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**UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY**

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## UN Agencies in Japan will Commemorate International Women's Day with Public Forum on 6 March

**Event:** International Women's Day 2009 Public Forum  
**Theme:** "Women and Men: United to End Violence against Women"  
**Date/Time:** 6 March 2008 (Friday), 2:00–7:00 PM  
**Venue:** U Thant International Conference Hall, UN University Headquarters, Tokyo  
**Organized by:** United Nations agencies in Japan\*

### Background Information

- Since 1975, the UN has observed International Women's Day in March as a time to acknowledge the contributions that women have made to society, to reflect on national and global progress in advancing gender equality, and to consider how best to deal with current and future challenges and opportunities.
- The theme of International Women's Day 2009 highlights the UN's multi-year campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women". Violence against women — whether physical, sexual, psychological or economic — not only impairs the physical and mental health of the victims; it harms families across generations, destabilizes communities, and reinforces other violence throughout societies. Violence against women lowers economic productivity by restricting the victims' capacity to develop productive skills and knowledge while also increasing the burden on public and employer counseling and healthcare services.
- Worldwide, women aged 15–44 are more at risk from domestic violence and rape than from cancer, traffic accidents, war, or malaria (according to World Bank data).

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

### About the Event

- The 2009 International Women's Day Public Forum will open with remarks by Yuko Obuchi, Minister of State in charge of the Declining Birthrate, and Yozo Yokota, Special Advisor to the Rector, United Nations University, as well as a video message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
- The keynote speakers will be Mika Tsutsumi, journalist, and Daniel Toole, UNICEF South Asia Regional Director.
- The keynote speeches will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by Madoka Futamura, Academic Programme Officer, Director of Studies on Human Rights and Ethics, UNU. Panellists will include Yuko Tsukasaki, Director, Gender Equality Promotion Division, Kanae Doi, Director, Human Rights Watch Asia Division; Keiko Kondo, Director, All Japan Women's Shelter Network; June Kunugi, Director, UNICEF Tokyo Office; Kiyoko Ikegami, Director, UNFPA Tokyo Office; and Johan Cels, Representative, UNHCR Tokyo Office. The panellists will introduce successful cases of how women and men have united to end violence against women.
- Simultaneous Japanese–English interpretation will be provided.
- For those unable to attend, the 2009 International Women's Day public forum will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?234>.
- More information is available online at <http://www.unu.edu/iwd/>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. To reserve your space, please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: [media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)).



\* This event is jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations University (UNU), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), WHO Centre for Health Development, and World Bank .