networking Activities

Policy Dialogue

In January, UNU Peace and Governance Programme co-hosted the third EU-UNU Tokyo Global Forum with a major international conference on the theme “Children in Turmoil: Rights of the Child in the Midst of Human Insecurity.” This event, held at UN House in Tokyo, represented the continuation of a fruitful collaboration between UNU and the European Union Commission Delegation in Japan; UNICEF and the Japan Committee for UNICEF also cooperated in organizing the forum, which examined the topic across a range of issues, nationally, regionally and globally. A forum report was published to disseminate the findings to a wider audience.

Wilton Park is an academically independent agency of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office that organizes high-level policy-focused conferences on key international issues to bring together a multi-national and
multi-professional group of senior policy practitioners, experts and other opinion formers. UNU Peace and Governance Programme co-organized a Wilton Park Conference on “Japan and East Asia in a Globalizing World” in September in Hakone, Japan — the first Wilton Park Conference to be held outside of Europe. Discussions and presentations covered a number of subject areas — traditional security issues (including weapons of mass destruction), non-traditional and human security challenges (including the environment, disease, human trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism), and trade, investment and finance — in the context of East Asia’s economic and security outlook in an era of globalization. The results of the conference were written up in a report produced by UNU.

**Food and Nutrition Network**

Hunger remains a global problem of great significance, with nearly 30 per cent of the world’s population suffering from some form of malnutrition. UNU’s Food and Nutrition Programme (FNP) has long worked with leading international organizations, such as FAO, WFP, WHO and UNICEF, to improve food security and nutrition worldwide. UNU-FNP assists developing regions to enhance individual, organizational and institutional capacity for dealing with food and nutrition issues, undertakes coordinated global research activities, and serves as the academic arm for the United Nations system in areas of food and nutrition that are best addressed in a non-regulatory, non-normative environment. Current UNU-FNP activities of particular significance include the following:

*Latin American Initiative* — In the Latin American region, UNU-FNP focuses on leadership training and leveraging of funds to strengthen local and regional capacity for action in health/nutrition promotion, micronutrient fortification, and prevention of nutrition-related chronic disease and other forms of malnutrition (such as through research funded by The Global Forum for Health Research). INSP (Mexico) and INTA (Chile) are leading the effort regionally and coordinating applied research and training activities in partnership with IUNS, IAEA and PAHO/WHO.

*African Initiative* — UNU-FNP’s ten-year action plans for strengthening capacity in Africa in the area of food and nutrition have completed their initial two-year implementation phase. An assessment of lessons learned and the updating of those plans is underway. Capacity has been strengthened in the areas of HIV and nutrition and the enhancement of advocacy skills.

*Task Force for Capacity Strengthening in Nutrition in Asia* (CASNA) — At the 2003 meeting of the UN system’s Standing Committee on Nutrition, CASNA presented its ten-year plan to strengthen capacity in Asia.
Since the official launch of this effort, the group has surveyed institutions throughout Asia and identified those with capacity in the alleviation of malnutrition. Implementation of the plan has included seeking support from external agencies; the Tokyo-based National Institute of Health and Nutrition is the first official partner.

**Ellison Medical Foundation/International Nutrition Foundation Fellowship Programme** — A five-year grant of US$ 1 million per year from the Ellison Medical Foundation will support a fellowship programme coordinated with UNU’s capacity development efforts. The programme, to be administered by the International Nutrition Foundation, has obligated the funds fully for the first two years. The programme will be limited to about 16 developing country institutions recognized as leaders in their respective regions; the fellowships will be used to help develop or maintain a critical mass of well-trained personnel.

**Multi-Country Growth Reference Study (MGRS)** — The MGRS has completed its data collection phase, with studies in six countries involving a total of some 8,000 children. Construction of the world’s first truly international growth standards has begun, and planning is underway for training and dissemination of the new standards.

**African Networking Initiatives**

Through collaboration with the International Foundation for Science (IFS), 60 young scientists from 19 African countries are being supported with small grants to conduct research on the two priority programme areas of UNU-INRA. IFS and the Committee on Science and Technology for Developing Countries (COSTED) also collaborate with UNU-INRA to facilitate a network of natural products scientists in West and Central Africa (WANNPRES) for the purpose of enhancing the exchange of information and ensuring the mobility of scientists within the various laboratories in West and Central Africa.

UNU-INRA’s African Millennium Initiative for Science and Technology (AMIST) is a networking mechanism that helps to bridge the knowledge gap between African scientists, technologists and academicians in the diaspora and their home-based counterparts. Through this initiative, UNU-INRA is providing opportunities for African scientists and technologists in the diaspora to (a) establish linkages between African universities and reputable centres of learning in the developed world, and (b) procure resources that can be used to strengthen the “cells of excellence” that have been identified by UNU-INRA as its operating units.

