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**UNITED NATIONS
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Dr. Zafar Adeel Begins Tenure as Director of UNU International Network on Water, Environment and Health

On 1 July, Dr. Zafar Adeel, an international researcher and specialist in the problems of water management in developing countries, took over as Director of United Nations University International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH). Dr. Adeel succeeds Dr. Ralph Daley, who retired after a decade as UNU-INWEH's founding Director.

UNU-INWEH, hosted by McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, is one of 13 UNU Research and Training Centres/Programmes (RTC/Ps) located around the world. With core funding from the government of Canada, UNU-INWEH provides innovative international freshwater capacity-development services and helps developing countries to address their vital water-management needs.

Dr. Adeel was chosen from a field of 89 applicants from around the world. "The number and quality of candidates illustrates the importance of UNU-INWEH in the water world," said Prof. Hans van Ginkel, UN Under Secretary-General and Rector of UNU. "We are pleased to secure Dr. Adeel's talents, experience, and energy to sustain and enhance the stature of UNU-INWEH."

"UNU-INWEH is one of the most successful programmes within the UNU worldwide family of RTC/Ps," added Prof. van Ginkel. "UNU-INWEH has demonstrably helped improve health in several developing countries through better water quality and quantity, and played a key role in the strategic development of the United Nations' overall water agenda."

Prior to joining UNU-INWEH as an Associate Director in 2003, Dr. Adeel worked in the Environment and Sustainable Development Programme of UNU Centre in Tokyo. He has some 16 years' experience in international environmental issues, and last year led a team of experts that produced a report on global desertification as part of the landmark international Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. His career has included water-related initiatives in Asia and Africa, with a significant focus on severe groundwater problems in Asia, where the drinking water of more than 50 million people is contaminated with arsenic.

Originally from Pakistan, Dr. Adeel holds a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from University of Engineering and Technology (Lahore, Pakistan), a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from Iowa State University (USA), and a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University (USA).

For more information, or to arrange a phone interview with UNU-INWEH Director Zafar Adeel, please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu).

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT



United Nations University (UNU) is an autonomous organ of the UN General Assembly dedicated to generating and transferring knowledge and strengthening capacities relevant to global issues of human security, development, and welfare. The University, which opened in 1975, operates through a worldwide network of research and training centres and programmes coordinated by UNU Centre in Tokyo.