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**UNITED NATIONS  
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## **UNU and MOFA Peacebuilders Symposium: 24–25 March**

**Event:** Tokyo Peacebuilders Symposium 2008  
**Theme:** “Peacebuilding Experience and Knowledge from Asia to the World”  
**Date/Time:** March 24–25, 2008 (Monday and Tuesday)  
**Venue:** United Nations University Headquarters, Tokyo  
**Organizers:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) and United Nations University (UNU)

### **Background**

- Peacebuilding is a major challenge for the global community. In September 2007, Japan — in close cooperation with ASEAN and other Asian countries, and with strong support from leading countries, international organizations and training institutions — launched a pilot programme in Hiroshima to train civilian peacebuilders in Asia. The first cadre of trainees, who undertook both coursework and overseas on-the-job training in conflict-affected countries, will graduate this month.
- Since June 2007, Japan has served as Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. Later this year, Japan will host the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (in May) and the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit (in July) to address peacebuilding and other pressing global issues.
- The Tokyo Peacebuilders Symposium 2008 symposium will draw insights from peacebuilding practitioners and academics, from Asia and other regions of the world, to feed into global peacebuilding efforts. The focus will be on contributing to peacebuilding from an Asian perspective and on strengthening regional and global networks in this field.

### **About This Symposium**

- On Monday (9:30–17:40, Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall), the symposium is scheduled to present two sessions on “Peacebuilding Experience in Asia — Listening to Voices on the Ground” (Cambodia and Timor-Leste) and two sessions on “Asian Contribution to Peacebuilding — Sharing Best Practices in the Field” (“State Building and Governance — Beyond Election” and “Community Development and Human Security — Addressing the Gaps”).
- On Tuesday morning (9:30–13:00, U Thant International Conference Hall), the symposium is scheduled to feature keynote speeches on “Promoting Asian Contribution to Global Peacebuilding” by Masahiko Koumura, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (TBC); Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General, ASEAN Secretariat; and Kenzo Oshima, Senior Vice-President, Japan International Cooperation Agency. These keynote speeches will be followed by a session on “Peacebuilding from Asia to the World — Next Steps”.
- Simultaneous English–Japanese translation will be provided.
- On Tuesday afternoon (14:00–18:00), UNU will host a public Open Campus event- focusing on the peacebuilding-related activities of UN humanitarian agencies. This event comprises introduction of the 1st Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center trainees, various peacebuilding activities, career seminars, and other programmes targeted at a young audience.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend the peacebuilding symposium and open campus event. Please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: [media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)) to confirm your attendance.

MEDIA ADVISORY