

22 March 2006
MR/E09/06



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

Office of Communications
53-70, Jingumae 5-chome
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925
Japan

Tel.: +81-3-3499-2811
Fax: +81-3-3499-2828
E-mail: media@unu.edu
Website: <http://www.unu.edu/>

For use of the media –
not an official record

“Eradicating Poverty” is Focus of 6th Annual EU-UNU Tokyo Global Forum

- Event:** “Doing More, Better, and Faster: A Global Partnership for Eradicating Poverty” —
EU-UNU Tokyo Global Forum 2006
- Date/Time:** 31 March 2006 (Friday), 09:30–17:30
- Venue:** U Thant International Conference Hall, 3rd floor, UN House, Tokyo
- Organizers:** Delegation of the European Commission to Japan and United Nations University
(UNU)

Highlights:

Former Foreign Minister Mr. Nobutaka Machimura, European Commission Deputy Director-General Mr. Hugh Richardson (Europe Aid Cooperation Office) and Mr. Karel Kovanda (External Relations) and TICAD Ambassador Bouna Semou Diouf will address a conference on poverty eradication organized by the United Nations University and the European Commission.

Background:

Poverty is pervasive. Worldwide, some one billion persons — one-sixth of the human population — live marginalized existences, subsisting on less than US\$1 a day. More than 800 million people go to bed hungry each day, and 8 million die each year simply because they are too poor to survive. But poverty is about more than such staggering numbers: it is about men, women, and children who cannot overcome the demoralizing obstacles that prevent them from achieving their individual potentials and enjoying the most basic of human rights.

In September 2000, at the United Nations Millennium Summit, 189 nations adopted the UN Millennium Declaration, thereby pledging “to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty” and “to create an environment — at the national and global levels alike — which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty.”

But the clock is ticking, and with each passing year the prospect of achieving target 1 of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) — to “Reduce by half [by 2015] the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day” — grows less likely. Although progress so far has been tangible (particularly in Brazil, China, and India), current trends mean that most developing countries will fail to meet this fundamental target. Moreover, in several countries, progress towards meeting this target has stalled or even begun to reverse.

The possibility of attaining this poverty-reduction target within the next decade will require redoubled efforts by all the world’s nations working in partnership. Continued assistance by the governments of developed nations, particularly in the form of official development assistance (ODA) is vital. Global ODA in 2004 amounted to approx. US\$79 billion, with the EU being the largest donor of development assistance. Japan alone provided over one-tenth (US\$8.9 billion, ranking Japan second in worldwide ODA on a per-nation basis).

MEDIA ADVISORY

This is the theme of the 6th EU-UNU Tokyo Global Forum: “Doing More, Better, and Faster: A Global Partnership for Eradicating Poverty”. The forum will bring together politicians, eminent scholars, European Union and Japanese government officials, UN practitioners, journalists, and major non-governmental organization and civil society representatives to engage in a frank and forward-looking discussion on topics related to development and poverty.

Event Information:

The keynote speakers of the EU-UNU Tokyo Global Forum 2006 will be Nobutaka Machimura, Member of the Japan House of Representatives and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Hugh Richardson, Deputy Director-General of the Europe Aid Cooperation Office of the European Commission.

Following the keynote session, there will be consecutive sessions covering “Development and Trade”, “Development, Democracy, and Human Rights”, “Development and Security”, and “Development and Environment.” Speakers will include Amb. Bouna Semou Diouf (Director, Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Programme, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme), Dr. Takahiro Shinyo (Director-General Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan), and Hiroyuki Nagahama (Member of the Japan House of Representatives).

A complete programme is available online at <http://www.unu.edu/p&g/eu/2006/programme06.pdf>. Admission to the forum is open to the public, but advance registration is required. More information, including a registration form, can be found online at <http://www.unu.edu/p&g/eu/index.htm>.

Simultaneous Japanese–English interpretation will be provided. For those unable to attend, the forum will be “webcast” live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/videoportal/?83>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. Please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu) to reserve your space.

About the EU-UNU Tokyo Global Forums:

The EU-UNU Tokyo Global Forum, organized by the Delegation of the European Commission in Japan and United Nations University, started in 2001. The overriding theme of these annual forums, which focus on political and social issues that are of particular relevance to the UN, the EU and Japan, is the importance of strengthening international cooperation and peace through frank and forward-looking discussions.

The topic of inaugural conference, in 2001, was “Partners in Humanitarian Crises: Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution”; Subsequent forums covered “Governance Across Regions: National, Regional and Global” (2002), “Children in Turmoil: Rights of the Child in the Midst of Human Insecurity” (2003), “From Civil Strife to Civil Society: Post-Conflict Reconstruction, Peace-Building and Reconciliation” (2004), and “Bridging the Gap: Involving Citizens’ Movements and NGOs in the Democratic Process” (2005).

