

15 February 2008
MR/E04/08



**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

UN University Launches “Global Issues” Seminar Series

Inaugural event considers peacekeeping’s unintended consequences

Event: First UN University Interactive Seminar on Global Issues
Theme: “Unintended Consequences of Peacekeeping Operations”
Speaker: Chiyuki Aoi, Associate Professor, Aoyama Gakuin University
Commentator: Noriyuki Wakisaka, Editorial Writer, *Asahi Shimbun*
Date/Time: 22 February 2008 (Friday), 4:30–6:45 PM
Venue: Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall (5F), UN University Headquarters, Tokyo
Organizer: United Nations University

- The United Nations University is pleased to announce the launch of a new public seminar series on issues of global concern as they relate to Japan. Providing a forum for informed discussion among Japanese academia, civil society and the public, the UNU Interactive Seminar on Global Issues series will focus on topics drawn from recent or forthcoming UNU Press scholarly publications, with contributors to each book appearing as seminar speakers.
- The inaugural seminar will be held on Friday, 22 February 2008. The featured lecturer will be Prof. Chiyuki Aoi of Aoyama Gakuin University, co-editor of the 2007 UNU Press book *Unintended Consequences of Peacekeeping Operations*. Editorial Writer Noriyuki Wakisaka from the *Asahi Shimbun* will then provide a brief commentary, followed by an open discussion.
- This seminar is open to the public, but because of limited seating, advance registration is required. Please note that the seminar will be conducted in Japanese (there will be no English interpretation). For those unable to attend, the seminar will be “webcast” at <http://c3.unu.edu/videoportal/?175>.

For more information, or to reserve a space, media representatives may contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu).

Background

- According to the findings presented in the book, it is an unfortunate but inescapable fact that peacekeeping operations can yield unintended (and adverse) consequences. For Japan, which now serves as chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission and has increasingly made the building of peace a pillar of its foreign policy, a clear understanding of such consequences is crucial. Despite increasing expectations, Japan’s experience in global peacebuilding and peacekeeping is lacking. Moreover, with the deployment of Japanese military personnel outside of Japan still a delicate issue, the nation’s capacity to contribute “on the ground” is questionable. The inaugural seminar will explore these and other issues relating to Japanese participation in UN peacekeeping missions.
- Recognizing Japan’s active international engagement in 2008, as exemplified by its hosting of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in May and the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit in July, the UNU Interactive Seminar on Global Issues series will promote discussion on a range of global topics, from environmental sustainability to international peace and governance, as they relate to Japan.

The United Nations University 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 UN University Centre based in Tokyo.

MEDIA ALERT

**Future Sessions of the
UN University Interactive Seminar on Global Issues (tentative)**

- Seminar II 21 March 2008 (Fri.) 16:30 – 18:45
Topic: “International Water Security”
Lecturer: Mikiyasu Nakayama, Professor, Graduate School of Frontier Science,
University of Tokyo
Discussant: Yutaka Takahashi, Emeritus Professor, University of Tokyo
- Seminar III 18 April 2008 (Fri.) 16:30 – 18:45
Topic: “Climate Change in Asia”
Lecturer: Yasuko Kameyama, Senior Researcher, National Institute for Environmental
Studies
Discussants: Akinori Ogawa, Senior Fellow, United Nations University
Yurikawa Ayukawa, Climate Policy Senior Officer, WWF-Japan
- Seminar IV 16 May 2008 (Fri.) 16:30 – 18:45
Topic: “Sustainable Cities”
Lecturer: Tokue Shibata, Professor Emeritus, Tokyo Keizai University
Discussant: Hidenori Tamagawa, Professor, Graduate School of Urban Science, Tokyo
Metropolitan University
- Seminar V 30 May 2008 (Fri.) 16:30 – 18:45
Topic: “Interlinkages and the Effectiveness of Multilateral Environmental
Agreements”
Lecturer: W. Bradnee Chambers, Senior Programme Officer, UNU-IAS
Discussant: Akinori Ogawa, Senior Fellow, United Nations University