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UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

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UNU/UNESCO Conference Will Highlight the Roles of Higher Education in a Globalized World

- Event:** UNU/UNESCO International Conference — “Pathways Towards a Shared Future: Changing Roles of Higher Education in a Globalized World”
- Date/Time:** 29 & 30 August 2007 (Wed. & Thurs.)
- Venue:** UN House (Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)
- Organizers:** United Nations University (UNU) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Co-Organizers:** United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)
- Supported by:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MoFA), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT) and Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MoE)

Background

- The ongoing process of globalization is transforming many aspects of modern life, including higher education. Higher education institutions (HEIs) are becoming more internationalized as they both cooperate with and compete against other institutions worldwide, and prepare their students — increasingly coming from abroad — to face the challenge of globalized labour and business markets.
- HEIs also are increasingly growing into international platforms for dialogue and for developing, analysing and exchanging new ideas. The globalizing knowledge society also brings into focus new themes in education and research: new technologies (such as information and communications technologies and bio- and nano-technology) as well as issues of ethics and values; ageing and migration; cultural diversity; intercultural leadership and entrepreneurship; dialogue and integration; climate change and sustainable development; and disarmament, reconciliation and peace building, among others.
- Globalization also creates major opportunities for broader understanding, exchange of knowledge, and cooperation to advance teaching, research and service to society at an ever-faster pace.

About the Conference

- This is the 5th in a series of annual conferences on globalization jointly organized by UNU and UNESCO. Attention this year will focus on higher education institutions: their changing scope and responsibilities, the evolving environment in which they function, and their institutional responses.
- The 2007 UNU/UNESCO International Conference will consider how HEIs can/should help in exploring and charting the pathways towards humankind’s shared future, including the challenges that globalization poses for higher education and the opportunities that it offers.
- Through keynote presentations and panel discussions on Day One, eminent experts from around the world will present an overview of the changing roles of higher education in our increasingly knowledge-intensive, globalized world, and discuss emerging patterns and themes.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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- Scheduled keynote speakers for the morning of Day One include:
 - Jo Ritzen, President, Maastricht University, the Netherlands;
 - Yoriko Kawaguchi, Member of the House of Councilors, Japan;
 - N’Dri T. Assie-Lumumba, Professor, Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University, USA;
 - Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, President, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology, Japan;
 - Cristovam Buarque, former Minister of Education of Brazil (tentative);
 - Carl Lindberg, former State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Science, Sweden; and
 - Antoni Giró i Roca, Rector, Technical University of Catalonia.
- In the afternoon of Day One, panel discussions will focus on “Higher Education and Societal Needs” and “Strengthening African Higher Education”.
- Day Two is a workshop comprising six parallel working group sessions that will explore relevant challenges and opportunities. Panellists will discuss:
 - “Research for Innovation and Human and Social Development”,
 - “Education for Democracy, Dialogue and Peace”,
 - “Intercultural Leadership and Change”,
 - “Education for Sustainable Development”,
 - “Access and Success” and
 - “E-learning”.
- Simultaneous Japanese–English interpretation will be provided for the plenary sessions on both days. The parallel workshop sessions on Day Two (30 August) will be in English only.
- A full programme, profiles of the speakers and panellists, and other information are available online (in English) at <http://www.unu.edu/globalization/>.
- For those unable to attend, the conference will be “webcast” live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?132>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend the 2007 UNU/UNESCO International Conference. Please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu) to confirm your attendance.