**Networking in Biotechnology**

UNU-BIOLAC works with other biotechnology-related institutes to leverage its capacity development expertise. In November, UNU-BIOLAC reached agreement with the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) to launch joint activities for 2004, including local courses taught by ICGEB professors and cosponsoring of fellowships. The coordinator of the Bioinformatics Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (LacBioNet) has been actively interacting with similar programmes launched by ICGEB and the European Molecular Biology Laboratories (EMBL). UNU-BIOLAC DNA-typing activities are being developed in collaboration with the Iberoamerican Network in Forensic Genetics, sponsored by CYTED, and the Iberoamerican chapter of the International Society of Hematogenetics. The UNU-BIOLAC Coordinator was also invited to join the new online SciDev portal, launched as a consortium of *Science* and *Nature* magazines, to address the situation of less developed countries.

**Regional Integration**

UNU-CRIS cooperates with a number of partner institutions in implementing its work on regional integration. Participants in the Linking Peace, Security and Regional Integration project, for example, include the Africa Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, African Union, UNDP, UNECA, UPEACE, regional economic communities in Africa and the Arab Maghreb Union. Participants in the Regional Integration Indicators project include scholars from 16 universities and institutions.

**Freshwater Resources**

UNU-INWEH undertook extensive networking activities during 2003. These included participation in the UN Inter-Agency Committee on Freshwater (UN-WATER), the central, UN system-wide coordination and planning group for follow-up implementation on the water-related commitments in the WSSD Plan of Implementation. Through UN-WATER, UNU-INWEH pursued a wide variety of bilateral and multi-agency linkages to advance its own programmes and to contribute to outreach, dissemination, advocacy and educational capacity building.
UNU-INWEH also continued its participation in the informal UN “Water-Education-Training Support Group” (W-E-T), together with UNESCO, IHE Delft, UNDP Cap-Net and the World Bank Institute. UNU-INWEH has taken the lead in advocating a role for W-E-T as a global advocate for greater investment in capacity building and as a practical consortium for assessing and documenting global human resources requirements, compiling best practices and defining a global training “roadmap.” At a meeting in July, the W-E-T group agreed to continue in an advocacy role, but to focus on practical actions and projects. Its first initiative, the Global Capacity Development Assessment, will be led by UNU-INWEH.

**Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) continues to be an important UNU partner. In January, UNU-IAS cooperated with MA to hold a user forum with officials, business, NGOs and academia in Malaysia. One component of the UNU-IAS Education for Sustainable Development programme aims at facilitating exchange between this global initiative and other similar projects, including the Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project (APEIS) of the Japan Ministry of the Environment. With this objective in mind, UNU-IAS organized the MA User Forum in October, attended by more than 40 potential users of MA in Japan.

**Online Learning**

UNU Online Learning, established in 2002, was extensively involved in 2003 in two key projects: Global Virtual University (GVU) and Asia Pacific Initiative (API).

Global Virtual University is a collaborative effort by UNU, UNEP, UNEP GRID Arendal and Agder University College, in conjunction with a network of universities around the world, with funding provided by the Norwegian Government to cover GVU development for an initial four-year period. GVU officially became operational on 17 June. The main partner universities met in June to work on overall design for a Masters Degree in Global Environment and Development Studies (GEDS). The project partners submitted proposals for individual course modules in September, with UNU and Kwame Nkrumah

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6 http://www.gvu.unu.edu/
University of Science and Technology (Ghana) collaborating on a course on Sustainable Development Planning. Beginning in September, about 20 students participated in a four-month GVU online course on “The UNEP Global Environmental Outlook Reports.”

Asia Pacific Initiative is an open-content initiative designed as a platform to promote online communication, collaborative research and e-learning on environmental sustainability. API was launched in September 2002 as a Type-II partnership implemented by UNU, Keio University and Leadership for Environment And Development (LEAD) Japan. CISCO Systems (Japan), which joined the initiative in December 2002, has contributed its technology to the associated Media Studio (located at UN House in Tokyo), and universities in Australia, Thailand and the USA have also joined.

The basic approach of API is to implement field experiments and capacity building programmes, and convert the outcomes into online content. Three UNU/LEAD Japan e-case studies (focusing on the Ayuquila River, Mexico, on urban environmental management in Bangkok, and on environmental issues in the Mekong River Basin) are under development with collaborating institutions. Also as part of API, UNU collaborated with LEAD Japan and the Institute of Sustainable Energy Policies to organize a November training course in Iwate Prefecture in November on the theme of “Local Sustainable Energy Communities.”

On 31 March, the Media Studio was officially launched. The Media Studio will play a key role in development of content for UNU and its partners, and for key projects such as GVU and API. The UNU Online Learning website was also developed, with online forums designed to attract return visits and create a community of practice around the work of UNU.

Other Networking Activities
In 2003, UNU Peace and Governance Programme collaborated with a number of external partners in undertaking its projects, including:

• International Peace Academy and Harvard University’s Carr Center on the project Making States Work;
• Monterrey Institute of International Studies on the Human Flows project;
• UNESCO and the University of Lausanne (Switzerland) on the project New Modes of Global Governance; and
• International Peace Research Institute, Oslo, on the project Double Effect in World Business: Dealing with Unintended Consequences of Corporate Activity.

