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**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

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UNU To Host Seminar on International Institutional Reform

Event: International Institutional Reform Seminar

Theme: “Reforming International Institutions: Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century”

Date: 21 January 2009 (Wednesday), 2:00–6:00 PM

Venue: Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall, United Nations University Headquarters, Tokyo

Organizers: United Nations University (UNU) and the British Embassy

- In the context of today’s global challenges — including conflict, poverty, climate change, terrorism, trafficking and organized crime, financial integration, environmental degradation, and pandemic diseases, as well as major shifts in military, political and economic power — it has become clear that the current system of international institutions is underperforming. Reform is clearly needed in order to address such pressing challenges more appropriately and effectively, and to better reflect today’s balance of economic and political power.
- The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is currently prioritizing the issue of international institutional reform. This is also an area of high priority for UNU, focusing in particular on UN reform.
- This 21 January seminar, organized by the UNU and the British Embassy, will focus on the issue of reforming international institutions to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. The seminar will open with remarks by UNU Rector Konrad Osterwalder and a video message from Rt Hon Lord Malloch-Brown: Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN.
- Simon Fraser (Director-General, Europe and Globalisation, FCO) will then outline the UK Government’s view of international institutional reform.
- The seminar will feature presentations by three speakers:
 - Hitoshi Tanaka (Senior Fellow, Japan Center for International Exchange, and former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan) will address the topic of “Change in the World Structure and How to Improve Global Governance”;
 - David Steven (Managing Director, River Path Associates, and a Demos Associate) will talk about “A Year for Multilateral Reform”;
 - Masahiro Kawai (Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute, speaking in a personal capacity) will discuss “Reform of International Financial Institutions”.
- Takejiro Sueyoshi (Special Advisor in the Asia-Pacific Region, UNEP) will serve as moderator and commentator for the event.
- Simultaneous English–Japanese interpretation will be provided.

Media representatives are cordially invited. For those unable to attend, the seminar will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?228> .

For more information about this International Institutional Reform Seminar, or to reserve a space, media representatives may contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03–5467–1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu).

MEDIA ADVISORY