



14 April 2009  
MR/E12/09



**UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY**

Office of Communications  
53-70, Jingumae 5-chome  
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925  
Japan

Tel.: +81-3-3499-2811  
Fax: +81-3-3499-2828  
E-mail: [media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)  
Website: <http://www.unu.edu/>

**For use of the media –  
not an official record**

## **22 April Seminar Will Focus on Role of Natural Resources Management for Sustainable Livelihoods and Peace**

**Event:** International Seminar on "Natural Resources and the Environment:  
Implications for Conflict Resolution, Peacebuilding, and Livelihoods"

**Date:** 22 April 2009 (Wed.), 2:00 – 5:00 PM

**Venue:** United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS),  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Pacific Yokohama

**Organizers:** UNU-IAS and University of Tokyo Graduate School of Frontier Sciences

- Livelihoods in the developing world often are closely linked to natural resources, such as water, land, or timber. Changes in the availability of these resources — through climate change and other environmental changes — coupled with demographic changes and political factors are increasingly recognized as causes of conflict.
- According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report *From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment*, more than 40 percent of intrastate conflicts are linked to natural resources.
- "A stronger role for environment in post-conflict planning, along with greater capacity for early warning, are required to address environmental risks and capitalize on opportunities," the UNEP report concludes. "This includes a more robust and comprehensive inclusion of environmental issues in UN peacebuilding activities, and a more careful harnessing of natural resources for economic recovery, essential services, and sustainable livelihoods."
- The UNEP report suggests that the environment presents opportunities for achieving peace and development through sustainable livelihoods, dialogue, and confidence-building. The sustainable use of natural resources can be a driver of livelihoods restoration, peacebuilding, and economic prosperity.
- The seminar will mark the Japan launch of this UNEP report. A roundtable following the report launch will showcase emerging research at UNU-IAS and the University of Tokyo confirming that the environment and management of natural resources are key to the success or failure of livelihoods restoration and peacebuilding. Presentations will cover case studies on Africa and climate change, a contemporary case in Afghanistan, and a historical perspective of the Japanese experience.
- This seminar will feature speakers and commentators from UNU-IAS, the University of Tokyo, UNEP, the Environmental Law Institute, and McGill University. In addition, a commentary will be made by Ms. Anita Pratap, former South Asia Bureau Chief of CNN, and award-winning international journalist, author of the bestseller, "Island of Blood," and documentary film maker.
- The seminar will be held in English; no interpretation will be provided.

For more information, or to reserve a space at this seminar, media representatives may contact Yoshie Oya of UNU-IAS (tel: 045-221-2334, e-mail: [oya@ias.unu.edu](mailto:oya@ias.unu.edu)). Interviews with any of the speakers after the event can be arranged.