



10 October 2008  
MR/E42/08



**UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY**

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

Tel.: +81-3-3499-2811  
Fax: +81-3-3499-2828  
E-mail: [media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)  
Website: <http://www.unu.edu/>

**For use of the media –  
not an official record**

## Join Us in Shibuya to Celebrate United Nations Day 2008

- Event:** United Nations Day 2008  
**Theme:** “Climate Change: What We Can Do”  
**Date/Time:** 24 October 2008 (Friday)  
**Venue:** United Nations University Headquarters Building, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo  
**Organizers:** FAO, IAEA, ILO, IMF, OCHA, UNCRD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNIC, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNU, UNV, WFP, WHO, WIPO, World Bank\*  
**Supporters:** Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Japan Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; Shibuya Ward; United Nations Association of Japan  
**Cooperators:** Global Compact Network Japan (GC-JN); Global Sports Alliance (GSA); Oriental Land Co., Ltd.; Uniqlo Co., Ltd.; Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Japan Association for the UN WFP; UNCRD Cooperation Association  
**Sponsors:** Japan Association for UNHCR; Japan Foundation for United Nations University; Japan Habitat Association

- United Nations Day (UN Day) is observed annually to commemorate the founding of the United Nations on 24 October 1945. The aim is to make known to the peoples of the world the aims and achievements of the UN and to gain their support.
- Climate change is more than an environmental issue; the disproportionate negative impact that climate change will have on the poorest countries threatens the achievement of several of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Poor countries lack the infrastructure necessary to help their populations deal with the expected increases in the frequency and intensity of severe weather events. Changing rainfall patterns are devastating the rain-fed agriculture on which many in developing countries depend. Diseases such as malaria are likely to spread to wider areas and impact more people in the poorest regions of developing nations.
- On 24 October, UN agencies in Japan will jointly organize a UN Day 2008 celebration focusing on the issue of climate change, and what each of us can do to mitigate its adverse effects.
- Events on UN Day 2008 will include presentations and discussions on the issue of climate change; educational activities for both children and adults; and UN Gallery and informational exhibits by the participating UN agencies and cooperating organizations including GC-JN.
- Recycling clothes and sporting goods will be collected at the events. (Clothes by Uniqlo and the sporting goods by Global Sports Alliance). The collected clothes will be distributed to refugee camps through UNHCR and be reused as energy resource and the sporting goods, such as shoes, rackets and gloves, will be distributed to children around the world who have limited opportunities to enjoy sports through JICA.
- The UN Day 2008 Symposium, in U Thant International Conference Hall, will start at 13:00. This symposium will feature:
  - A video message from United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
  - Keynote speeches by Sachiko Yamamoto, Regional Director, ILO Office for Asia and the Pacific, and Tetsuji Ida, Science Section, Kyodo News.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

- A panel discussion on UN and climate change which will be moderated by Takejiro Sueyoshi, Special Advisor to UNEP Finance Initiative in the Asia Pacific Region. Panellists will include Shun-ichi Murata, Director, UNDP Tokyo, Johan Cels, Representative, UNHCR Representation in Japan, Obijiofor Aginam, Academic Programme Officer, Director of Studies on Policy and Institutional Frameworks (TBC), Jostacio M. Lapitan, Technical Officer, Urbanization and Emergency Preparedness (UEP), WHO Centre for Health Development, Edith Grace Ssempera, Acting Senior Vice President for External and United Nations Affairs, World Bank (TBC), Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Vice Rector, United Nations University
- The outdoor UN Day 2008 activities, which will be held from 13:00 to 17:00, will include:
  - Booth exhibits by UN agencies,
  - Shows presented by Oriental Land, and
  - Craft events for children.

#### **Additional information**

- For those unable to attend, the UN Day 2008 Symposium (in U Thant International Conference Hall) will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/>
- A full UN Day 2008 programme is available online at <http://www.unu.edu/unday>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend the UN Day 2008 Symposium and visit the outdoor events. Please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: [media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)) to confirm your attendance or request more information.

\* Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations University (UNU), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).