In support of its PLEC project, in 2003 UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme:

• collaborated with the FAO Programme on Globally-important Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in China, Guinea and Mexico;
• partnered with IPGRI in preparation of the book Managing Biodiversity in Agricultural Ecosystems;
• developed a proposal of strategies for building a PLEC/Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) global initiative for capacity development in smallholder forestry;
• co-organized, with Kyoto University and Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences, an international symposium in October in Tokyo on “Alternative Approaches to Enhancing Small-Scale Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management in Marginal Areas — Experience in Monsoon Asia”; and
• assisted in building up of the Cadena Latinoamericana de Agrodiversidad (Latin American Agrodiversity Network) with Instituto Interamericano de Cooperacion Agricola (Interamerican Agricultural Cooperation Agency) and governmental agencies in Peru and Brazil.

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7 http://www.unu.edu/api/
8 http://www.onlinelearning.unu.edu/
“The University Centre shall ... maintain close co-
ordination between the activities of the University and
those of the organs and programmes of the United
Nations ... and of United Nations agencies”

— [UNU Charter Article IV.f]

A continuing major priority of UNU has been enhancing
connections with the rest of the United Nations system.
Through the Rector, UNU provides inputs to meetings of
the UN Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB).
These meetings are useful in alerting UNU to pressing
UN policy issues that require new thinking.

In its project activities in 2003, the University worked
with about 40 agencies in the UN system.

Geneva Research and Policy Dialogue

In the context of the Secretary-General’s call for better
utilization of available policy research knowledge,
analyses and expertise from around the world to help
improve policy planning, UNU and the Secretary-General
of the UN Office at Geneva jointly organize an annual
Geneva Research and Policy Dialogue. The fourth annual
session of the Geneva Research and Policy Dialogue was
held in November.

The Geneva Research and Policy Dialogue brings
together three constituencies — the policy community
within the UN system, the research communities of the
UN system and the external research community — to
promote synergies by instituting a dialogue and
increasing mutual awareness of each community’s
respective work and needs. From this perspective, the
Dialogue aims to bring together three aspects of the work
of the UN: sound research, effective policies and creative
partnership. The dialogue between the research and
policy sides is especially valuable in this connection.
Among the UNU projects presented at the 2003 Geneva
Research and Policy Dialogue were the Peace and Gover-
nance Programme projects on refugees and human rights
in societies in transition.

Project and Activity Partnerships

UNU works closely with other agencies in the UN
system on a wide range of issues relevant to the Universi-
ty’s priority programme areas. The following are exam-
pies of such partnerships for 2003.

UNU Centre Peace and Governance Programme
collaborated with a number of UN system agencies,
including:

• UNDP and UNDPKO on applied policy activities
  in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, peacekeeping;
• UNDP and UNIDIR on projects related to disarma-
  ment and arms transfers;
• UNICRI on the project Coalition Against Trafficking
  in Human Beings in the Philippines;
• UN High Commission on Human Rights through the
  project on human trafficking; and
• the UN Secretary-General’s Office through the con-
  sultations of the Programme’s Senior Vice Rector.

UNU Centre Environment and Sustainable Develop-
ment Programme participated in several cooperative ven-
tures with UNDP, UNEP and other UN system agencies,
including:

• initiating a partnership on integrated capacity
  building in the Asia Pacific with key regional organi-
zations and UN agencies, such as UNDP, UNEP and
UNITAR;
• organizing an international workshop in Bangkok in
  collaboration with UNCRD;
• conducting an ongoing joint project with UNEP-
  IETC;
• drafting a joint programme on integrated land man-
  agement in drylands with UNESCO and ICARDA;
• holding an international symposium with UNCCD,
  UNEP and other international agencies;
• collaborating with UNIC on a photo exhibition;
• developing a grant request on sustainable manage-
  ment of natural resources in Central Asia in cooper-
  ation with UNEP;
• developing a revised global atlas of mangroves in
  cooperation with UNESCO, UNEP, FAO and others;
and
• organizing a training course at the 11th session of
  UNCSO.

UNU has become more closely connected to the rest
of the UN system through ongoing participation in
inter-agency ICT initiatives. An important milestone in 2003 was establishment of a secure connection to the UN-wide Extranet and the UN Secretariat’s Intranet.

UNU Online Learning has been incorporated into the training services section of the UN Online Network in Public Administration and Finance.

UNU Centre Library is a member of the Steering Committee for the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries, established in January 2003, and cooperates in its mission as a designated UN member library.

