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“Winning Against Disasters” is Theme of UNU Public Forum

- Event:** Public Forum: “Winning Against Disasters: Roles of Education, Development and Community Action for Sustainable Development”
- Date/Time:** 19 October 2006 (Thursday), 14:00-17:30
- Venue:** UN House, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo (U Thant International Conference Hall)
- Organizers:** United Nations University (UNU), Cabinet Office of Japan, United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Bank, and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

Background

- Disaster risk arises when natural hazards interact with physical, social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities, and can have grave consequences for the dignity, livelihoods, and survival of individuals, particularly the poor.
- Natural disasters are causing unacceptably high human and economic losses worldwide, as evidenced in various assessments made by the UN, World Bank, and insurance industry. To effectively address disaster reduction, short- and long-term strategies are required.
- The Hyogo Framework for Action (2005–2015), adopted in 2005 by 168 governments, enumerates a set of goals and priority actions for “building the resilience of nations and communities” with the goal of creating a world in which natural hazards can be managed without becoming disasters.

About the event

- Forum participants will discuss and explore the roles that education, infrastructure development, and community action can play in limiting the potential impact of natural hazards.
- The forum will feature presentations by Hans van Ginkel, Rector, UNU; Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard, Director, Transport and Urban Development, World Bank; and Saidur Rahman, Director, Bangladesh Disaster Reduction Center.
- The presentations will be followed by a panel discussion. Panelists will include the above three speakers (except the Rector, UNU) as well as Badaoui Rouhban, Chief, Section for Disaster Reduction, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO; Charmine Koda, Director, United Nations Information Centre; Koji Suzuki, Executive Director, ADRC. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Public Relations & International Cooperation, Cabinet Office of Japan, and Itaru Yasui, Vice Rector, UNU will moderate the discussion.
- Media representatives are cordially invited to attend this public forum. Simultaneous Japanese–English interpretation will be provided.
- See http://wm.hq.unu.edu/index.php/Oct_2006_Public_Forum for more information and an event programme.
- This event will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/videoportal/?108>.

To confirm your attendance at the “Winning Against Disaster” Public Forum, please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu).