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**UNITED NATIONS
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UNU to Host Japan–CARICOM Symposium on “Climate Change and Biodiversity”: 2 Sept.

- Event:** Japan–CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Public Symposium on “Climate Change and Biodiversity”
- Date:** 2 September 2010 (Thurs.), 2:00 – 5:00 PM
- Venue:** United Nations University Headquarters, Tokyo (U Thant International Conference Hall)
- Co-organizers:** United Nations University (UNU), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Supporter:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

- Although the islands of the Caribbean represent a relatively small proportion of the earth’s land area, they support a diverse variety of ecosystems. About half of the estimated 13,000 plant species and almost three-fifths of the more than 1,500 species of vertebrates found in the Caribbean islands are endemic to the region (that is, they exist nowhere else in the world). But the rich biodiversity of the Caribbean region faces a number of threats, including the adverse impacts of climate change (such as more frequent and intense hurricanes, increased flooding and erosion, and a rising sea level).
- In September, on the occasion of the second Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference, UNU, MOFA and IDB will organize a public symposium. Several Caribbean-region foreign affairs ministers will be joined by Japanese academics and experts to discuss “Climate Change and Biodiversity” in the Caribbean region as well as the issue of Japan–Caribbean Community* cooperation.
- Session 1 of the symposium will feature presentations on “Introduction of the Caribbean Region and CARICOM” by Louis Straker, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Barbados. Session 2 will focus on “Climate Change and Biodiversity in the Caribbean Region”, with presentations by Charles Peter David, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Grenada, and Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Guyana.
- Session 3 will be a panel discussion on “CARICOM–Japan: For Further Cooperation for Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development”. Panellists will include Nobuo Mimura (moderator), Director, Institute for Global Change Adaptation Science, Ibaraki University; Hidetomi Oi, Former Senior Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency; Yoshio Kaneko, Professor, Iwate Prefectural University; and Tetsuji Ida, Senior Staff Writer, Environment, Energy and Development, Kyodo News.
- Simultaneous English–Japanese interpretation will be provided. For those unable to attend, the symposium will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://videoportal.unu.edu/event/124>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. To reserve your seat, please register by Tuesday, 31 August, 2010 at <http://www.unu.edu/reg/caricom/>. If you have a question or would like further information, please e-mail the UNU Office of Communications (media@unu.edu).

* The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is an organization of Caribbean-region countries established in 1973. For more information and a list of member states, see <http://www.caricom.org/>.