Links to the UN, Nordic institutions and Bretton Woods Institutions play an important role in UNU-WIDER’s network and in the dissemination of its research. Among new programmes launched by UNU-WIDER in 2003 was one on Innovative Sources for Development Finance, co-sponsored by UN-DESA. Some other examples of new and continuing cooperation with agencies of the UN system by UNU-WIDER include:

- cooperation with UNDP in updating and dissemination of the World Income Inequality Database;
- presentations by UNU-WIDER staff in meetings organized by the World Bank in Russia, Switzerland and the USA;
- cooperation with UNHCR in the UNU-WIDER project Poverty, International Migration and Asylum;
- cooperation with the ILO in editing two volumes resulting from papers presented at the Development Conference on Growth and Poverty;
- participation in the UNU/TICAD III Expert Group;
- participation by the Director of UNU-WIDER in the Sessions of the Board of UNRISD in Geneva; and
- maintaining links with UNICEF, UNCTAD Task Force, IADB, IMF, OECD, UNCTAD and ECLAC.

UNU-IAS maintains a number of links to the UN community. Examples of cooperative efforts in 2003 include:

- a joint briefing with UNCTAD on Genetically Modified Organisms and Trade to diplomats at the Palais des Nations in Geneva;
- a joint Professor Training Programme with the World Trade Organization on WTO and Sustainable Development;
- participation in the meeting of the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of CBD (SBSTTA/9), in Montreal;
- collaboration with UNESCO and ICSU in organizing a side event during the 11th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;
- organizing a session for UNEP’s Biosafety Unit at UNU-IAS Biosecurity II for Central Asia and Mongolia; and
- launching with UNEP of a joint programme on capacity building related to access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing.

UNU-INRA actively participates in all UN activities in Ghana:

- In September, UNU-INRA hosted the meeting of the UN Heads of Agencies in Ghana;
- UNU-INRA supplied key personnel to the UN Country Team (UNCT) for production of the Common Country Assessment and implementation of the second phase of the UN Development Assistance Framework;
- UNU-INRA and the regional office of FAO have concluded plans to sponsor two training activities on soil fertility management during the 2004–2005 biennium; and
- UNU-INRA cooperated in its project activities with the regional offices of several UN agencies, including UNDP and UNEP.

UNU-BIOLAC collaborated with WIPO to organize the international seminar on “Intellectual Property and Technological Transfer: Key Tools for Sustainable Development” in Chile in November. In addition, UNU-BIOLAC:

- maintains continuous exchanges with the UNESCO Regional Office for Social Studies to coordinate regional efforts in bioethics;
- actively interacts through its LacBioNet network on health initiatives with a similar programme launched by WHO;
- works through its RnBio network in close cooperation with FAO’s REDBIO agriculture network and the regional office of UNEP; and
- has opened discussions with the UNESCO regional office in Mexico and other regional agencies to explore possibilities for joint activities and to coordinate regional efforts in bio-ethics.

UNU-INWEH expanded its collaboration with other UN system agencies in 2003 through participation in UN-WATER (the UN Inter-Agency Committee on Freshwater).
UNU Food and Nutrition Programme works with a number of UN system agencies in implementing its projects, including FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, the Asian Development Bank, WFP and WHO.

In 2003, UNU-CRIS prepared an overall framework for capacity-building activities in collaboration with UNDESA. UNU-CRIS has also developed linkages with UNECE, UNDP, ECLAC and the University of Peace.

In 2003, UNU-INTECH worked with such agencies as UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNECA and UNIDO.

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**Partners in the UN System**

- Asian Development Bank
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA)
- United Nations Department of Peace-keeping Operations (UNDPKO)
- United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Forum on Forests
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Office of the (UNHCR)
- United Nations High Commission on Human Rights
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- United Nations Information and Communication Technologies (UNICT) Task Force
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- United Nations Inter-Agency Committee on Freshwater (UN-Water)
- United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
- United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
- United Nations Staff College
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
- University for Peace (UPEACE) Africa Programme
- World Bank
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
“The University shall disseminate the knowledge gained in its activities to the United Nations and its agencies, to scholars and to the public, in order to increase dynamic interaction in the world-wide community of learning and research.”

— [UNU Charter Article I.4]

To ensure that pertinent information is put to optimal use in solving pressing global problems, UNU seeks to improve and increase communication among academics, scientists, research workers, practitioners, policy makers and the public. The basic goal of UNU’s dissemination activities is to get the “right” knowledge to the people that need it most, in a timely manner and in a form that is most useful. UNU aims, in particular, to promote the dissemination of current scientific information and best practice to the developing world.

Dissemination also serves to increase UNU’s international visibility and promote its work. UNU employs both traditional modes of dissemination — such as books, articles in journals and in the popular press, policy briefs and working papers (see Annexes 5 and 6) and conferences, workshops and lectures (many of which are listed later in this section) — and innovative channels (such as distribution via CD-ROM, the Internet and video).

UNU Press provides professional services to support the dissemination activities of UNU projects and maintains excellent working relationships with co-publishers, distributors and other partners worldwide, including the UNU network of RTC/Ps. In 2003, UNU Press reviewed its operations with a view to further reducing the time required to produce publications, and undertook a series of projects (including electronic publishing and rationalizing of stock) to modernize its operations and reduce costs. Effort was also made to better correlate publishing activity with the overall profile of UNU.

