

14 March 2008
MR/E07/08



**UNITED NATIONS
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UN University Global Issues Seminar Series Features Event on International Water Security

Event: UN University Interactive Seminar on Global Issues
Theme: “International Water Security: Domestic Threats and Opportunities”
Speaker: Mikiyasu Nakayama, Professor, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, University of Tokyo
Commentator: Yutaka Takahashi, Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo
Date/Time: 21 March 2008 (Friday), 4:30–6:50 PM
Venue: Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall (5F), UN University Headquarters, Tokyo
Organizer: United Nations University

- The United Nations University is pleased to announce the second session of the UNU Interactive Seminar on Global Issues. Providing a forum for informed discussion among Japanese academia, civil society and the public, the seminar series focuses on topics drawn from recent or forthcoming UNU Press scholarly publications, with contributors to each book appearing as seminar speakers.
- The inaugural session was held Friday, 22 February 2008. The event featured Professor Chiyuki Aoi of Aoyama Gakuin University, co-editor of the 2007 UNU Press book *Unintended Consequences of Peacekeeping Operations*. The seminar attracted 75 participants (with more than 80% of respondents to a post-seminar survey indicating an intention to attend future sessions).
- The upcoming session will be held Friday, 21 March 2008. The featured lecturer will be Professor Mikiyasu Nakayama of the University of Tokyo, co-editor of the UNU Press book *International Water Security: Domestic Threats and Opportunities*. Professor Emeritus Yutaka Takahashi of the University of Tokyo will 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” live. Please visit www.unu.edu/isgi/ for details.

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

- As water becomes a more precious resource, conflicts among shared water basin countries are expected to increase, perhaps even causing “water wars” in the 21st century. International organizations have an instrumental role to play in abating or resolving conflicts among basin countries along international water bodies, including through the promotion of collaborative mechanisms for riparian countries.
- Asia faces immense water pressures, having more than half the world’s population but only 36 percent of global water resources. The Millennium Development Goals have set a target to “Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water” by 2015. The Millennium Declaration also emphasized the need for all countries to stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources.
- The UN General Assembly has designated 22 March of each year as the World Water Day.

MEDIA ALERT