

2009 Africa Day Symposium



Participant Biographies



KONRAD OSTERWALDER

Rector, United Nations University

Konrad Osterwalder was born in Frauenfeld, Thurgau, Switzerland, in June 1942. He studied at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule; ETH) in Zurich, where he earned a diploma in theoretical physics in 1965 and a doctorate in theoretical physics in 1970. In 1971, he accepted a research position at Harvard University where he was promoted to assistant professor for mathematical physics in 1973 and associate professor for mathematical physics in 1976. In 1977, he returned to Switzerland upon being appointed a full professor for mathematical physics at ETH Zurich. During his tenure there, he served as head of the Department of Mathematics (1986–1990) and head of the Planning Committee (1990–1995), and was founder of the Centro Stefano Franscini seminar center in Ascona. He was appointed rector of ETH in 1995 and held that post for 12 years. From November 2006 through August 2007, he served concurrently as ETH president *pro tempore*. He has served as vice president of the Conference of Rectors of Swiss Universities, chair of the University Council of Darmstadt University and as president of the Conference of European Schools of Advanced Engineering Education and Research. Professor Osterwalder joined the United Nations University on 1 September 2007 as its fifth rector. In that role, he holds the rank of under-secretary-general of the United Nations.



JEAN CHRISTIAN OBAME

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Gabonese Republic; Dean, African Diplomatic Corps

Jean Christian Obame served as advisor to the executive director and as a member of the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund from 1983 to 1998 during which time he was also economic and financial counselor at the Embassy of Gabon to the USA. From 1995 to 1998 he was coordinator of the Caucus of the African Governors of the IMF and the World Bank. He subsequently served as a technical advisor to the IMF's Monetary and Exchange Rate Department and as an international consultant and economic advisor to the Embassy of Gabon to the USA. In 2000, he was appointed ambassador of Gabon to Japan, India, Indonesia and Malaysia. He is a Commander, National Order of Merit, Gabon, and the recipient of the Medal of Honor of the National Gendarmerie, Gabon, and the National Order of Japan (Silver Cups with the Chrysanthemum Crest). He holds a doctorate degree in economics and finance from the University René Descartes, Paris.



NOBUHIDE MINORIKAWA

Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan

Nobuhide Minorikawa graduated from Keio University, Japan, in 1987. He received a master of science from the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, in 1999. In 2003, he was elected as a member of the House of Representatives and subsequently reelected. He has been active in diplomatic and financial arenas and has been an important member of various committees, including the Special Committee on Prevention of International Terrorism, Humanitarian Assistance for Reconstruction in Iraq. Since 2008, he has served as parliamentary vice-minister for foreign affairs.



YOSHIRO MORI

Former Prime Minister of Japan; Member, House of Representatives; President, Japan-African Union Parliamentary Friendship Association

Yoshiro Mori was first elected as a member of the House Of Representatives of the National Diet of Japan in 1969 and subsequently elected to twelve further terms. He served, *inter alia*, as deputy director-general of the Prime Minister's Office (1975–1976), deputy chief cabinet secretary (1977–1978), minister of education (1983–1984), minister of international trade and industry (1992–1993), secretary-general of the LDP (1993–1995), minister of construction (1995–1996), and secretary-general of the LDP (1998–2000). From 2000 to 2001, he was prime minister of Japan.



ELISABETH TANKEU

Commissioner for Trade and Industry, African Union

Elisabeth Tankeu is former minister of planning and regional development of Cameroon and presently the commissioner for trade and industry at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a post she has held since 2003. She is responsible for the promotion of intra-African trade as well as issues related to WTO trade negotiations and negotiation of EU-Africa Economic Partnership Agreements. She globally initiates and oversees all appropriate measures aimed at encouraging African countries to develop common positions for multilateral trade negotiations and she designs strategies to build the supply side capacity of African countries in both regional and international markets. She was trained as an economist at the University of Paris I.



EIJI HASHIMOTO

Vice-President, Japan International Cooperation Agency

Eiji Hashimoto graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture, Utsunomiya University, Japan, in 1974. He joined the Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (which was integrated into the Japan International Cooperation Agency in August 1974) in 1974. At JICA he has served as: resident representative, Kenya Office, from 1999 to 2001; managing director, Regional Department VI (Africa, Middle East & Europe) from 2001 to 2003; and deputy vice president, Office of the President from 2003 to 2007. Since October 2007, he has served as vice president. In November 1980, he obtained a diploma in maize agronomy research from the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) in Mexico.



NOBUYOSHI CHIHARA

Deputy Director-General, Middle Eastern and Africa Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Nobuyoshi Chihara graduated from the University of Tokyo and joined the Ministry of Finance in 1978. He studied at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris in the early 1980s. He assumed several important posts at the ministry and other institutions, including service as the executive director of the African Development Bank (1986–88). From 2001 to 2004, he was a professor of tax law and tax policy at Osaka University's Graduate School of Law and Politics. In 2005, he served as deputy commissioner for international affairs at the Financial Services Agency. He became deputy director-general, Middle Eastern and Affairs African Bureau, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2008.



