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Annual Africa Day Symposium Will Be Held on 25 May

Event: 2009 Africa Day Symposium
Theme: “The Global Financial Crisis and Its Impact on Africa: The Role of Japan and TICAD”
Date/Time: 25 May 2009 (Monday), 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, United Nations University Headquarters, Tokyo
Organizers: United Nations University (UNU) and the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC)
Supporter: Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)

- At the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) ministerial follow-up meeting held in Botswana in March 2009, African countries jointly voiced their concerns about, and proposed actions that could mitigate the impact of, the global financial crisis. On that occasion, the Japanese government announced that, despite the ongoing crisis, it will maintain its pledge to double development aid to Africa and will continue with its commitment to African development.
- It is in this context that participants in the 2009 Africa Day Symposium will highlight the need of Africa and its people for enhanced support from developing countries, and reiterate the importance of continued support amidst the current global crisis.
- The symposium’s opening ceremony will feature the song “Peace to Peace”, sung by members of the Japanese NGO Asia Human Support, and remarks by Konrad Osterwalder, Rector, UNU; Jean Christian Obame, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Gabonese Republic, and Dean of the ADC; and Nobuhide Minorikawa, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan.
- Session I will comprise keynote presentations by Yoshiro Mori, Former Prime Minister of Japan, Member of the House of Representatives, and President of the Japan–African Union Parliamentary Friendship Association, and Mohamed Nouri Jouini, Minister of Development and International Cooperation, Republic of Tunisia.
 - Session II will be a panel discussion chaired by Obijiofor Aginam, Academic Programme Officer, UNU-ISP. Scheduled panellists include Eiji Hashimoto, Vice-President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Kazushige Taniguchi, Special Representative, World Bank Tokyo Office; Takeshi Sagawa, General Manager, Sub-Saharan Africa Department, Global Planning Division, Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ Bank, Ltd. ; and Drine Imed, Research Fellow, UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER); a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan will also participate in the panel discussion.
- Simultaneous English–Japanese interpretation will be provided. For those unable to attend, the symposium will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?238>.
- The annual Africa Day symposiums reflect the long-standing collaboration between the UNU, ADC and MoFA to explore critical issues of African development. Since 2000, the series has sought to inform not just the TICAD and G8 processes but also to contribute to a broad understanding of the problems and immense potential of the African continent. For the full programme and more information on this and previous Africa Day Symposiums at UNU in Tokyo, see <http://www.unu.edu/africa/africaday/>.

To reserve a media space at the 2009 Africa Day Symposium, please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu).