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**UNITED NATIONS
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UNU/IDB Seminar Will Feature Keynote Speech by ECLAC Executive Secretary Machinea

Event: UNU/IDB Seminar on “Social and Economic Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean: Defining a Development Agenda for the Region”
Date/Time: 14 March 2007 (Wednesday), 14:30–16:30
Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, UN House, Tokyo
Organizer: United Nations University (UNU) and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Supporter: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

- This seminar will serve as a forum for discussion about the social and economic dimensions that define the development process of countries in Latin American and the Caribbean region, and the challenges these countries face in their efforts to attain sustainable and equitable growth.
- Opening remarks will be delivered by UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel, Rector and Mr. Akira Miwa, Director-General, Latin America and Caribbean Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.
- The keynote speaker will be Dr. José Luis Machinea, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
- Following Dr. Machinea’s presentation, there will be a panel discussion chaired by Mr. Miguel Ruiz-Cabañas, Ambassador of the United Mexican States. The panellists will be:
 - Prof. Kotaro Horisaka, Director, Iberoamerican Institute, Sophia University;
 - Ms. Taeko Hoshino, Deputy Director General, Area Studies Center, Institute of Developing Economies–Japan External Trade Organization; and
 - Prof. Neantro Saavedra, Director, APEC Study Center, University of Tsukuba.
- For those unable to attend, the seminar will be “webcast” live (and archived) online at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?125>.
- Simultaneous Japanese-English interpretation will be provided.

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).

About the keynote speaker

Dr. Machinea has been Executive Secretary of ECLAC since 2003. He served as President of the Central Bank of Argentina in the late 1980s, then entered the private sector to work as a consultant and with economic research organizations. In 1999, he was appointed Argentina’s Minister of Economy. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Minnesota (USA) and has written widely on macroeconomics, monetary and financial issues.

Background information

- While there has been significant variation among countries, for the past four years the Latin American and Caribbean region has been posting significant economic performance, far more robust and encouraging than that recorded during the previous two decades.
- Nevertheless, the region’s growth rates have not matched those achieved by other parts of the developing world. In spite of important rises in per capita GDP and reductions in poverty levels and unemployment, most countries of the region still face a pressing social agenda that demands a better focus on fighting poverty and inequity and promoting more internal social cohesion.