

9 November 2009
MR/E31/09



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

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Zero Emissions Forum to Hold Final Symposium on 18 Nov.

Event: Zero Emissions Symposium 2009
Theme: “Zero Emissions – Present and Future Direction”
Date/Time: 18 November 2009 (Wed.)/1:00–6:00 PM
Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, United Nations University Headquarters,
Tokyo
Organizers: United Nations University (UNU), UNU Zero Emissions Forum
Supporters: Japan Ministry of Environment; Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry;
Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK); Nihon Keizai Shimbun; Nikkei BP; Yomiuri
Shimbun; Asahi Shimbun; Mainichi Shimbun

While advances in industry, technology and economic development have made great contributions to society, the effects have also contributed to environmental degradation, particularly through air and water pollution and increased global warming. As the first generation to face such serious and pervasive global challenges, we must strive to attain the goal of a sustainable society for the sake of future generations.

The concept of “zero emissions” was created at the UNU following from the action plan for sustainable development adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. At that time, the concept was also introduced to the Ministry of the Environment Japan (then Ministry of Health and Welfare) and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (then Ministry of International Trade and Industry), and has become a centerpiece of their policies.

The UNU Zero Emissions Forum (UNU-ZEF) was subsequently founded in 2000 to promote further realization and dissemination of zero emissions activities, and over the past decade UNU-ZEF has succeeded in fulfilling its original goals, with the zero emissions concept having been adopted by industry and governments worldwide. Prior to closing its office at the end of year, the UNU-ZEF will hold a final symposium to look at “Zero Emissions – Present and Future Direction”.

About the symposium

- The first lecture session, “Local Government Network”, will feature presentations by Takeshi Sakamoto, Mayor of Itabashi City; Yoshizou Watanabe, Deputy Mayor of Iida City; and Kazuyoshi Ito, Director of Commerce & Industry, Economic and Labor Bureau, Kawasaki City.
- The second lecture session, “Industry Network”, will have presentations by Hiroshi Obana, General Manager, Facility and Technology Deployment Project, Taiheiyo Cement Corporation; Kiyoshi Sakai, Director, Chief Technology Officer & Corporate Executive Vice President, Ricoh Japan; and Makoto Kanai, Senior Managing Director, Obayashi Corporation.
- The final lecture session, “Academia Network”, will consist of presentations by Prof. Koichi Fujie, Yokohama National University; Prof. Michiko Iha, University of the Ryukyus; and Prof. Hiroyuki Yoshida, Osaka Prefecture University.
- The symposium will be conducted primarily in Japanese.
- For those unable to attend, the symposium will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/?249>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend the Zero Emissions Symposium 2009. For more information, or to confirm your attendance, please contact Naoko 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.

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