President Mogae of Botswana Will Speak at 2006 Africa Day Symposium


Date/Time: Thursday, 8 June 2006 (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM)

Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, UN House (Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)

Organizers: United Nations University (UNU) and African Diplomatic Corps in Japan (ADC)

- The Africa Day Symposium is an annual event that offers an opportunity for the African Diplomatic Corps to enter into a dialogue with concerned groups in Japan, based on a shared commitment to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and to the sustainable development of Africa.
- The theme of the 2006 Africa Day Symposium will be “Tools for Development: the Role of Trade, Investment and ODA (Official Development Assistance).”
- Session I of the symposium will feature a keynote presentation by H.E. Mr. Festus G. Mogae, President of the Republic of Botswana, on “Tools for Development: an African Perspective”, and an address by a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, on “Contributions to African Development: the Role of Japan”.
- In his lecture, President Mogae will stress, among other points, that “the question of whether aid is given as a moral obligation of the rich to the poor or is better given to NGOs instead of Governments is a sterile debate. What is critical is to ensure comprehensive accountability and that aid is fully responsive to recipient needs.
- Session II will present a panel discussion, chaired by UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel, on the question “How Can Africa Benefit Most from Trade, Investment and ODA?”
- Simultaneous Japanese-English interpretation will be provided
- A full programme of the symposium is available online at http://www.unu.edu/africa/africa-day/2006/programme2006.pdf
- For those unable to attend, the symposium will be “webcast” live (and archived) at http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?86.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend the 2006 Africa Day Symposium. Please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu) to confirm your attendance by 7 June.

Profile of the Keynote Speaker, President Mogae

Festus Gontebanye Mogae has served as President of Botswana since 1998. He entered government service in 1968 and held a variety of posts, including Alternate and Executive Director, International Monetary Fund for Anglophone Africa (1976–1980); Governor of the Bank of Botswana (1980–1981); Permanent Secretary to the President, Secretary to the Cabinet, and Supervisor of Elections (1982–1989); Minister of Finance and Development Planning (1989–1992); and Vice President (1992–1998). From 1992 to 1996, he also served as Chairman of Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers. President Mogae holds a master’s degree in development economics from University of Sussex (UK) and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Botswana.