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## UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

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### MOFA/UNU Public Seminar on Peacebuilding

- Event:** Public Seminar — “People Building Peace: Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding”
- Date/Time:** Tuesday, 29 August 2006 (10:30 AM – 5:30 PM) (Registration: 9:30 AM)
- Venue:** U Thant International Conference Hall, 3F, UN House (Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)
- Organizers:** Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and United Nations University (UNU)

#### Background

- With peace operations ongoing on a significant scale in many parts of the world, and threats of new or renewed conflict continuing to arise, the peacebuilding agenda is drawing increasing global attention.
- “There are few issues on which there is greater consensus, or higher expectations, than on the responsibility of the United Nations to help States and societies recover from the devastation of war,” observed United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the inaugural session of the new United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, on 23 June 2006.
- In order to further strengthen the effectiveness of UN peacebuilding activities, there is a pressing need for pragmatic, focused initiatives that build upon the experience in different regions. To address this need, suitable human resource development is vital.
- The situation in Asia is representative of the challenge worldwide. Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso, in a May statement, stressed the necessity “to create a setup through which Asia is able to develop human resources that can successfully work towards peace building”.
- Peacebuilding is a core thematic focus of the UNU Peace and Governance Programme, and recent UNU work has illustrated the complex challenges which can undermine peacebuilding.

#### About the Seminar

- Seminar participants will offer insights and concrete suggestions for peacebuilding-related human resource development in Asia, and discuss the potential for collaboration among countries and institutions within Asia as well as those outside the region.
- The morning session will feature an address by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso, and keynote speeches by Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, former Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Sir Marrack Goulding, Warden of St. Antony's College, University of Oxford; and Lt. General (retired) Satish Nambiar, Director of United Services Institution of India.
- In the afternoon there will be two sessions — “Experiences of Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding” and “Challenges for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding” — with each session comprising expert presentations and a question and answer period.
- English and Japanese simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend the public seminar. Please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: [media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)) to confirm your attendance.

Please be advised that you will need to show a photo ID for admission. Also, camera crew should wear a company arm badge and journalists should wear either a Diet Club ID or company arm badge.

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.