In 2003, UNU Press published 15 new titles — more than double the output of the previous year — and three reprints under its own imprint. The increased output was due, in part, to a new emphasis on external financial assistance that enabled production of several new books that otherwise might not have had sufficient funding. In addition to these UNU Press publications, in 2003 other publishers produced more than 20 books related to UNU research projects. (See Annex 5 for a list of titles published in 2003.)

In keeping with UNU’s dissemination mandate, UNU Press continues to promote translations of its books and inexpensive local editions in developing countries by
indigenous publishers. In 2003, two new translations were published (in French and Japanese), and agreements with re-publishers in Malaysia and India resulted in the production of low-cost reprints of ten UNU Press titles for sale in developing countries.

UNU Press completed its first entirely onscreen publishing project in 2003, and also re-printed its first title using digital print-on-demand technology. The use of digital reproduction, which enables small print runs at reasonable cost, will help to ensure the continued supply of titles that otherwise might be unavailable to buyers (out of stock) or have to be reprinted in large volume at a significantly higher cost. Many older UNU Press titles are also offered in full on the UNU website and CD-ROM.

UNU Press exhibited widely in 2003. It hosted a co-exhibit for six UN agencies at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan, and produced the UN Water CD that was distributed together with UNU environmental materials to 20,000 delegates. UNU Press also coordinated a combined UN publications exhibition at the Tokyo International Book Fair, held a co-exhibit with UN Publications at the annual conference of the Academic Council on the UN System in New York, and exhibited at a series of academic meetings as well as the annual Frankfurt International Book Fair.

The UNU Press publication *Beyond Violence: Conflict Resolution in Northern Ireland* received the American Library Association’s 2002 Notable Government Documents Award, marking the third year in a row that a UNU Press book has won this prestigious award.

UNU seeks to inform the various stakeholders, the global research and policy-making communities, and the general public in the UNU Centre and UNU RTC/P host countries and throughout the world about its work and activities through a wide range of dissemination modes. These include a variety of newsletters, press releases, brochures, and other print and electronic publications, as well as numerous public events.

The Internet-based newsletter *UNU Update*, published eight times in 2003, highlights items of current interest and provides succinct information on issues being addressed in different parts of the UNU system. Two other UNU Centre newsletters, *UNUnexions* (which provides a “snapshot” of recent UNU activities) and *Work in

**UNU Website:** [http://www.unu.edu/](http://www.unu.edu/)

**Public Information**

UNU continues to explore opportunities for enhancing electronic dissemination of its activities and research results. The main UNU website offers abundant, regularly updated information about UNU Centre research, publications, activities, news and events, as well as links to the websites of the individual RTC/Ps and linkages to Japanese-, French- and Spanish-language information about UNU.

In 2003, the UNU Campus Computing Centre (UNU-C3) developed a video portal9 that provides one-stop searchable access to UNU’s video archives and regular livecasts, such as the U Thant Distinguished Lecture Series and International Courses lectures. UNU-C3 has also developed a number of software systems to satisfy particular needs of the University, such as Alumni-Net (an alumni database of former participants in the UNU Capacity Development Programme) and PLECServ (a system that facilitates dissemination of the publications and methodologies of the People, Land Management and Ecosystem Conservation project to the worldwide scientific and professional community). Attention was also given in 2003 to redeveloping the UNU Press Sales Support System.

As a means of reaching more individuals at lower cost, UNU-BIOLAC is encouraging the design of online courses and interactive virtual tutorials, to be distributed on CD-ROM and through the UNU-BIOLAC website. A digitalized course on agri-biotechnology was approved in 2003. To facilitate effective online education and information dissemination, UNU-BIOLAC has established an automated platform that includes a dynamic website with important links and frequent updates on worldwide issues, and launched enhanced websites for the Regional Network on Biosafety (RNBio) and the Bioinformatics Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (LacBioNet).

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9 See [http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo](http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo).
Progress (a theme-focused review of recent and ongoing research work and findings), are disseminated both through paper copies and the UNU website. WIDER Angle, the newsletter of UNU-WIDER, is published twice a year and disseminated both in print and electronic form.

In 2003, UNU Centre Public Affairs distributed an average of 600 copies each (English and Japanese) of more than 40 press releases and announcements. The Public Affairs section began using the Xpedite fax distribution service, which reduced lead-time and cut overall distribution costs by about 75 per cent. This contributed to the work of UNU being mentioned in the Japanese vernacular press over 270 times and more than 35 times in the local English media.

**UNU Centre Library**

An essential part of dissemination activities is providing researchers and scholars with access to all the reports and publications published by the UNU system. UNU Centre Library collects, catalogues and indexes e-publications and e-reports (currently some 700 items) for the structured organization of collections as well as efficient retrieval. The Library has launched a pilot version of the UNU Online Public Access Catalogue (UNU-OPAC), which provides not only bibliographic information but also links to full-text publications/reports published by the UNU system.

UNU Centre Library also facilitates research and study of a wide range of relevant materials by members of the UNU community and UN House, capacity development programme and conference participants, as well as external researchers and the general public. Following integration of a collection held by UNIC Tokyo in 2002, a collection of UNDP publications and reports held by UNDP Tokyo were integrated into UNU Centre Library collections in 2003.

