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**UNITED NATIONS
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UN Agencies in Japan Plan Public Forum to Commemorate International Women's Day (8 March)

Event: International Women's Day Public Forum: "Women in Decision-Making"
Date/Time: 8 March 2006 (Wednesday), 14:00–16:30
Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, 3rd floor, UN House, Tokyo
Organizers: Jointly organized by FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNIC, UNICEF, UNITAR, UN OCHA, UNOPS, UNU, and WFP*

Keys Facts:

Globally, progress in bringing women into leadership and decision-making positions remains slow, according to a UN report to the 50th anniversary session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

- Only 16 per cent of the members of national legislatures worldwide are women, and just 11 of the 191 Member States of the United Nations currently have a female head of state.
- In the business sector, ILO research (in 48 countries, from 2000 to 2002) found that women's overall share of managerial jobs ranged between 20 and 40 per cent.
- Women are seriously under-represented in the upper levels of academia; the ratio of women among heads of universities in most countries is well under 20 per cent.

Event Information:

- The 2006 International Women's Day Public Forum will open with a message from United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan (read by UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel).
- The newly elected president of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, and the Chancellor of Germany, Dr. Angela Merkel, will provide their support messages in special video messages. The message by the Chilean president-elected, Michelle Bachelet is also expected.
- Keynote speaker will be Ginko Sato, Honorary President, Japan Association for the Advancement of Working Women. Her keynote address will be followed by presentations on "Women in Civil Society" (by Kimiko Horii, President, Global Enhancement of Women's Executive Leadership), "Women in Business" (by Yoshimi Nagamine, Director, Au Printemps Ginza), and "Women in Academia" (by Glenda Roberts, Professor, Waseda University).
- The event will be closed with the messages by the four female ambassadors to Japan (from Cote d'Ivoire, Luxembourg, Mali, and Turkey).
- Admission to the public forum is free, but advance registration is required. For more information, see http://www.unu.edu/hq/rector_office/events2006/womensday2006.pdf.
- Simultaneous Japanese–English interpretation will be provided. For those unable to attend, the public forum will be webcast (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/videoportal/?82>.
- After the public forum, UN agencies will inform about their gender-related activities.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. Please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu) to reserve your space.

* Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations University (UNU), World Food Programme (WFP).