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**UNITED NATIONS  
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**UN University Global Issues Seminar Series  
Features Event on Multilateral Environmental Agreements**

**Event:** UN University Interactive Seminar on Global Issues  
**Theme:** “Interlinkages and the Effectiveness of Multilateral Environmental Agreements”  
**Speaker:** W. Bradnee Chambers, Senior Programme Officer, United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)  
**Discussant:** Akinori Ogawa, Senior Fellow, United Nations University  
**Date/Time:** 20 June 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 fifth 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 on Friday, 20 June 2008. The featured lecturer will be Prof. W. Bradnee Chambers of UNU-IAS, author of the UNU Press publication *Interlinkages and the Effectiveness of Multilateral Environmental Agreements*. Mr. Akinori Ogawa of the UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme will provide a commentary, followed by an open discussion.
- In recent years, there has been growing awareness that a major reason for the worsening global environment is the failure to create adequate institutional responses to fully address the scope, magnitude and complexity of environmental problems. Much criticism has been focused on the necessity for greater coordination and synergism among Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and among policies and laws that take better account of the inter-relationships between ecological and societal systems.
- The seminar seeks to fill the existing gap in knowledge and policy-making and increase our understanding of how to approach international law. Prof. Chambers will explore how the effectiveness of MEAs can be improved through a strengthening of interlinkages.
- The seminar is open to the public, but because of limited seating, advance registration is required. Please note that this seminar will be conducted in both English and Japanese, with simultaneous interpretation provided. For those unable to attend, the seminar will be webcast live. Please visit [www.unu.edu/isgi/](http://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](mailto:media@unu.edu)).

**Background**

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

MEDIA ALERT