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**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

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UNU Will Host Seminar on Basic Education Development in Africa

- Event:** Open Seminar of the Africa-Asia University Dialogue for Basic Education Development Project
- Agenda:** Presentation and discussion by four African country teams of research proposals on “Promoting a Self-Reliant Approach to Basic Education Development in Africa through Research and Development”
- Date/Time:** 9 March 2007 (Friday), 14:00–17:00
- Venue:** 2F Reception Hall, UN House, Tokyo
- Organizer:** United Nations University

- To mark the conclusion of their visit to United Nations University, UNU is organizing a panel discussion and seminar for participants in the Asia–Africa University Dialogue for Basic Education Development Project.
- In this seminar chaired by Hans van Ginkel, Rector, UNU, experts from four African countries — Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Nigeria and Zambia — will share and discuss their basic education development research proposals with panellists and members of the audience.
- The panellists will be Francisco Komlavi Seddoh, Professor and Advisor to the Rector on African Issues, UNU; John Clammer, Director, UNU International Courses; Lynn Thiesmeyer, Professor, Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio University; Brendan Barrett, Academic Programme Officer, UNU Online Learning; and Katsunori Suzuki, Senior Fellow, UNU-IAS, Education for Sustainable Development.
- Also attending will be members of the diplomatic corps, presidents of several Kanto-area universities, Japanese government ministry representatives, and heads of UN agencies in Japan.
- The seminar will be conducted in English.

Project background

- The Africa–Asia University Dialogue for Basic Education Development is a three-year project jointly organized by UNU, the Centre for the Study of International Cooperation in Education (CICE), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNESCO.
- In 2007, a group of 12 African university-based experts and national policy-makers from Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Nigeria and Zambia are undertaking a 5-week study mission to Asia in order to jointly develop a more self-reliant policy perspective for basic education development.
- The expected outcome of their research includes a better understanding of the quality and relevance of education, school effectiveness, and the impact of HIV/AIDS on basic education.
- While in Japan, the group will spend a week (6–9 March) at UNU in Tokyo and three weeks at CICE in Hiroshima.
- The intent of the 9 March seminar is to foster dialogue between the African groups and Japanese/Asian university-based experts.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend this seminar. To confirm your attendance, please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu).