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**UNITED NATIONS  
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## UNU to Host Commencement Ceremony for Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center Coursework

**Event:** “Commencement Ceremony of 2008 Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center Coursework”  
**Date/Time:** 25 August 2008 (Mon.), 1:30–2:20 PM  
**Venue:** Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall (5F), United Nations University Headquarters (Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)  
**Organizers:** United Nations University (UNU) and Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (HPC)  
**Supporter:** NPO Peacebuilders

- On 25 August, the United Nations University will welcome the new trainees of this year’s Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center “Pilot Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding”. This Commencement Ceremony, which marks the opening of the six-week HPC coursework for 2008, will feature addresses by HPC Director Hideaki Shinoda and UNU Rector Konrad Osterwalder, and a keynote speech by JICA Vice-President Kenzo Oshima.
- In addition to the ceremony, the UNU and HPC will co-organize two days of training at the UNU Headquarters, in co-operation with other UN agencies including UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNV and WFP as well as the International Organization for Migration.
- During their six weeks of coursework, the trainees will develop practical peacebuilding skills through a series of lectures and workshops. The UNU Peace and Governance Programme (UNU P&G), which conducts extensive research and capacity development activities in the area of peacebuilding, will share its expertise with the trainees in order to facilitate their learning and help to develop the practical skills that will serve them in their future work as expert peacebuilders.
- The trainees have excellent prospects to become expert peacebuilders. They are from Japan and other Asian countries, and go through a stringent selection process - please see: <http://home.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/hpc/j033.html>
- This programme, initiated last year by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), is implemented by HPC of Hiroshima University. The idea of a centre to develop human resources in Asia for peacebuilding was presented by then Foreign Minister of Japan, Taro Aso, at a UNU Symposium in August 2006.
- The UNU and MOFA hold an annual Peacebuilders Symposium every March, in which Peacebuilding experts from around Asia and the world can share and exchange their experience and knowledge.
- English/Japanese interpretation will be provided.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend this Commencement Ceremony. 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.

### *About the UNU Peace and Governance Programme*

The UNU Peace & Governance Programme conducts research and capacity development to contribute to the promotion of sustainable peace and good governance. It addresses pressing global issues that are the concern of the United Nations, producing policy-oriented recommendations for current problems and identifying longer-term trends and patterns in international politics that hold implications for peace, security and governance.

MEDIA ADVISORY