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Office of Communications
53-70, Jingumae 5-chome
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925
Japan

Tel.: +81-3-5467-1212
Fax: +81-3-3499-2828
E-mail: media@unu.edu
Website: <http://www.unu.edu/>

President Calderón of Mexico to Deliver 16th U Thant Distinguished Lecture at UN University

Event: Sixteenth U Thant Distinguished Lecture
Lecture Title: Preserving Our Common Heritage: Promoting a Fair Agreement on Climate Change
Speaker: President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa of Mexico
Date: 2 February 2010 (Tuesday), 10:15 – 11:15 AM
Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, UN University Headquarters, Tokyo
Organizers: United Nations University and the Science Council of Japan
Sponsors: Asahi Shimbun and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
Supporter: E-Square Inc.

- The U Thant Distinguished Lecture series provides a forum for eminent thinkers and world leaders to speak on the challenges and opportunities facing the world's peoples and nations in the twenty-first century. Additional information about the series and previous lectures is available online at http://www.unu.edu/uthant_lectures/.
- The topic of President Calderón's lecture will be climate change and the preservation of our common heritage.
- In 2010, the international community will try to agree on a framework for mitigating and dealing with the effects of climate change, prior to the COP16 climate change conference that will be held in the Mexico in November. President Calderón's speech will be an opportunity to hear first-hand the views of the host country of the COP16 conference.
- President Calderón's lecture will be followed by a discussion moderated by Prof. Hironori Hamanaka, Chair of the Board of Directors, IGES; commentators will include Yoichi Funabashi (Editor-in-Chief, Asahi Shimbun) and Professor Kazuhiko Takeuchi (Vice-Rector, UNU).
- Simultaneous Japanese– English–Spanish interpretation will be provided.
- For those who are unable to attend, President Calderón's U Thant Distinguished Lecture will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://videoportal.unu.edu/e44>.

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

About the Lecturer

President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa was sworn in for a six-year term as President of Mexico on 1 December 2006.

He served as Secretary of Energy from 2003–2004. As head of Mexico's energy sector, he promoted the modernization of state-owned companies as president of the Board of Directors of PEMEX, the Federal Commission of Electricity and the electricity company Luz y Fuerza del Centro.

His previous career included posts within the National Action Party (PAN), where he served as Secretary of Studies (1987), National Youth Secretary (1991), Secretary General (1993), and PAN Representative to the Federal Electoral Institute (1994–1995). In 1995, he was candidate for governor of the state of Michoacán. In 2000, he became a Federal Deputy in the 58th Legislature and was appointed Coordinator of the PAN's Parliamentary Group (2000–2003).

President Felipe Calderón holds a bachelor's degree in Law (Escuela Libre de Derecho) and master's degrees in Economics (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México) and public administration (John F. Kennedy School, Harvard University). He has received the "NAFTA Congressional Leadership Award" from the México-US Chamber of Commerce and the "CANACINTRA Eagle Award for Legislative Merit" award from the National Chamber of the Manufacturing Industry, and was a member of the World Economic Forum's "World Leaders of the Future" from 1997 to 2000.