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UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

Office of Communications
53-70, Jingumae 5-chome
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925
Japan

Tel.: +81-3-5467-1212
Fax: +81-3-3499-2828
E-mail: media@unu.edu
Website: <http://www.unu.edu/>

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UN University Global Issues Seminar Series Features Event on Sustainable Cities

Event: UN University Interactive Seminar on Global Issues
Theme: Sustainable Cities: Japanese Perspectives on Physical and Social Structures
Speaker: Tokue Shibata, Professor Emeritus, Tokyo Keizai University / Former Director,
Department of General Planning and Coordination, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Discussant: Hidenori Tamagawa, Professor, Graduate School of Urban Science, Tokyo
Metropolitan University
Date/Time: 16 May 2008 (Friday), 4:15–6:45 PM
Venue: Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall (5F), UN University Headquarters, Tokyo
Organizer: United Nations University

- The United Nations University is pleased to announce the fourth 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 the books serving as seminar speakers.
- The next session will be held Friday, 16 May 2008. The featured lecturer will be Prof. Tokue Shibata of Tokyo Keizai University, former Director of the Department of General Planning and Coordination for Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Prof. Hidenori Tamagawa of Tokyo Metropolitan University and editor of the UNU Press publication *Sustainable Cities: Japanese Perspectives on Physical and Social Structures* will provide a brief commentary, followed by an open discussion.
- Developing countries are rapidly urbanizing and most of the world's population will soon be living in cities, making it crucial to examine how cities can be developed on a sustainable basis.
- Japan is one of the most urbanized countries in the world and offers a remarkable series of lessons for sustainable urban planning. Moreover, the urban problems now confronting Japan and its people are not unique to the country and will emerge when any country reaches a certain level of development.
- *Sustainable Cities: Japanese Perspectives on Physical and Social Structures* draws upon the experiences of Japan as a result of its rapid economic and urban growth to provide insights for urban researchers and practitioners worldwide. In doing so, it examines the tensions between sociological and technological approaches and the dichotomy between planning professionals and civil society.
- The 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 only. 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

The inaugural session of the series was held 22 February 2008 on the topic “Unintended Consequences of Peacekeeping Operations”. Subsequent sessions have been on “International Water Security: Domestic Threats and Opportunities” and “Climate Change in Asia: Perspectives on the Future Climate Regime”.