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**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

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UNU to Hold International Conference on Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

- Event:** International Conference — “Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development”
- Date/Time:** Expert Meeting — 12 & 13 April (Wed. & Thurs.)
Public Symposium — 14 April 2006 (Friday), 1:00–5:00 PM
- Venue:** Expert Meeting — JICA Yokohama International Center 4F (Naka-ku, Yokohama)
Public Symposium — Hamagin Hall “Viamare” (Nishi-ku, Yokohama)
- Organizers:** United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), City of Yokohama, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Background Information:

- “Education for Sustainable Development” encompasses a new vision of education that seeks to empower people of all ages to assume responsibility for creating and enjoying a sustainable future.
- Since 2003 United Nations University, through the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), has been implementing an Education for Sustainable Development (EfSD) programme to promote the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005–2014.
- As one of the major thrusts of its EfSD programme, UNU proposed to develop a worldwide system of Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) to deliver Education for Sustainable Development to a regional community. Each RCE is a network of existing formal, non-formal, and informal education organizations. To date, 10 RCEs have been established.
- More information on the EfSD Programme at UNU-IAS, including downloadable reports and brochures, is available online at <http://www.ias.unu.edu/research/educationsd.cfm>.

Event Overview:

The International Conference will consist of two events:

- At the Expert Meeting on 12 and 13 April, RCE representatives, RCE candidates, and representatives of UN agencies and national and local governments will exchange information and discuss the challenges they face and measures to overcome them. The working language will be English.
- The public International Symposium on “Regional Centres of Expertise for a Sustainable Future” on 14 April will feature keynote speeches by Prof. Charles Hopkins (York University, Canada) and Mr. Takunori Ogawa (producer of the Aichi Expo 2005), and a panel discussion on “Education for Sustainable Development and Establishing an RCE in Yokohama” chaired by Prof. Hiromi Kobori (Musashi Institute of Technology). Simultaneous English-Japanese interpretation will be provided.
- Keynote speaker Prof. Hopkins and symposium panelist UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel will be available for a limited number of interviews.
- For more information about this International Conference, please contact Maki Katayama of UNU-IAS (katayama@ias.unu.edu).

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend the International Symposium and/or the Expert Meeting. Please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu), to confirm your attendance or to arrange an interview.



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 September 1975, operates through a worldwide network of research and training centres and programmes coordinated by UNU Centre in Tokyo.

MEDIA ADVISORY

Programme

<Expert Meeting>

[Wednesday, 12 April]

- 09:30-10:00 **Opening Remarks**
10:00-10:45 **“Efforts toward Education for Sustainable Development and the Promotion of RCEs”**
Prof. Hans van Ginkel, UN Under-Secretary and Rector of UNU
Mr. Hiroshi Nakada, Mayor of Yokohama City
Dr. Kenichi Tanaka, Senior Advisor, Institute for International Cooperation, JICA
- 10:45-11:00 Short break
11:00-13:00 **Reports by Acknowledged RCEs**
13:00-14:00 Lunch
14:00-15:00 **Reports by Acknowledged RCEs (continued)**
15:00-15:45 **Discussions on future perspectives of RCEs**
15:45-16:00 Coffee Break
16:00-17:30 **Thematic discussions on networking**
18:30- Reception

[Thursday, 13 April]

- 09:00-11:00 **Reports by Acknowledged RCEs (continued)**
11:00-11:15 Coffee break
11:15-13:00 **Discussions on future perspectives of RCEs**
13:00-14:00 Lunch
14:00-16:00 **Thematic discussions on collaboration**
16:00-17:30 **Concluding Session**
17:30 **Closing**

< International Symposium on RCE for Sustainable Future >

[Friday, 14 April]

- 13:00-13:30 **Opening Remarks**
Prof. Hans van Ginkel, Rector of UNU, Mr. Hiroshi Nakada, Mayor of Yokohama City, and representatives from JICA and UNESCO
- 13:30-15:00 **Keynote Speeches**
(1) The Development of Education for Sustainable Development and RCEs Prof. Charles Hopkins
(2) Prospects for “Yokohama as an Environmental Port”
Mr. Takunori Ogawa, former producer of Aichi Expo
- 15:00-15:10 Break
15:10-16:50 **Panel discussion on “Education for Sustainable Development and Establishing an RCE in Yokohama”**

Chair: Hiromi Kobori, Musashi Institute of Technology

Panelists: Prof. Hans van Ginkel, Rector of UNU

Ms. Yoshie Yokokawa (Secretary General, Yokohama NGO Liaison Office)

Ms. Bernadiah Irawati Tjandradewi (Programme Manager, CITYNET)

Mr. Kazutoshi Makino (Director, Environmental Planning Bureau, City of Yokohama)

- 16:50 **Closing Remarks** by Prof. A.H. Zakri, Director of UNU-IAS

