

6 Oct. 2006
MR/E37/06

For use of the media –
not an official record



**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/>

UN Day 2006 Events in Japan **“Japan at 50 in the UN”**

United Nations Day (UN Day) is an anniversary to commemorate the date 61 years ago, 24 October 1945, when the United Nations Charter came into effect. UN day has been celebrated annually since 1947 throughout the world through variety of events.

This year is significant in that it marks the 50th year since Japan joined the UN. To celebrate, 22 UN-related organizations in Japan are collaborating to hold variety of events and to reaffirm our commitment to fostering the mission of the UN and the aspirations for peace of its “Peoples and Member States”.

The main event will be an international symposium commemorating “Japan at 50 in the UN”, which will take place from 9:00 AM until 7:00 PM on 25 October at the UN House (UNU Centre building) in Shibuya, Tokyo, the main venue of the UN Day celebrations in Japan. Workshops will also be held for persons seeking to further their understanding of the UN system or those interested in working in a UN organization.

Other commemorative events are planned for regions where offices of UN agencies are based outside of Tokyo — in Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Kobe, Osaka, Nagoya, Toyama and Yokohama. These events will be held at various times from October through December.

The international symposium “Japan at 50 in the UN”, to take place on 25 October, will analyse the relationship between Japan and the UN from various aspects. There will be discussions about the future role of Japan in the UN, the optimal role and structure of the UN, and Japan’s efforts at international cooperation. Participants will include analysts and representatives of UN-related organizations and NGOs. The symposium is thus designed to be most suitable for the occasion: the 50th anniversary of Japan’s membership in the UN. Ted Turner, founder of the US-based CNN television network and contributor of some 1 billion dollars to the UN through the UN Foundation that he established in 1997, will participate in the symposium. Also taking part in the discussions will be Hisashi Owada, former UN Ambassador and current judge on the International Court of Justice; Dr. Nafis Sadik, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General; and Dr. Hans van Ginkel, UNU Rector and UN Under Secretary General.

Details of the 25 October event, as well as further information on the regional activities that will be held by UN agency offices across Japan, will be announced in mid-October. You are cordially invited to attend the international symposium and the regional events.

Event co-organizers:

FAO, IAEA, ILO, IMF, OCHA, UNCRD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNIC, UNICEF, UNIDO · ITPO, UNITAR, UNOPS, UNU, UNV, WFP, WHO, WIPO, World Bank