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**UNITED NATIONS  
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## UNU to Commemorate 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**Event:** “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 60”  
**Theme:** “Sixty Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Remaining Challenges: The Case of Myanmar (Burma)”  
**Date/Time:** 11 November 2008 (Tuesday), 3:00–5:00 PM  
**Venue:** United Nations University Headquarters, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo  
**Organizer:** United Nations University (UNU)

- On 10 December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which states in clear and simple terms the rights that belong equally to every person, “as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.” But while enormous progress has been made, and few states today dispute the existence of universal human rights, promoting them remains difficult and contentious, and in some countries violations of human rights are all too frequent.
- On 11 November, the United Nations University will commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) at UN University Headquarters in Tokyo. The event, “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 60”, will include an opening address by UNU Rector Konrad Osterwalder and presentations by Prof. Yozo Yokota and Dr. Morten Pedersen.
- Prof. Yokota, Special Advisor to the Rector, UN University, will summarize the origins, progress, shortcomings and achievements of the UDHR in the 60 years since it was signed. Prof. Yokota will examine the current challenges the international community faces in promoting respect for human rights, and the roles of the UN and civil society in overcoming these challenges.
- Dr. Pedersen will summarize his two years of research as a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science/United Nations University (JSPS/UNU) Postdoctoral Fellow. Drawing on evidence from Myanmar (Burma), which for the past two decades has been subject to intense international scrutiny of its human rights record (though with few positive results), Dr. Pedersen will highlight the failures of Western sanctions and Asian engagement alike, as well as discuss alternative ways forward.
- The presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session.
- English-Japanese simultaneous interpretation will be provided.
- See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/60UDHRIntroduction.aspx> for more information about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- For those unable to attend, the conference will be webcast live (and archived).  
<http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?218>

For more information about this event, 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)).