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## UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

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# UNU Symposium: Education for Sustainable Development in Africa

- Event:** Open Symposium on “The Role of Universities in the Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development in Africa”
- Date/Time:** 27 February 2009 (Friday), 1:30–5:50 PM
- Venue:** Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall, United Nations University Headquarters, Tokyo
- Organizer:** United Nations University (UNU)
- Supporters:** Japan Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and Japan Ministry of the Environment (MOE)

- The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005–2014 (DESD) seeks to emphasize “that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development”. The Government of Japan has had a particular commitment to the DESD since first proposing it at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. This proposal, incorporated into the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, was adopted by the UN General Assembly (Resolution 57/254, Dec. 2002).
- The importance of enhancing education for sustainable development activities in Africa was included in the agenda of two global-level meetings hosted by Japan in 2008: the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in May and the Group of Eight (G8) Hokkaido Toyako Summit in July.
- As we approach the half-way point of the DESD, a number of UNU activities are focused on related issues, including the facilitation of networking and collaboration among stakeholders in Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA). Some of these efforts will be detailed in the context of this open symposium, whose participants will include UNU staff and other experts in the area of sustainable development and education.
- Session I, “Sustainability Challenges in Africa”, will examine issues related to natural resources, land degradation, urbanization, climate change, peace and security, poverty and health, and science and technology.
- Session II, “Education for Sustainable Development in Africa”, will comprise brief presentations on “Core Competencies for Sustainable Development in Africa”, “Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability into African Universities”, “Inter-University Collaboration in Africa”, “Africa–Japan Education for Sustainable Development Cooperation”, “External Support to Restructure and Reorient Universities for Sustainable Development”, “The MEXT International Cooperation Initiative”, and “MOE Environmental Leadership Initiatives for Asian Sustainability in Higher Education”.
- This symposium is the first joint collaboration between the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies and the newly established UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace.
- Simultaneous English–Japanese interpretation will be provided. The seminar will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/videoportal/? 231>.

To reserve a space at this symposium, media representatives may contact Miki Hirano at UNU-IAS (tel: 045-221-2310; e-mail: [hirano@ias.unu.edu](mailto:hirano@ias.unu.edu)) or Rachel Schutte (tel: 045-221-2332; e-mail: [Schutte@ias.unu.edu](mailto:Schutte@ias.unu.edu)).

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