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UNU to Co-organize Int'l Education for Sustainable Development Forum

Event: International Forum on Education for Sustainable Development Dialogue 2008
Date/Time: 2–5 December 2008
Venue: United Nations University Headquarters, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo
Organizers: Japan Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT); Japanese National Commission for UNESCO; UNESCO; and Asia/Pacific Cultural Center for UNESCO (ACCU)
Co-organizers: United Nations University (UNU) and Miyagi University of Education

- The year 2009 will mark the mid-point of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), which was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2002 and launched in 2005. Since the inception of the DESD, the international community has discussed the needs, fundamental concepts and objectives of Education for Sustainable Development in recognition of its importance for future generations. At the mid-point of the DESD, UNESCO and its Member States will discuss the achievements and challenges in its implementation.
- This international forum will move beyond efforts to define Education for Sustainable Development and seek to identify strategic actions for achievement of the DESD objectives in line with the International Implementation Scheme drafted by UNESCO, which serves as a reference point for all actors engaged in DESD-related efforts and focuses primarily on how nations can implement their DESD goals.
- However, as the individual programmes and issues identified by the IIS are difficult to carry out due to limited resources, for the second half of the Decade ESD it is necessary to identify concrete approaches that focus on projects and programmes that will enable participating countries to take action and become the driving force for the continuation of efforts to achieve Education for Sustainable Development.
- The purpose of this four-day international forum, therefore, is to identify results-oriented strategic projects focusing on partnerships with the private sector and NGOs to explore the possibility of global cooperation. Regional inputs from Asia/Pacific to the mid-term evaluation of the DESD also will be reviewed.
- As Prof. Dr. Konrad Osterwalder, the Rector of UNU, has upheld, the outcomes of this forum “will be fed into the 2009 World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development to be held in Bonn, Germany at the midpoint of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.”
- The forum will be conducted in both Japanese and English; simultaneous interpretation will be provided for most sessions.
- Media representatives may be most interested in attending the keynote lecture and plenary session on Wed., or the plenary and closing sessions on Fri. For more information and a brief programme, see the forum website (<http://www.mext.go.jp/english/unesco/010/08101401.htm>) or contact Nami Akimoto (akimoto@ias.unu.edu; tel. 045-221-2334) at the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies.
- Registration for the general public has already closed, but media representatives may still register by 5:00pm on Monday, 1 December by contacting Takeshi Tokutome (Tel: 03-6734-3402, Fax: 03-6734-3679, E-mail: jpnatcom@mext.go.jp) at MEXT.

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