**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

Annual Africa Day Symposium
Scheduled for 18 May at UN House in Tokyo

United Nations University (UNU) and the African Diplomatic Corps in Japan (ADC), with the support of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, will co-host the 2005 Africa Day Symposium on Wednesday, 18 May. This annual symposium offers an opportunity for the ADC to enter into a dialogue with concerned groups in Japan, based on a shared commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and to the sustainable development of Africa.

The theme of this 5th Africa Day Symposium will be "Digital Partnership… Hopes and Inspirations from Bandung". This year's symposium coincides with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) thematic meeting "Towards the Realization of the Ubiquitous Network Society," which is being organized by the Government of Japan, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and UNU on 16 and 17 May (see http://www.wsis-japan.jp). The objective of the symposium is to highlight the importance of promoting "digital partnership" and bridging the digital divide, issues that will be addressed at the Second Phase of the WSIS to be held in Tunis in November. The 2005 Africa Day Symposium will also commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bandung Conference (of Asian and African national leaders) and serve as an opportunity to further strengthen African–Asian cooperation, as well as provide input for the G8 Summit to be held at Gleneagles, Scotland, in July 2005.

The symposium will begin at 10:00 AM at UN House in Shibuya with opening remarks by Hans van Ginkel, Rector of the United Nations University; Salah-Hannachi, Ambassador of Tunisia to Japan, Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps; Yoshiro Mori, Former Prime Minister of Japan; Yoshio Utsumi, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union; and Ichiro Aisawa, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

The keynote session will feature addresses by Montasser Ouaili, Minister of Communication Technologies, Tunisia; Koichi Yamamoto, Senior Vice-Minister for International Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications of Japan; Amarendra Narayan, Executive Director, Asia Pacific Telecommunity.

The symposium will include a panel discussion on "Africa–Asia Digital Partnership", moderated by Aiko Doden, Senior News Broadcaster, NHK World Network, and Goodwill Ambassador to the World Summit on Information Society. Panellists will include Hans van Ginkel, UNU Rector; Kuzvinesta Peter Dzvimbo, Rector of the African Virtual University; Ryu Fukui, Partnership & Programs Manager, Tokyo Development Learning Center, The World Bank; Yasuhiko Kawasumi, Executive Staff, External Affairs Department, Rapporteur for Rural Communication of ITU, Japan Telecom; and Graham Fry, British Ambassador to Japan. A full programme is available online at http://www.unu.edu/africa/africa-day/2005/programme.doc.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. Simultaneous Japanese-English interpretation will be provided. For media inquiries, or to make a media reservation, please contact Ms. Wakako Kobayashi, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1217; fax: 03-3499-2828; e-mail: media@unu.edu). For those unable to attend, the symposium will be "webcast" live (and archived) at http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?63.

MEDIA ADVISORY