

14 October 2009
MR/E29/09



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

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

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
Website: <http://www.unu.edu/>

UN Week: October 16 to 24

October 23 UNU Symposium Examines Human Security

Event: United Nations Day 2009
Date/Time: UN Week: October 16 to 24 / UNU Symposium: Friday, 23 October, 14:00–17:00
Venue: UNU Symposium: U Thant International Conference Hall, United Nations University Headquarters, Tokyo
Organizer: United Nations University (UNU)
Supporter: Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)

United Nations Day (UN Day) is observed annually worldwide on October 24 to commemorate the founding of the United Nations in October 1945. This year for the first time UN Day activities are extended over the week of October 16–24 to create UN Week.

Activities for UN Week comprise UN-related events throughout Japan, and will commence with the Stand Up Take Action campaign running three days from the 16th to the 18th. In addition to the UN Week celebrations, Aoyama Commons, a neighbourhood association of businesses and organisations in the area, will organise further activities over the weekend of October 24 and 25 on the theme of “Feeling Satoyama in Town” with dozens of activities for children and adults to be held at UNU Headquarters and nearby locations.

To celebrate UN Day 2009, UNU presents a symposium on Friday, October 23 on the theme of Human Security and, along with UN agencies in Japan, welcomes everyone to outdoor activities, exhibitions and performances at United Nations University Headquarters in Shibuya.

About the Symposium

Human Security is an idea that places individuals and their needs at the centre of policy-making in dealing with threats to people’s security, including natural disasters, poverty, disease, inequality, and violence, and searching for responses to these threats. Japan is one of the founders of the concept and no other country has made larger combined intellectual, financial, and operational contributions to the idea.

The UN Day 2009 symposium at UNU will examine Human Security 15 years after its emergence, elaborate how the concept has evolved and explore the forthcoming challenges. Mr. Koichi Takemasa, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Japan, will present opening remarks and the keynote speech will be delivered by Dr. Izumi Nakamitsu, director of the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at the United Nations. Five distinguished panellists will then address a range of questions on the subject.

The symposium, and all UN Week activities, are free and open to everyone.

Simultaneous English–Japanese interpretation will be provided. The full programme and more information are available online at <http://www.unu.edu/unday/>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. To reserve media space at the UNU UN Day Symposium, please contact Naoko Tochibayashi Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu).

United Nations University (UNU) is an autonomous organ of the UN General Assembly dedicated to generating and transferring knowledge and strengthening capacities relevant to global issues of human security, development, and welfare. The University operates through a worldwide network of research and training centres and programmes, coordinated by UNU Centre in Tokyo.

MEDIA ADVISORY

...