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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/>

UNU to Host Asia Film Premiere of “Soldiers of Peace”

Event: “Our World 2.0” – A Peace & Creativity Salon
Date: 26 September 2008 (Friday), 5:00– 9:30 PM
Venue: United Nations University Headquarters, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo
Organizers: United Nations University (Media Studio and Peace & Governance Programme) and Global Lives Project
Supporters: Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Peace Boat, Global Peace Index and the Institute for Economics and Peace
Sponsors: Sony Corporation Japan and Temple University Japan

- To celebrate the UN-designated International Day of Peace for 2008 and promote public awareness, the UNU will screen the Asian premiere of “Soldiers of Peace”, the feature documentary film narrated by UN Messenger for Peace and Hollywood Actor Michael Douglas, featuring Sir Bob Geldof, Sir Richard Branson, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Prince Hassan of Jordan and Hans Blix. Presenting stories of people working towards peace and reconciliation in 14 countries around the world, it has been billed “The Inconvenient Truth” of peace advocacy. “Soldiers of Peace”, produced by One Tree Films, Australia, clearly demonstrates the importance of film in promoting positive change in the world.
- Recognizing the role of the United Nations University as a promoter of peace, the director and producers have chosen to hold the first Asian screening of the film at the UNU. “We are extremely excited to have the opportunity to present this special screening of our film at UNU in Tokyo,” said “Soldiers of Peace” director Tim Wise. “This is a call-to-action film; what Al Gore and ‘An Inconvenient Truth’ has done to raise the awareness of the important issues of global warming, ‘Soldiers of Peace’ wants to do to raise the awareness of the importance of global peace. Our hope is that this film will inspire everyone watching to want to do their own ‘little bit’ to help promote world peace.”
- Recognizing that a peaceful world should be a creative world, the event also will introduce two new UNU films that explore pressing global issues: the world premiere of “The Wisdom Years” and a screening of the award-winning documentary “Voices of the Chichinautzin”.
- Because part of an interactive, globalized world is recognizing the differences and commonalities between people, the UNU will show a sneak preview of “The Global Lives Project”, which captures the parallel lives of 4 people in Brazil, Malawi, Japan and the USA over 24 hours.
- Journalists will have an opportunity to interview the producers and directors of the UN University documentaries, and to ask questions of “Soldiers of Peace” director Wise, who will be accessible online from Australia.
- This free event is open to the public. The schedule of the Friday evening programme is:
 - 5:00 PM World Premiere screening of “The Wisdom Years”
 - 6.00 PM Video installation: “The Global Lives Project”
 - 7.00 PM Asia Premiere screening of “Soldiers of Peace”
 - 8.30 PM Salon (drinks, presentations, screenings, music)
 - 9.00 PM Screening of “Voices of the Chichinautzin”

To reserve a media space, or to arrange an interview opportunity in advance, please contact Naoko Yano or Asuka Maki, UNU Office of Communications (tel.: 03-5467-1212; e-mail: media@unu.edu).

MEDIA ADVISORY

About the Films

The **“Soldiers of Peace”** documentary travels around the globe revealing the inspiring everyday people who are proving that peace is a more viable alternative to war in these turbulent times. Through tolerance and understanding, the film illustrates the connections between individual acts of enterprise and heroism, and the systemic changes we now need, if we are to survive the 21st Century.

“Soldiers Of Peace” takes us on an inspiring journey across 14 countries and shows us we really can make a difference. In a world dominated by the negative, “Soldiers of Peace” offers an affirmative message that peace can be achieved. Yes, you can become a Soldier of Peace. Please visit <http://www.soldiersofpeacemovie.com> (in English only) for more information, and become a supporter of the film.

“The Wisdom Years” focuses on the lives of the elderly in Japan, which has the world’s highest life-expectancy rate. This documentary examines how science can prolong our lives, and how social ties can help us to stay healthy and active. It further looks at the kinds of changes needed in cities and communities to respond to the needs of the elderly, while advocating the inclusion of social determinants of health in governmental policy. See <http://wisdom.unu.edu/> (Japanese & English).

“Voices of Chichinautzin” is a documentary that tells the story of the Chichinautzin Biological Corridor, located near densely populated Mexico City, and the attempt of its inhabitants to strike a balance between development and conservation. See <http://voices.unu.edu/> (English only). (On 30 August, this film received the Sandcastle Award for “Best Feature Documentary” at the Moondance International Film Festival, in Boulder, Colorado, USA.)

“The Global Lives Project” is a collective effort of more than 150 volunteer filmmakers, artists, architects, programmers and others from around the world to compile a video library of human life experience. See <http://globallives.org/> (English).

About the UNU Peace and Governance Programme

The UNU Peace & Governance Programme conducts research and capacity development to contribute to the promotion of sustainable peace and good governance. It addresses pressing global issues that are the concern of the United Nations, producing policy-oriented recommendations for current problems and identifying longer-term trends and patterns in international politics that hold implications for peace, security and governance.
(<http://unu.edu/pg/>)

About the UNU Media Studio

The UNU Media Studio, established in 2003, works in collaboration with a global network of partners to develop and share open educational resources. Through a small team based in Tokyo, the UNU promotes innovation in the building of interactive content and video documentaries that engage, entertain and educate.
(<http://www.mediastudio.unu.edu>)