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**UNITED NATIONS  
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## **Public Symposium on Water Hazard and Risk Management at UNU on 14 September**

- Event:** Official ICHARM Opening Ceremony and Commemorative Symposium  
**Date/Time:** Thursday, 14 September 2006 (10:00 AM – 6:00 PM)  
**Venue:** U Thant International Conference Hall, 3F, UN House (Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)  
**Organizers:** Public Works Research Institute (PWRI) / International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICCHARM) and United Nations University (UNU)

### **Background**

- Water-related disasters, ranging from floods to droughts, represent major impediments to sustainable human development and the alleviation of poverty.
- The number of devastating water-related disasters, as well as the extent of their resultant damage and impact, have been increasing in various regions of the world. This is due in part to rapid population growth, increasing urbanization, and the concomitant expansion of supporting infrastructure, and is being exacerbated by climate change/global warming.
- The need for appropriate actions to mitigate the impact of water-related disasters has been emphasized at numerous high-level international events and conferences, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002 and the Third World Water Forum in Japan in 2003.
- Water hazards and risks relate directly to several of the current projects of the UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme, including the project on Catastrophic Flood Risk Assessment in Asia-Pacific Region.

### **About the Event**

- The Opening Ceremony (from 10:00–11:00 AM) several speeches/addresses, a report on the ICHARM establishment process, and an introduction of its policy and activities.
- The seminar, which starts from 11:10, will consist of six presentations : “Lessons Learned from the Katrina Disaster”, “Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the ISDR”, “Investment for Disaster Reduction” (a Philippine case study), “Urban Flood Management in South American Region”, “Outline of WMO Activities in the Field of Flood Management”, and “Outline of UNESCO IHP activities”.
- For more information about the event, see <http://www.icharm.pwri.go.jp/html/news/2006914.html>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend the public seminar on 14, September. Please contact Hiroyo Onozato, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-3499-2811; e-mail: [media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)) to confirm your attendance.

**MEDIA ALERT**