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**UNITED NATIONS
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President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal to Deliver 15th U Thant Distinguished Lecture at UN University

Event: Fifteenth U Thant Distinguished Lecture
Theme: “Climate Change and African Initiatives”
Speaker: Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal
Date: 8 July 2008 (Tuesday), 3:00 – 4:30 PM
Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, UN University Headquarters, Tokyo
Organizers: United Nations University, UNU Institute of Advanced Studies, and the Science Council of Japan

President Abdoulaye Wade, third president of the Republic of Senegal, will deliver the 15th U Thant Distinguished Lecture at United Nations University on Tuesday July 8. President Wade will speak on climate change and Africa, and specifically on how African-led initiatives, such as *la Grande Muraille Verte* (the Great Green Wall) can contribute to combating desertification.

Projects that foster the greening of the continent have, of necessity, a regional dimension, and in his recent speeches President Wade has highlighted the importance of the sharing of experiences, of collaborative effort, and of innovation to the success of these initiatives. His presentation will further highlight how such activity contributes to the fostering of new technologies and partnerships in the field of land and resource management.

The lecture will be followed by a question and answer session. French/English/Japanese interpretation will be provided.

We cordially invite you to attend this U Thant Distinguished Lecture. For those unable to attend, President Wade’s lecture will be webcast live and later archived at <c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?195>.

For more information, or to reserve a space, media representatives may contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu).

Additional Information

- Prior to coming to the United Nations University to deliver his lecture, President Wade will be participating in the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. He has been invited by the Japanese government, together with representatives of six other African countries and the African Union, to discuss with G8 leaders issues concerning African development, including climate change.
- Abdoulaye Wade has served as President of Senegal since March 2000. He also is Secretary-General of the ruling Senegalese Democratic Party, and has led the party since it was founded in 1974. He was Barrister at the Court of Appeal, Senegal, from 1959 to 1988, and has also served his country as a Member of Parliament (1978–1980), Senior Cabinet Minister (1991–1992) and Senior Minister in the President’s Office (1995–1998). He is a Grand Officier de la Légion d’Honneur (France) and Commandeur de l’Ordre du Mérite (Senegal).
- The U Thant Distinguished Lecture series is a forum through which eminent thinkers and world leaders speak on the challenges and opportunities facing the world’s peoples and nations in the twenty-first century. Additional information about the series and its lecturers is available online at <www.unu.edu/uthant_lectures/>

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