**Global Seminar Series**

UNU’s outreach programme is designed to foster a better understanding among university students and young professionals of important global issues and the role of the United Nations in addressing them. An important component of this outreach effort is the series of UNU Global Seminars that are held annually in various locations throughout Japan, the host country of UNU Centre. Each Global Seminar comprises lectures, plenary sessions and group discussions, and presentations by participants; the teaching faculty includes UNU academic staff as well as other experts from academia and policy practice.

Following expansion to the Tohoku region in northern Japan in 2002, UNU Global Seminars are now held annually in seven locations throughout Japan. In 2003, the first UNU Global Seminar session was held outside of Japan — in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

More than 3,000 persons have participated in UNU Global Seminars since inception of the series in 1985. In 2003, 394 young people from Japan and other countries attended the following seven seminars in Japan:

- **Tohoku Session** (Akita Prefecture, 27–30 July), “Global Environment and Regional Development,” 52 participants;
- **Shimane Session** (Shimane Prefecture, 3–6 August), “Globalization and Human Development,” 50 participants;
- **Hokkaido Session** (Hokkaido Prefecture, 27–30 August), “Water, Environment and Economics,” 43 participants;
- **Shonan Session** (Kanagawa Prefecture, 1–5 September), “Will Human Security Supersede the State?,” 110 participants;
- **Kobe-Awaji Session** (Hyogo Prefecture, 23–26 September), “Will Science and Technology Save our Global Community?,” 29 participants;
- **Kanazawa Session** (Ishikawa Prefecture, 22–25 November), “Gender, Development and Peace,” 45 participants; and
- **Okinawa Session** (Okinawa Prefecture, 18–21 December), “Human Rights: Where Do We Stand Today?,” 65 participants.

The first UNU Global Seminar — Seoul Session was held from 1–5 July in the Republic of Korea. Under the theme of “Community Building in Northeast Asia: Challenges and Opportunities,” over 90 participants from Korea, Japan, China, Mongolia and other countries discussed the benefits and problems associated with regional integration in the areas of peace and security, economics, environment and culture. The 2003 UNU Global Seminar — Seoul Session was co-organized by UNU and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, who have agreed to continue their cooperation to organize further seminars.
Work is underway on further expansion of this seminar series outside of Japan. The UNU Global Seminar — Hawaii Session is scheduled to be inaugurated in March 2004 for students and young professionals from Hawaii and other Pacific islands.

Global Leadership Film Series

The Global Leadership Interview Series is an ongoing project of UNU-ILA in which men and women in global leadership positions share the opinions, attitudes and ideas that have shaped their approach to leadership practice. Their views are presented in video documentary form with accompanying booklets. In 2003, UNU-ILA produced one additional instalment in this series and conducted interviews with 2 additional UN leaders.

Tokyo Roundtables

The Tokyo Roundtable series was launched in 2002 to raise the visibility of UNU-IAS and contribute to Japanese society at large by providing information on global issues related to the Institute’s research areas. Four Tokyo Roundtable events were held in 2003: “Agriculture for Peace — A New Vision for Conflict Prevention in Africa,” “The Post-WSSD Perspectives: Business, Society and Sustainable Development Governance,” and “Protected Areas and Hotspots: The Role of Hotspots in Priority Setting for Conservation” in May, as well as “Bioethics and the Biotechnology Revolution” which was jointly organized by UNU-IAS in June in cooperation with the embassies of France and Germany and Universities of Tokyo and Kyoto.

Major Public Lectures

Numerous public lectures are presented each year at UNU Centre and the UNU RTC/Ps. These include the U Thant Distinguished Lecture Series co-organized by UNU Centre and UNU-IAS, the Michio Nagai Memorial Lecture at UNU Centre, the UNU-INRA Annual Lectures, the UNU-WIDER Annual Lecture and the Annual UNU-CRIS Lecture.

The U Thant Distinguished Lecture Series is a forum that presents eminent thinkers and world leaders speaking on the role of the United Nations in addressing the challenges facing the world’s peoples and nations in the twenty-first century. In 2003, three U Thant Distinguished Lectures were presented in Tokyo to audiences of invitees from diplomatic, governmental, political, academic and business circles and the general public:

- At the 5th U Thant Distinguished Lecture, on 15 April, Professor Ahmed H. Zewail, 1999 Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry, discussed his views on “The Future of Our World.”
- On 5 September, the Honorable Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States of America and recipient of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize, delivered the 6th U Thant Distinguished Lecture on the topic of “Agriculture, Development and Human Rights in the Future of Africa.”
- On 17 October, Australian scientist Dr. Peter Doherty, co-winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Medicine, gave the 7th U Thant Distinguished Lecture on “Science, Society and the Challenge of the Future.”

