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**UNITED NATIONS
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UNU to Hold Public Forum on Asia-Pacific Responses to Environmental Challenges

- Event:** Public Forum: Inter-linkages and Capacity Development: Asia-Pacific Regional Responses to Environmental Challenges
- Date/Time:** Monday, 20 February 2006, 9:30 AM to 12:45 PM
- Venue:** Elizabeth Rose Hall, 5th Floor, UN House, Tokyo, Japan
- Organizers:** UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and UNU Centre, in close collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment, Japan.

Background Information:

- Since 2001, the UNU Inter-linkages Initiative has conducted a series of national case studies as well as regional workshops on inter-linkages and integrated capacity development, in close collaboration with national stakeholders and the Secretariats of three regional organizations: the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), and South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP).
- More information on the UNU Inter-linkages Initiative, including downloadable reports and a handbook, are available online at <http://www.ias.unu.edu/events/workshops.cfm>.

Event Overview:

- The Public Forum will feature keynote presentations by two leading international professionals at the intersection of policy and research: Dr. Habiba Gitay and Dr. Sebastian Oberthür (see the attached Keynote Speakers' Profiles). They will discuss the concept and application of "inter-linkages" to achieve the goals of sustainable development and the conservation of the planet's natural resources for future generations.
- High-level representatives of the Secretariats of ASEAN, SACEP, and SPREP will present their initiatives with national stakeholders and international partners — such as UNU, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) — to strengthen integrated capacity development so as to more effectively utilize inter-linkages for the successful implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.
- Additional information about the Public Forum is available online at the URL listed above or can be obtained by e-mail from il2005@geic.or.jp.
- English–Japanese interpretation will be provided. For those unable to attend, the lecture will be "webcast" live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?81>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. Please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu) or Mitzi Borrromeo, UNU-IAS (tel: 045-221-2314; e-mail: borrromeo@ias.unu.edu) to reserve a media space or to arrange an interview with the keynote speakers.

MEDIA ADVISORY



United Nations University (UNU) is an autonomous organ of the UN General Assembly dedicated to generating and transferring knowledge and strengthening capacities relevant to global issues of human security, development, and welfare. The University, which opened in 1975, operates through a worldwide network of research and training centres and programmes coordinated by UNU Centre in Tokyo.

*UNU Public Forum: Inter-linkages and Capacity Development —
Asia-Pacific Regional Responses to Environmental Challenges*

Keynote Speakers' Profiles

Dr. Habiba Gitay is a Senior Associate at the World Resources Institute (WRI) as well as Vice-Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and a Co-ordinating Lead Author for United Nations Environment Programme's Global Environmental Outlook (GEO). She has been a Co-ordinating Lead Author for several reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) since 1995, and is a member of the Steering Committee for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA).

Dr. Sebastian Oberthür is Academic Director of the Institute of European Studies (IES). He is a member of the Compliance Committee of the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; serves as Special Advisor on international climate policy to the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety; and was an appointed member and representative of the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL). He is also a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IDGEC) project of the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP). His most recent publication (with Thomas Gehring) is *Institutional Interaction in Global Environmental Governance: Synergy and Conflict among International and EU Policies* (MIT Press, 2006).

Programme

09:30 – 09:45 **Opening and Welcoming Remarks**

Prof AH Zakri, Director, *UNU-IAS*

A representative of Ministry of the Environment, Japan

09:45 – 11:00 **Governance Opportunities at the Regional Level**

Inter-Linkages and Governance Mr. W. Bradnee Chambers, *UNU-IAS*

Keynote: Dr. Habiba Gitay, Senior Associate, *World Resources Institute*

Keynote: Dr. Sebastian Oberthür, Academic Director, *Institute for European Studies*

11:00 – 11:15 Tea Break

11:15 – 12:30 **Inter-Linkages and Capacity Development: Addressing Global
Environmental Issues in the Southeast Asia, South Asia**

Chair: Dr. Jerry Velasquez, *UNEP/DEC*

Panelists: Dr. Raman Letchumanan, *ASEAN*

Dr. AA Boaz, *SACEP*

Mr. Frank Wickham, *SPREP*

Ms. Yumiko Yasuda, *UNDP-GEF*

12:30 – 12:45 **Discussion and Closing**