

25 September 2007
MR/E42/07



**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/>

For use of the media –
not an official record

Applications Invited for 2007 Okinawa Session of UNU Global Seminars

Event: UNU Global Seminars – 9th Okinawa Session
Theme: “Interaction between People and the Environment”
Date: 19–22 December 2007 (Wednesday–Saturday)
Venue: University of the Ryukyus (Nishihara-cho) and Culture Resort Festone (Ginowan City)
Organizers: United Nations University (UNU) and the Okinawa Prefectural Government

Event Information

- UNU Global Seminars are designed to enhance awareness among university students and young professionals about contemporary global issues and the role of the United Nations in addressing them. In 2007, a series of seven sessions will be held in locations throughout Japan.
- Protecting our global environment is a major challenge that must be shared by the whole human family. Seminar participants will gain a better understanding of the complex relationships between people and the environment, and will consider how we each can contribute to solving the environmental problems facing the world today.

Information for Applicants

- Applications are now being accepted for the 9th annual UNU Global Seminar – Okinawa Session. The session is open to students enrolled in a Japanese university (undergraduate or graduate level) and young professionals residing in Japan.
- Participants are required to understand both English and Japanese, as lectures may be delivered in either language, without interpretation.
- Approximately 50 applicants will be selected to participate. A participation fee of ¥30,000 covers meals, accommodation and seminar documentation. Foreign students who do not receive a full scholarship for their study in Japan may apply for a waiver of the fee.
- The Okinawa Session will open on Wednesday afternoon (19 December) with public keynote lectures on “Societal Aspects of High-Impact Weather and Climate: The Need for Early Warnings in Asia and the Pacific”, by Michael Glantz, Director, Center for Capacity Building, National Center for Atmospheric Research, and “Education from an Ecological Viewpoint: Environmentological Investigation into Established Theories” by Hisatake Kato, Project Professor, Center for Biomedical Ethics and Law, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo.
- On 20 and 21 December, participants will attend lecture sessions and group discussions focusing on “Environment and Human Society”, “Warnings from Southern Islands”, and “The Role of Civil Society”.
- The Okinawa Session will conclude on 22 December with group presentations/plenary discussion, a closing ceremony and a farewell lunch.
- For more information and an application form, go to <http://www.unu.edu/gs> or contact the UNU Global Seminar – Okinawa Session Secretariat (tel.: 03-3499-2811; fax: 03-3499-2828; e-mail: okinawa2007@hq.unu.edu).
- The deadline for applications is 25 October.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend the keynote lectures. For more information, contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu).

United Nations University (UNU) is an autonomous organ of the UN General Assembly dedicated to generating and transferring knowledge and strengthening capacities relevant to global issues of human security, development, and welfare. The University operates through a worldwide network of research and training centres and programmes, coordinated by UNU Centre in Tokyo.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT