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**UNITED NATIONS  
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## ***UNU to Host Symposium on Capacity Building in Africa***

**Event:** International Symposium on “Capacity Building in Africa and the Role of Japan”  
**Date/Time:** 16 March 2007 (Friday), 09:30–17:15  
**Venue:** U Thant International Conference Hall, UN House, Tokyo  
**Organizers:** United Nations University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Waseda Institute of International Strategy

- If the developing countries of Africa are to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (such as Goal 1, which aims to halve poverty by 2015), they must quickly strengthen their institutional capacities at both the governmental and private sector levels. Yet much of the continent is experiencing “brain drain”, with highly educated and skilled persons emigrating to developed countries in search of better working and living conditions.
- This aim of this jointly organized symposium is to analyse the current situation in Africa and to discuss innovative ideas about how the international community — and most specifically, Japan — can actively contribute to reducing the negative impact of brain drain and to mitigating other obstacles to capacity building.
- Symposium participants will include scholars as well as UN officials whose knowledge and experience in the areas of capacity building and poverty alleviation can contribute to helping define relevant policy recommendations.
- The keynote speaker will be Prof. Nagia Essayed, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union. The topic of Dr. Essayed’s speech will be “Capacity Building in Africa and African Ownership”.
- Other symposium speakers will include Prof. Kazuyoshi Aoki, Nihon University; Prof. Patrick Bond, University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa); Prof. Mitsugi Endo, University of Tokyo; Prof. Shinsuke Horiuchi, former Ambassador of Japan to Kenya; Prof. Sadaharu Kataoka, President, Waseda Institute of International Strategy; Prof. Yasushi Katsuma, Waseda University; Prof. Makoto Katsumata, Director, International Peace Research Institute, Meiji Gakuin University; Prof. Anyang’ Nyong’o, former Minister of Planning and National Development, Kenya; Dr. Soumana Sako, Executive Director, African Capacity Building Foundation; and Mr. Nourine Tidjani-Serpos, Assistant Director-General, Africa Department, UNESCO.
- A provisional programme is available on the United Nations University website at [http://www.unu.edu/events/files/2007/CapBuildingInAfrica\\_20070316\\_programme.pdf](http://www.unu.edu/events/files/2007/CapBuildingInAfrica_20070316_programme.pdf)
- For those unable to attend, the seminar will be “webcast” live (and archived) online at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?126>.
- Simultaneous Japanese-English interpretation will be provided.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend this international symposium. To confirm your attendance, please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: [media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)).

### ***About the keynote speaker***

Nagia Essayed was elected as African Union Commissioner in 2004, after working for more than 30 years as a civil servant, private consultant and academic (University of Al-Fateh and University of Garyounis (Libya)). Prof. Essayed holds a Ph.D. degree in Housing and Urban Design from the University of Liverpool (UK).

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