

12 November 2008
MR/E47/08



**UNITED NATIONS
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UN University to Host 1st World Landslide Forum

Event: The First World Landslide Forum

Theme: “Strengthening Research and Learning on Earth System Risk Analysis and Sustainable Disaster Management within UNISDR as Regards ‘Landslides’”

Date/Time: 18–21 November 2008 (Tues.–Fri.)

Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall (3F), United Nations University Headquarters, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Organizers: ICL, UNU, UNESCO, WMO, FAO, UN/ISDR, UNEP, IBRD, UNDP, ICSU, WFEO, KU, JLS*

- The International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) was established in 2002 as a non-profit scientific organization. At a Round Table Discussion of the ICL and supporting organizations at UN University Headquarters in January 2006, the Tokyo Action Plan on Strengthening Research and Learning on Landslides and Related Earth System Disasters for Global Risk Preparedness was adopted. The Tokyo Action Plan proposed the creation of a World Landslide Forum as a global information platform for joint activities of the worldwide landslide community.
- This First World Landslide Forum will be attended by organizations from academia, governments, the UN and the private sector that are involved in landslide research and education. The Forum is being organized within the scope of the “Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters”, adopted at the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe in 2005. The outcome of the Forum is expected to feed into the ISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- The World Landslide Forum will open at 9:00 AM on 18 November 2008. Day One will include an Open Forum on “Progress of International Programme on Landslides Activities” and a Plenary Symposium on “Global Landslide Risk Reduction”. Around ten World Centre of Excellence on Landslide Risk Reduction awards will be conferred to at the end of morning Session. Days Two and Three will comprise Keynote Lectures and Parallel Sessions on a wide variety of relevant topics. Day Four will feature Keynote Lectures, a High-Level Panel Discussion on “Landslides in Global Change – How to Mitigate Risk” and a Closing Session (at which the 2008 Tokyo Declaration will be adopted).
- Parallel activities will include an Open Session on “National Experiences and Case Studies on Landslides from Around the World” (2F 11:00 – 16:30, 19 Nov.), a Public Forum on “Protection of Society and Cultural and Natural Heritage from Landslides” (3F 14:00 – 17:30 PM, 19 Nov.), and an ongoing exhibition on “Landslides and Risk Mitigation of the World” in the 2nd-floor UN Gallery area from 6-28 Nov.

For more information, or to reserve a media space at this event, please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03–5467–1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu).

* ICL: International Consortium on Landslides; UNU: United Nations University; UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; WMO: World Meteorological Organization; FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UN/ISDR: United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction; UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme; IBRD: World Bank, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; UNDP: United Nations Development Programme; ICSU: International Council for Science; WFEO: World Federation of Engineering Organizations; KU: Kyoto University; JLS: Japan Landslide Society