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**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

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Annual Africa Day Symposium to be Held at UN University on 26 May

Event: 2010 Africa Day Symposium
Theme: “Environment: Challenges for Africa, the Role of Japan”
Date: 26 May 2009 (Wed.), 2:00 – 5:30 PM
Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, UN University Headquarters, Tokyo
Co-organizers: United Nations University (UN University) and the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC)

- This year, the annual Africa Day Symposium will explore how the African continent and its development partners can address current environmental challenges — especially, the critical issues concerning climate change in Africa. Set against the backdrop of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 15, held in December 2009 in Copenhagen), and convened as preparations are in full swing for COP 16, the theme of this year’s Africa Day Symposium is most timely and fitting.
- The symposium will provide a platform for views on how Africa and Japan can continue to work together. Among other topics, it will examine the Hatoyama Initiative (which incorporates a \$15-billion support package to help developing countries deal with climate change) and how African countries might benefit. Prominent speakers, including representatives from governments, international organizations, academia and others, will share their insights and enrich the debate on climate change, biodiversity and other environmental issues that are critical not just to Africa’s future, but to that of the entire planet.
- The symposium will feature keynote speeches by Chinami Nishimura, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs; Kenzo Oshima, Senior Vice President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); and Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement (via a video message).
- These will be followed by a panel discussion chaired by Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Vice-Rector of UNU. Panellists will include Mounkaila Goumandakoye, Director & Regional Representative, Regional Office for Africa, United Nations Environment Programme; Akira Yamada, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Bureau, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Mohamed Ahmed Tawfic, Director, Environmental Impact Assessment Unit, Suez Canal University (Egypt).
- Simultaneous English–French–Japanese interpretation will be provided. For those unable to attend, the symposium will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://videoportal.unu.edu/event/59>
- The annual Africa Day Symposiums reflect the long-standing collaboration between the UN University and ADC to explore critical issues of African development. Since 2000, the series has sought to contribute to a broad understanding of the problems and immense potential of the African continent. A full programme and more information on this and previous Africa Day Symposiums at the UN University in Tokyo are available online at <http://www.unu.edu/africa/africaday/>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. To reserve a media space at the 2010 Africa Day Symposium, please contact Naoko Tochibayashi Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu).

MEDIA ADVISORY