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**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

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UNU Will Celebrate International Biodiversity Day With a Symposium on 22 May

- Event:** International Biodiversity Day Symposium 2008
- Theme:** “Biodiversity and its Interdependence with Agriculture, Food and Satoyama”
- Date/Time:** 22 May 2008 (Thursday), 2:00–5:30 PM
- Venue:** United Nations University Headquarters, Tokyo
- Organizers:** United Nations University (UNU), UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), Global Environment Information Centre (GEIC), Japan Ministry of the Environment, and Japan Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Supporters:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Liaison Office in Japan, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), United Nations Environment Programme International Environmental Technology Centre (UNEP IETC), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), and United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Japan Relations Office

Background

- May 22 is celebrated annually as the United Nations “International Day for Biological Diversity” to draw attention to the importance of biological diversity and its contributions to sustainable human development. The focus this year is on “Biodiversity and Agriculture”.
- Biodiversity is the basis of agriculture, which in turn contributes to the conservation of biodiversity. A renewed focus on biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices is required.
- UNU-IAS is conducting the Sub-Global Assessment (SGA) of *Satoyama* and *Satoumi*. The outcomes of the assessment are expected to be used for strengthening local and national plans and strategies.
- Japan has offered to host the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2010, which is the UN International Year of Biodiversity as well as the culmination of the 2010 Biodiversity Target that aims to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national levels.

About the Symposium

- Opening: Video message from Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, CBD.
- Keynote speech by Ms. Akiko Domoto, Governor of Chiba Prefecture, on “Local Initiatives for Agriculture, *Satoyama* and Biodiversity (tentative)”.
- Panel discussion:
 - Moderator: Yutaka Une, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Environments
 - Panellists: Yoetsu Sasaki, Michinoku Rice Paddy School, Sasaki Ecology Farm
Kiyoshi Tanikawa, UNU-IAS
Kozo Hara, Monitoring Living Things Project in Paddy Fields
Kosuke Homma, Niigata University
- This symposium will be held in Japanese (without interpretation).
- Advance registration is required; those who wish to participate should register at <http://www.unu.edu/reg/ibd/> or send fax to Ms. Yuko Okada, UNU (03-3499-2828) by 19 May.

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

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.

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