Other major public lectures presented in the UNU system in 2003 included:
- “Botswana’s Success Story: Overcoming the Challenges of Development” — His Excellency Mr. Festus G. Mogae, President of the Republic of Botswana, 18 March, Tokyo.
• “The Role of Infrastructure in the Development and Integration of Africa” — His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, 2003 Africa Day Symposium Keynote Speech, 13 May, Tokyo.
• “Challenges for Peace and Reconciliation in the 21st Century” — His Excellency Kjell Magne Bondevik, Prime Minister of Norway, 2003 Fridtjof Nansen Memorial Lecture, 27 May, Tokyo.
• “NEPAD, TICAD and MDGs: Challenges for German and Japanese Development Policies” — Dr. Uschi Eid, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation and Development, Germany, 29 September, Tokyo.
• “Implementation of TICAD III: The Perspective of an African Leader” — His Excellency Mr. John Kufuor, President of Ghana, 1 October, Tokyo.
• “Making Science and Technology Work for the Poor” — Prof. Robert Evenson, Director of the Economic Growth Center, Yale University, UNU-INRA Annual Lecture, 7–10 October, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
• “Global Labour Standards versus Freedom of Choice” — Professor Kaushik Basu (Cornell University), UNU-WIDER Annual Lecture, 10 November, Helsinki.
• “Regional Integration: A Public-Goods Perspective” — Dr. Inge Kaul, Director of the Office of Development Studies, UN Development Programme, New York, 2nd Annual UNU-CRIS Lecture, 20 November, Bruges, Belgium.

Other Notable 2003 Events

In addition to the public lectures mentioned above, UNU Centre and the UNU RTC/Ps organize numerous conferences, seminars, workshops and other events each year.10 Some events of note in 2003 were the following:

• “Inter-linkages and Environmental Governance — National and Regional Strategies and Ways Forward in Asia and the Pacific,” Public Forum co-organized by UNU, ASEAN Secretariat, Ministry of the Environment (Japan) et al., 21 January, Tokyo.
• “Fate of Arsenic in the Environment,” BUET/UNU International Symposium, 5–6 February, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
• “UN Peace Operations in the Asia-Pacific Region,” Workshop organized by UNU and Institute of

Special Publications for International Year of Freshwater 2003

To mark the contribution of UNU to the International Year of Freshwater, UNU-INWEH undertook a system-wide effort to compile research papers that highlight the University's input to the freshwater agenda and identify policy-relevant research needs. These papers will be published in a special 2004 issue of the *Journal of Global Environmental Change — Human and Policy Dimensions*. The contributions address two key research themes: management of water resources shared by two or more nations, and new approaches and tools for integrated water resources management. UNU-INWEH also supported preparation of a special issue on the African Great Lakes in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*, released in December. The collection highlights the “knowledge imperative” for the African Great Lakes and discusses a wide variety of environmental issues in the three largest lakes, including fishery exploitation, eutrophication and contamination. UNU-INWEH is supporting publication and dissemination of the issue on CD-ROM to ensure that its important scientific results are made widely available to African scientists and managers.

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Defence and Strategic Studies (Singapore), 12–13 February, Tokyo.


• “Building (Bio)pharmaceutical Systems in Developing Countries,” UNU-INTECH International Workshop, 26–27 February, Maastricht.

• “Women’s Empowerment: The Key to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals,” 2003 International Women’s Day Celebration jointly organized by UN agencies in Japan, 6 March, Tokyo.


• “The 3rd World Water Forum,” with two sessions co-organized by UNU-IAS in collaboration with JSWE, MOE/J, and IGES, 16–23 March, Kyoto, Shiga and Osaka, Japan.


• “Review Meeting of Post-MYPOW (Multi-year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity),” UNU-IAS, 21 March, Montreal.

• “ASEAN Regional Workshop on Inter-linkages and Integrated Capacity Development,” UNU, 24–26 March, Kuala Lumpur.


• “Geographical Indications,” UNU-INTECH Research Seminar, 26 March, Maastricht.

• “Spatial Inequality in Asia,” UNU-WIDER Project Conference, 28–29 March, Tokyo.

• “New Frontiers of Bio-informatics in Latin America,” UNU-BIOLAC Workshop, 31 March–4 April, Mérida, Venezuela.

• “Award Ceremony for 2002–2003 UNU-Kirin Fellows,” UNU, 4 April, Tokyo.

• “Trade, Business and Investment in a Wider Europe,” Meeting jointly organized by UNU-CRIS, UNEC and International University, 7 April, Geneva.

• “Urban Sustainable Capacity Building Exercise,” UNU-IAS, 7–10 April, Tokyo.


• “The European Union Fifth Enlargement: 10 New Member Countries,” Public Forum jointly organized by UNU and the Presidency of the European Union, 10 April, Tokyo.

• “Impacts of POPs from Urban Areas,” International Symposium organized by UNU, 15–16 April, Beijing.

• “Improving Public Participation and Governance in International Watershed Management,” International Symposium convened by UNU, University of Virginia School of Law, Environmental Law Institute, et al., 18–19 April, Charlottesville, Virginia.


