



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

**29 February 2008
MR/E06/08**

**For use of the media –
not an official record**

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/>

UN Agencies in Japan Will Commemorate International Women's Day on 10 March with Public Forum

Event: International Women's Day 2008 Public Forum
Theme: "Investing in Women and Girls"
Date/Time: 10 March 2008 (Monday), 2:00–7:00 PM
Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, UNU Headquarters, Tokyo
Organized by: UN agencies in Japan*

Background Information

- The UN has helped affirm the principle of equality between women and men and throughout its history, created a legacy of strategies, programmes and standards to advance the roles and status of women worldwide.
- Since 1975, the UN has observed International Women's Day in March as a time to acknowledge the contributions that women have made to society, to reflect on national and global progress in advancing gender equality, and to consider how best to deal with current and future challenges and opportunities.
- Around the world, women continue to bear a disproportionate burden and share of global poverty. A large majority of the one billion people living on less than a dollar a day are women and girls. And while women produce about half of the world's food, they own just one percent of global farmland. Experience has shown that investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity and sustained economic growth, and enhances social and economic well-being and local cultural/political vitality.

About the Event

- The 2008 International Women's Day Public Forum will open with the greetings by Mayumi Moriyama (former Minister of Justice, Japan) and Konrad Osterwalder, Rector, United Nations University, and a video message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
- The keynote speakers will be Ms. Kazuyo Katsuma, CPA, Economist, and Ms. Aïchatou Diawara-Flambert, UNICEF Country Representative from Lesotho.
- Following the keynote speeches, there will be a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Vesselin Popovski, Senior Academic Programme Officer, Director of Studies on International Order and Justice, Peace and Governance Programme, United Nations University. Panellists will include Dr. Emile Rwamasirabo, Ambassador of Rwanda; Prof. Kyoko Hashimoto Department of Textile Design, Tama Art University; Prof. Naomi Wakasugi, Professor, Graduate School of Political Science, Waseda University; Ms. Mariko Saito, UNDP-Japan WID Fund, UNDP. The panellists will introduce successful cases of having invested in women and girls.
- Simultaneous Japanese–English interpretation will be provided.
- For those unable to attend, the 2007 IWD public forum will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/>.
- More information is available online at <http://www.unu.edu/iwd/>.

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

MEDIA ADVISORY



* This event is jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations University (UNU), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), World Food Programme (WFP), World Bank