KAZUSHIGE TANIGUCHI

Special Representative, Japan, World Bank

Kazushige Taniguchi assumed the position of the World bank's special representative, Japan, in March, 2008. He worked on finance and foreign exchange market, participated in the Uruguay Round and US-Japan Structural Talks, and worked as advisor to the International Monetary Fund for four years. He has dealt with tax treaty negotiations and non-resident tax legislation as director of the International Tax Policy Division of the Tax Bureau, and was deputy commissioner of the National Tax Agency. He served as co-chair of the "Tax Competition Project", Committee on Fiscal Affairs, OECD, and as commissioner of the Fukuoka Regional Taxation Bureau, Director of Personnel Division, NTA, and deputy commissioner of the Tokyo Regional Taxation Bureau. He has been involved in revenue management and collection (NTA), the examination of public loan programs for small enterprises (Financial Bureau), the administration of the Bank of Japan (Banking Bureau), and with foreign policy on the Middle East (Ministry of Foreign Affairs). He holds an MBA from Stanford University (1981) and an LLB from Tokyo University (1977).



TAKESHI SAGAWA

General Manager for Sub-Sahara Africa, Global Planning Division, The Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ

Takeshi Sagawa was chief representative based in Johannesburg for more than 3 years until June 2007, during which time he travelled extensively throughout Africa. He joined the Bank of Tokyo in 1979, and has been mostly involved in energy and project finance, including real estate loan restructuring. He served as an advisor in New York for 5 years. He holds an M.Sc. in business studies from London Business School (1984), and graduated in economics from Hitotsubashi University (1979) including one year of study at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver on a scholarship.

**JUNE KUNUGI**

Director, United Nations Children's Fund, Tokyo

After working for the Asahi Evening News in Tokyo, June Kunugi joined UNICEF in 1991, working first in the Division of Public Affairs in New York and later as a communications officer in Viet Nam and Bangladesh. In 2000, she joined the Office of the Executive Director in New York and in 2003, she moved to Oman as UNICEF representative, where she also served as acting area representative for Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. In 2006, she was appointed representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina. In February 2009, she was appointed director of the UNICEF Tokyo Office. She holds an M.Sc. in journalism from Columbia University.

**DRINE IMED**

Research Fellow, UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research

Drine Imed is a research fellow at UNU-WIDER and holds a Ph.D. in economics from the Sorbonne University. He has previously held position of associate professor of economics at the University of Sousse Tunisia. His research interests include real exchange rate, financial integration, and development economics.

**NOUREDDINE BEN FARHAT HACHED**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Republic of Tunisia; Chair, 2009 Africa Day Symposium

Nouredine Hached was governor of the Prefecture of Mahdia, Tunisia from 1976 until 1978 when he was seconded to the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was a member of parliament from 1979 to 1981. From 1981 to 1984 he was ambassador of Tunisia to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Community and subsequently ambassador of Tunisia to Algeria. He served as the minister of labor from 1985 to 1986, and subsequently as ambassador and executive secretary representing the African Unity Organization in Geneva and as ambassador of Tunisia to Italy. He has served as deputy secretary general and, later, vice-secretary general, of the League of Arab States. In 2007 he was appointed ambassador of Tunisia to Japan. He is a recipient of the Order of the Republic and the Order of Independence (Tunisia), the Royal Order of Belgium, and the Republican Order of Italy. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the Université de Paris-Sciences Economiques.

**SRIKANTHA HERATH**

Senior Academic Programme Officer, UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace

Srikantha Herath specializes in hydrology and water resources engineering. His research focuses on monitoring and modelling of hydrological processes and applications in urban hydrology, flood forecasting, damage estimation, sediment transport and water-cycle change assessment using physically based distributed hydrological modelling aided by remote sensing/GIS. He was previously associate professor and guest professor at the University of Tokyo, a senior research engineer in Japanese industry, and a civil and irrigation engineer in Sri Lanka. He has more than 150 publications to his credit. He holds a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Tokyo.

**OBJIJOFOR AGINAM**

Academic Programme Officer, Director of Studies on Policy and Institutional Frameworks, UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace

Obijiofor Aginam is director of studies on policy and institutional frameworks at the United Nations University. Before joining UNU, he was associate professor of law at Carleton University, Ottawa, where he taught and researched legal topics in international law, human rights, globalization, global health and environmental governance. From 1999 to 2001, he was global health leadership fellow and legal officer at the World Health Organization. He has held numerous fellowships including the Social Science Research Council of New York Fellow on Global Security and Cooperation, and Fellow of the 21st Century Trust, UK. Dr. Aginam has been a visiting professor at the University for Peace, Costa Rica, International University of Peoples' Institutions for Peace, Italy, and the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He is a member of the Academic Council on the United Nations System, and the Canadian Council on International Law. He has been a recipient of the competitive research grant of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. His most recent book is *Global Health Governance: International Law and Public Health in a Divided World* (University of Toronto Press, 2005). He holds a Ph.D. in law from the University of British Columbia.