• “Biotechnology and International Trade in South East Asia,” UNU-IAS Conference, 22–28 April, Viet Nam.
• “25th Conference of Directors of UNU Research and Training Centres and Programmes,” 29 April, Reykjavik, Iceland.
• “2nd UNU/RIVM Workshop on Environmental Dimensions of Poverty,” 19–21 May, Katmandu.
• “The Determinants of Governance Patterns in Global Value Chains,” UNU-INTECH Research Seminar, 21 May, Maastricht.
• “Measuring Human Well-being,” UNU-WIDER Project Meeting, 29 May, Helsinki.
• “Spatial Inequality in Development,” UNU-WIDER Project Meeting, 29 May, Helsinki.
• “Inequality, Poverty and Human Well-being,” UNU-WIDER Development Conference, 30–31 May, Helsinki.
• “Tokyo Roundtable on Bioethics and Biotechnology: What is at Stake for Humanity Now?,” jointly organized by UNU-IAS, the Embassy of France, Embassy of Germany, the Japanese-German Center Berlin, 2 June, Tokyo.
• “Tokyo Roundtable on Biosecurity,” UNU-IAS, 9 June, Tokyo.
• “TNCs, Capabilities and Competitiveness: Evidence from Africa, Asia and Latin America,” UNU-INTECH International Workshop, 19–20 June, Maastricht.
• “Small Arms and Gender,” Project Expert/Planning Meeting, 12–13 July, New York.
• “Role and Governance Implications of Virtual Water Trade,” Workshop co-convened by UNU, Stockholm International Water Institute and Japan Science and Technology Agency, 12 August, Stockholm.
• “Capacity Development Training for Monitoring of POPs in the East Asian Hydrosphere,” Workshop co-organized by UNU, the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research and Shimadzu Corporation (Japan), 1–2 September, Tokyo.
• “Innovative Sources of Development Finance,” UNU-WIDER Project Meeting, 5 September, Helsinki.
• “Sharing Global Prosperity,” UNU-WIDER Development Meeting, 6–7 September, Helsinki.
• “Formal Aspects of Component Software FACS’03,” UNU-IIST Workshop, 8–9 September, Pisa, Italy.
• Inter-linkages Side Event during the SPREP Governing Council and Brainstorming Session among partners of the capacity development initiative in Asia and Pacific, UNU, 8–12 September, Apia, Samoa.
• Asia Pacific Initiative Side Event at the World Summit on the Information Society, Preparatory Committee 3, co-organized by UNU, LEAD Japan, Keio University and Cisco Systems, 22 September, Geneva.
• “World Forests, Society & Environment Forum,” Special Event during the XII World Forestry Congress, co-organized by UNU, Finnish Forest Research Institute, European Forest Institute, and International Union of Forest Research Organizations, 22 September, Quebec.
• “Will Science and Technology Save Our Global Community?,” UNU Global Seminar, Kobe/Awaji Session, 23–26 September, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan.

• “Globalism and Regionalism in Climate Policy,” Conference co-hosted by UNU-CRIS, Italian Centre for International Associations and Region of Tuscany, 25 September, Montecatini, Italy.


• UNU-TICAD III Activities, 29 September–1 October, Tokyo.

• “Commercial Prospects of Access to and Benefit-sharing of Genetic Resources,” Symposium co-organized by UNU Centre, UNU-IAS and the Japan Bioindustry Association, 30 September, Tokyo.

• “Towards the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons — Roles of the OPCW and Japan,” UNU/MOFA Joint Symposium, 1 October, Tokyo.

• “Exploring the Tensions and Synergies between Regional Integration and Global Governance,” Workshop jointly organized by UNU-CRIS and University of Warwick, 2–3 October, Bruges.

• “Our Commitments for the Future — Post-WSSD Symposium,” jointly organized by UNU Centre, UNU-IAS, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Japan) and Ministry of the Environment (Japan), 3 October, Tokyo.

• “Living with Risk: Are We Prepared for the Next Big One?,” Public Forum, UNU, 4 October, Tokyo.

• “Globalization, Migration, and Human Security: Challenges in Northeast Asia,” International Conference co-sponsored by UNU, Center for East Asian Studies and Monterey Institute of International Studies, 6 October, Tokyo.


• “Improving Public Participation and Governance in Water Resources Management,” International Symposium co-organized by UNU and Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, 8 October, Tokyo.


• “Second International Congress of Immunology,” UNU-BIOLAC, 9–11 October, Lima.


• “Working for the UN,” 2003 UN Day Symposium jointly organized by 18 UN agencies in Japan, 24 October, Tokyo.

• “Alternative Approaches to Enhancing Small-Scale Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management in Marginal Areas—Experience in Monsoon Asia,” UNU International Symposium, 29–30 October, Tokyo.

• “Biosafety Workshop,” Workshop co-organized by UNU-BIOLAC and Commission for Environment of PARLATINO, 5 November, Mexico DF.


• “Intellectual Property and Technological Transfer, Key Tools for Sustainable Development,” UNU-BIOLAC International Seminar, 12 December Concepción, Chile.