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UNIVERSITY

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## UNU to Host Conference on the Role of Higher Education in Adapting to Climate Change

**Event:** UNU-ISP and IR3S Consultation Conference on the Role of Higher Education in Adapting to Climate Change  
**Theme:** “Establishing a Regional Network to Develop Postgraduate Educational Programmes on Climate Change Adaptation”  
**Dates:** 10–12 June 2009 (Wednesday–Friday)  
**Venue:** U Thant International Conference Hall, United Nations University Headquarters, Tokyo  
**Organizers:** United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP) and Integrated Research Systems for Sustainability Science (IR3S) Secretariat, University of Tokyo.

- How to adapt to climate change is one of the most important concerns on the global development agenda. Adaptation strategies to overcome the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly in the vulnerable regions of the world, must be developed locally while being supported by regional and global knowledge and expertise.
- Currently, the knowledge gap on adaptation is vast; knowledge and expertise remains primarily at the international level, and is failing to reach those in the developing world who need it most. Higher education institutions in the Asia–Pacific region have a critical role to play. Postgraduate education is essential for developing the human resources and technical capacities needed for climate change adaptation. It is also where the necessary research can be conducted in development programmes, in partnership with implementing agencies and local communities.
- UNU-ISP together with the Secretariat of IR3S (a consortium of universities conducting research on sustainability science) will convene an international conference on June 10 to 12 to discuss the role that higher education can play in adapting to climate change and to establish a regional network to develop postgraduate programmes on adaptation. Senior university faculty from Japan, Asia and Oceania will participate.
- The first day of the conference (10 June) is a public session that will feature keynote lectures by four renowned speakers on the themes of *conceptualizing adaptation* (by Prof. Janette Lindesay, Deputy Director, Australian National University Climate Change Institute), *climate change impacts and adaptation needs* (by Prof. Diqiang Li, Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection, Chinese Academy of Forestry), *mainstreaming adaptation to developmental planning* (by Prof. Nobuo Mimura, Director, Institute for Global Change Adaptation Science (ICAS), and Vice President Extraordinary, Ibaraki University), and *innovation for climate change adaptation* (by Prof. Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, Director-General, Center for Research and Development Strategy (CRDS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)). The keynote presentations will be followed by a panel discussion. Simultaneous English–Japanese interpretation will be provided. For those unable to attend, the session will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?242>.
- The workshops on the second and third days are invitation-only sessions that will centre on joint curriculum and course development, resource sharing and joint research. The workshops will be conducted in English only.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. For more information, or to reserve a space at the conference, please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: [media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)).

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United Nations University (UNU) is an autonomous organ of the UN General Assembly dedicated to generating and transferring knowledge and strengthening capacities relevant to global issues of human security, development, and welfare. The University operates through a worldwide network of research and training centres and programmes, coordinated by UNU Centre in Tokyo.

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