



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

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UNU-IAS to Celebrate International Day for Biological Diversity

*Will hold seminar in collaboration with Ministry of the Environment, Japan,
and Global Environmental Information Centre*

- Event:** International Day for Biological Diversity Seminar
Theme: “Biodiversity and Climate Change”
Date/Time: Tuesday, 22 May 2007 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM
Venue: Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall, 5F UN House (Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)
Organizers: United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS); Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ); and Global Environmental Information Centre (GEIC)

Background information

- May 22 is celebrated annually by the United Nations as “International Day for Biological Diversity” to draw attention to the importance of biological diversity and its contributions to sustainable human development. The focus this year is on “Biodiversity and Climate Change”.
- Climate change touches the lives of people in every country, and is forcing plant and animal life to adapt either through the shifting of habitats, the changing of life cycles or the development of new physical traits.
- Over the past century-and-a-half, the average global temperature has increased by about 0.6°C. Current climate change predictions estimate a further increase of 1.4°C or more by the end of the century.

About the event

- On the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity 2007, UNU-IAS, MOEJ and GEIC will hold a seminar that brings together high-level policy makers, such as the heads of UN agencies dealing with biological diversity (UN Convention on Biological Diversity) and climate change (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change), as well as representatives other UN agencies in Japan, the Ministry of the Environment, non-governmental organizations, media and the private sector.
- Participants will discuss the links between the conservation of biological diversity and the challenges posed by global climate change. Discussion will focus, in particular, on Japan’s role and responsibilities in dealing with issues of conservation of biological diversity in a manner that mitigates climate change and provides adaptation options for both Japan and the world at large.
- The seminar also will contribute to planning and agenda-setting for the 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10), which will be held in 2010 in Japan. Additionally, it will showcase conservation and climate change and future planning activities in Japan. Seminar outputs will feed into designing strategies to reduce the impacts of biodiversity loss and climate change on human well-being.
- For the details of the seminar, please refer to the following:
http://www.ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=8&ddlID=308
- Simultaneous English-Japanese interpretation will be provided.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. Please contact Wendy Elliott of UNU-IAS (tel.: 045-221-2331, fax: 0452212302, e-mail: elliott@ias.unu.edu) to confirm your attendance.

MEDIA ADVISORY