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**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

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Int'l Conference on Academic/Private Sector Cooperation to Combat Organic Pollutants in Asian Waters

Event: International Conference on “Environmental Monitoring and Governance in the Asian Coastal Hydrosphere”
Theme: “The Role of Academia and the Private Sector for the Stockholm Convention”.
Date/Time: 14 November 2008 (Friday), 9:30 AM – 5:05 PM
Venue: United Nations University Headquarters, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo
Organizers: United Nations University (UNU) and Shimadzu Corporation

- Coastal waters contain a variety of industrial, agricultural and urban pollutants, such as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Because of their long lifespan, as well as the ease with which they are absorbed into the earth's waters and enter the food chain, POPs pose a major risk to human and ecological health. Monitoring POPs, and mitigating their deleterious effects, requires a global strategy backed by multi-sectoral collaboration.
- Initiatives such as the UNU-Shimadzu Environmental Monitoring and Governance in the Asian Coastal Hydrosphere project, demonstrate how the academic and private sectors can work together effectively to address environmental issues and help build research capacities. This project has been actively assisting developing countries in Asia to monitor and manage POPs in the coastal hydrosphere.
- This conference, which marks 12 years of partnership between the UNU, Shimadzu Corporation and partner institutions, will focus on how academia and industry can strengthen the research and technological capacity of developing countries, and best contribute to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Asia.
- Keynote speakers will include international researchers and practitioners from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Tsinghua University, University of the Philippines, Vietnam National University, Japan Environmental Safety Corporation and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
- Recent developments on the Stockholm Convention will also be reviewed, including the addition of new POPs at the fourth Conference of Parties (COP4), in Geneva, May 2009. Perfluorooctane Sulfonates (PFOS), a chemical widely used in the semiconductor and electronics industrial sector, is one such chemical expected to be added to the Convention. The implications of this, particularly for Japan will be outlined by a speaker from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in his presentation on METI's recent submission to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat.
- A representative from the Stockholm Convention Secretariat is also expected to attend.
- The conference will close with a ceremony, attended by President Shigehiko Hattori of Shimadzu Corporation, to commemorate the successful completion of the fourth three-year phase of the project. For more information about this project, as well as the conference programme, see <http://www.unu.edu/esd/manage/event/Conference2008.html>.
- The conference will be conducted in English and Japanese; simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. 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).