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**UNITED NATIONS
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UN Agencies in Japan Will Commemorate International Women's Day with Public Forum

Event: International Women's Day 2007 Public Forum
Theme: "Ending Impunity for Violence Against Women and Girls"
Date/Time: 8 March 2007 (Thursday), 14:00–18:00
Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, UN House, Tokyo
Jointly organized by: FAO, ILO, IMF, OCHA, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNIC, UNICEF, UNITAR, UNOPS, UNU, WFP, WHO, WIPO, World Bank*

Background Information

- The UN has helped affirm the principle of equality between women and men. and throughout its history, created a legacy of strategies, programmes and standards to advance the roles and status of women worldwide.
- Since 1975, the UN has observed 8 March as International Women's Day — a time to reflect on accomplishments to date and to look ahead to the challenges and opportunities that await future generations of women.
- Although accurate data is lacking in many countries, violence against women continues to be a major global human rights concern. The theme of International Women's Day 2007 highlights the critical need to create and maintain a political and social environment in which violence against women is not tolerated.

About the Event

- The 2007 International Women's Day Public Forum will open with a greeting by Mayumi Moriyama (former Minister of Justice, Japan) and a video message from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
- The keynote speakers will be Sheila Sisulu, Deputy Executive Director (Policy and External Affairs, WFP) and Mariko Bando, Vice President, Showa Women's University, Former Director-General of the Cabinet Office's Gender Equality Bureau
- Following the keynote speeches there will be a panel discussion moderated by Shun-ichi Murata (Director, United Nations Development Programme, Japan). Panellists will include Momoyo Ise, Member of the Governing Board, UN Association of Japan, Andrew Horvat, Visiting Professor, Faculty of Economics, Visiting Scholar, International Center for the Study of Historical Reconciliation, Tokyo Keizai University, Douglas Lummis, Political Scientist, Ronni Alexander, Professor of Transnational Relations, Kobe University Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies and Ai Awaji, Staff Writer, Foreign News Desk, Jiji Press.
- Junko Kubo, former NHK announcer will be the master of ceremony for the event.
- Simultaneous Japanese–English interpretation will be provided.
- For those unable to attend, the 2007 IWD public forum will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?124>
- More information is available online at <http://www.unu.edu/iwd/>.

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

* Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), 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 Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations University (UNU), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization), World Bank

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