

29 June 2006
MR/E23/06



**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

Lecture by President Karzai on State Building in Afghanistan

Event: Public Lecture by H.E. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Date/Time: Friday, 7 July 2006, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (Registration from 1:30 PM)
Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, 3F, UN House (Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)
Organizers: The Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo and United Nations University (UNU)

- The topic of President Karzai's lecture will be "State Building in Afghanistan: Past Progress, Current Opportunities, and Future Challenges".
- President Karzai's lecture will be followed by a question and answer session, moderated by Ms. Sadako Ogata, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.
- Simultaneous Japanese-English interpretation will be provided.
- This lecture is open to the public, but advance registration is required. A registration form is online at http://unu.edu/hq/rector_office/events2006/Karzai_lecture_20060707_registration.pdf.
- For those unable to attend, President Karzai's lecture will be "webcast" live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?89>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend President Karzai's lecture. Please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu) to confirm your attendance.

Profile of President Hamid Karzai

Hamid Karzai was elected President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in October 2004, and took office in December 2004. He had previously served (from December 2001) as Chairman of the Afghanistan Interim Administration, after having been selected by the successful assembly of various Afghan groups in Bonn (Germany) as the undisputed figure to lead Afghanistan during its precarious transition. Per the Bonn Agreement, the power of the Interim Authority was transferred to a Transitional Government in June 2002 during the Emergency Loya Jirga, which again selected Hamid Karzai as leader pending the 2004 election.

In 1982, Hamid Karzai joined the Afghan National Liberation Front, becoming the group's Director of Information in 1985 and head of its Political Department in 1987. From 1992 to 1994, he served as Deputy Foreign Minister of the newly established Afghan Government. A steadfast figure in seeking the liberation of Afghanistan, from 1995 to 2000 he traveled the world, meeting with officials from the United Nations, the European Union, and various national governments to champion the interests of the Afghan people. He returned to Afghanistan in 2001 to organize active resistance against the Taliban, and helped to liberate the province of Oruzgan. He thereafter used his influence to defeat the Taliban in the south of the country.

Hamid Karzai remains a voice of moderation and an advocate of reform. He has received several international awards for his achievements, including the International Rescue Committee's Freedom Award (2002), the International Republican Institute's Freedom Award (2003), and the Philadelphia Liberty Medal (2004).

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.