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

Tel.: +81-3-5467-1212  
Fax: +81-3-3499-2828  
E-mail: [media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)  
Website: <http://www.unu.edu/>

## **Dr. José Sarukhán of Mexico Will Lecture on the Challenges and Responsibilities of Biodiversity Conservation**

**Event:** Public Lecture by Dr. José Sarukhán (Coordinator of the Mexican National Committee on the Study and Conservation of Biodiversity)  
**Theme:** “The Privileges and Challenges for a Megadiverse Country”  
**Date/Time:** 18 May 2009 (Monday), 3:30–5:00 PM  
**Venue:** Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall, United Nations University Headquarters, Tokyo  
**Organizers:** United Nations University (UNU) and the Embassy of Mexico in Japan

- Biological diversity supports the ecological stability of our planet and provides vital goods and services to sustain human lives and livelihoods. But biodiversity is not distributed evenly across the globe; some countries, known as “megadiverse countries” are characterized by an exceptionally large number and varied range of endemic species. Mexico, one of 18 megadiverse countries identified by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme, ranks in the top five nations worldwide in terms of known plant and animal species.
- On 18 May, renowned educator and scientist Dr. José Sarukhán will deliver a public lecture on biodiversity. He will discuss the reasons for Mexico’s large biological diversity, the relationship between biological diversity and cultural diversity, and the responsibilities that its biodiversity entails for the people of Mexico and for the world community.
- He will also cover Mexico’s efforts towards developing knowledge about its biodiversity and analytic tools that allow an adequate understanding of the nation’s natural capital, as well as the transformation of fundamental science into elements for decision-making and policy regarding the management and conservation of natural resources for the nation and for the benefit of the human groups that own and are dependent on these biological resources.
- Simultaneous English–Japanese interpretation will be provided.
- For those unable to attend, Dr. Sarukhán’s lecture will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?239>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. For more information, or to reserve a space at the lecture, please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: [media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)).

### **About the speaker**

Dr. José Sarukhán is Senior Researcher at the Institute of Ecology, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He previously served UNAM as Director of the Biology Institute (1979–1987), Vice Chancellor for Science (1987–1988), and Rector (1989–1997). In 1992, he was appointed by the President of Mexico as Coordinator of the Mexican National Committee on the Study and Conservation of Biodiversity, a responsibility that he still holds. He also served in the government (2000–2002) as Commissioner of Social and Human Development. Dr. Sarukhán holds a Bachelor’s degree in biology from UNAM, a Master’s degree in agricultural botany from the Postgraduate College (Mexico) and a Ph.D. degree in ecology from the University of Wales (UK). His main areas of interest are plant population ecology and systems ecology of temperate and tropical ecosystems as well as training and education in ecology.