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**UNITED NATIONS
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UN University Presents a Major International Symposium on Innovative Responses to Climate Change

Event: UNU G8 Symposium
Theme: “Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Time of Climate Change”
Date: 4 July 2008 (Friday), 9:30–6:30 PM
Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, UN University Headquarters, Tokyo
Organizer: United Nations University

The global response to climate change now will shape the world for future generations; indeed, it may quite possibly determine whether there *are* future generations. Climate change presents a clear and present danger to both the natural world that sustains us and our accustomed ways of life, but amid the turmoil and uncertainty facing humanity lie tremendous opportunities for innovation, entrepreneurship and investment.

Just over 20 years to the day after Dr. **James E. Hansen** presented congressional testimony that alerted the world to the threat of climate change, Dr. Hansen, Head of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies and perhaps the world’s most well known climate scientist, will provide the keynote address at this UNU G8 symposium where he will be joined by a panel of the world’s leading experts and writers on the subject. Joining via video from Beijing will be renowned author and environmentalist **Bill McKibben** whose 1989 book *The End of Nature* is considered the first on the subject of climate change for a general audience.

Dr. Hansen will address the implications for energy policy and Mr. McKibben will speak on the building of a new international consensus, critical topics for the G8 Summit starting just two days after the symposium.

The other presentations from the international panel of experts are of no less relevance and importance to the G8 agenda. They are:

- “The G8 Challenge: From Kyoto to Hokkaido” by **Gwyn Prins**, Director, Mackinder Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science (UK);
- “The Hydrogen Defense Against Climate Catastrophe” by **David Sanborn Scott**, University of Victoria (Canada) and author of *Smelling Land*;
- “Multilateral Arrangements for Managing Global Scarcity Issues” by **Alex Evans**, Centre on International Cooperation, New York University (USA);
- “What’s in a Number: The Folly of Carbon Emission Targets and Timetables” by **Ted Nordhaus**, Chairman, Breakthrough Institute (USA);
- “A Low-Carbon World: Pathways to a Global Deal” by **David Steven**, River Path Associates (UK);
- “Establishing Low-Carbon Japan as a Contribution to Future Development” by **Shuzo Nishioka**, Senior Advisor, National Institute for Environmental Studies (Japan);
- “Between Pledges and Action: China and the Climate Change Discussion” by **Zha Daojiong**, Professor, School of International Studies, Peking University (China);
- “Activities on CO2 Reduction in the Automotive Industry” by **Toshio Hirota**, General Manager, Technology Planning Department, Nissan Motor Co. (Japan); and
- “Chinese Perspectives on Climate Change: What We Care About and How We Can Act” by **Yu Dawei**, Senior Writer, *Caijing* Magazine (China).

Join us to discover the possibilities of a post-oil economy on Friday July 4 at UNU Headquarters in Tokyo: visit www.unu.edu for full programme details and registration. For those unable to attend, the event will be webcast live and later archived at <c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?196>.

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).

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