



UNITED NATIONS
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23 MAY AFRICA DAY SYMPOSIUM WILL FOCUS ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo (ADC) and the United Nations University (UNU) are organizing an Africa Day symposium that will be held on 23 May 2002 on the theme of "Integrating Africa: Regional Integration and Infrastructure Development in Africa."

H.E. Mr. **Emmanuel Ondo-Methogo**, Vice Prime Minister of Gabon and Mr. **Noboru Hatakeyama**, Chairman of JETRO, will deliver the keynote speeches. There will also be presentations by H.E. Mr. **Abdou Aziz Sow**, Minister in Charge of NEPAD in Senegal; Ambassador **Shunji Yanai**, former Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. **Zéphirin Diabré**, Associate Administrator of UNDP; Mr. **Kaoru Ishikawa**, Acting Director, Japan Institute for International Affairs; and Professor **Bonnie Campbell** of Université du Québec in Montreal as well as a panel of heads of African Regional Organizations. A copy of the programme is attached for your reference.

The 2002 Africa Day symposium is intended to familiarize stakeholders in Japan with the background and substance of regional integration efforts in Africa, and to provide concrete examples in the area of transport and information and communication technology. The symposium is also intended to provide input to the ongoing New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) initiative, next year's Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) and next month's G8 Summit.

The Africa Day symposium is an annual event organized by ADC and UNU to celebrate the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). This year's symposium is particularly significant, as it is being held at the time when the OAU is being transformed into the new African Union (AU), and African development is being featured as one of the main items at the G8 summit in June 2002 in Kananaskis, Canada.

The symposium will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, 23 May 2002, in the U Thant International Conference Hall (3F) at the United Nations University. Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Japanese will be provided. A cocktail reception, hosted by the Vice Prime Minister of Gabon, will be held soon after the symposium for all participants.

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