**UNITED NATIONS
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Prof. Peter Haddawy Appointed Director of
UNU International Institute for Software Technology

The United Nations University is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Peter F. Haddawy as Director of the UNU International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST). Prof. Haddawy took up the post, which encompasses overall responsibility for management of the Institute, on 16 June 2010.

UNU-IIST, based in Macao, China, seeks to help developing countries improve their capacities in software technology and the innovative application of information technology — and hence their ability to participate in, and benefit from, the rapid development of information and communication technologies. UNU-IIST research and training activities are structured into three programmes: (i) Information Engineering, (ii) Electronic Governance and (iii) Technology-Supported Learning.

"Over its 18-year history, UNU-IIST has made important contributions to the development of research capacity in computer science in Asia and the developing world," said Prof. Haddawy. "Given the rapid development of the research environment in Asia in recent years, the time has come to adjust the UNU-IIST mission toward applying its strengths in computer science to addressing some of the most challenging problems of sustainable development. I am honored to have been selected to lead the Institute in this important new direction and anticipate announcing a number of new initiatives in the coming months. I look forward to working with the other UNU institutes, UN agencies and UNU-IIST's network of local and global partners in realizing this new mission."

Prior to joining UNU-IIST, Prof. Haddawy served (2005–2010) as Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT; Bangkok, Thailand). He also was Professor of Computer Science and Information Management in the AIT School of Engineering and Technology, and held positions as Senior Scientist with the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (USA), and Adjunct Professor with the Information and Decision Sciences Section, Department of Radiology, Medical College of Wisconsin (USA).

His previous positions included Associate Professor (2000–2005) of Computer Science and Information Management, School of Engineering and Technology, AIT; and Associate Professor (1996–2002) and Assistant Professor (1991–1996), Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

An American by birth, Prof. Haddawy holds a B.A. in mathematics from Pomona College (Claremont, CA) and master's and Ph.D. degrees in computer science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has been an Avery-Brundage Scholar and a Fulbright Fellow, and is the author of more than 100 refereed papers. His research interests include decision-theoretic problem solving, modelling and elicitation of user preferences, intelligent clinical training systems, and evidence-based research policy formulation.

"I am very pleased to welcome Prof. Haddawy to the UNU family. I am confident that his leadership will take UNU-IIST to a new level of excellence in research and in postgraduate teaching, and will enhance the Institute's contribution to the international community", said UNU Rector Konrad Osterwalder.

Information about UNU-IIST is available online at http://www.iist.unu.edu. To request an interview with UNU-IIST Director Peter Haddawy, please contact William Auckerman, Head, UNU Office of Communications, Tokyo (tel: 03-5467-1331; e-mail: media@unu.edu).

MEDIA ADVISORY