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## **President Colom of Guatemala to Present Public Lecture on Climate Change at UNU on 21 October**

**Event:** Public Lecture by H.E. Álvaro Colom Caballeros, President of the Republic of Guatemala

**Lecture Title:** “Climate Change and the Mayan Vision”

**Date:** 21 October 2010 (Thurs.), 6:00–7:00 PM

**Venue:** United Nations University Headquarters, Tokyo

**Organizers:** United Nations University, Embassy of the Republic of Guatemala and the Inter-American Development Bank – Office in Asia

- President Colom’s lecture will highlight how Guatemala — despite having a relatively low carbon footprint — has in recent years been confronted with an increasing number of natural disasters whose negative impacts are most strongly felt by the poorest and most vulnerable. He will discuss Guatemala’s national policy on climate change, which aims to reduce vulnerability to extreme weather events, to strengthen resilience and to further reduce overall emissions of greenhouse gases while promoting the active participation of the indigenous communities in implementing the policy and its strategies. He will further emphasize how his nation’s efforts can contribute to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals and other international initiatives.
- Simultaneous Japanese– English– Spanish interpretation will be provided.
- Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. To reserve your seat, please register at <http://www.unu.edu/reg/colom/>. If you have a question or would like further information, please e-mail the UNU Office of Communications ([media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)).
- This public lecture will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://videoportal.unu.edu/event/155>.

### **About the speaker**

*Álvaro Colom Caballeros has served as President of the Republic of Guatemala since January 2008. He entered politics in 1991 as Deputy Economy Minister, and then became Executive Director of the National Peace Fund (Fonapaz). His previous experience includes serving as professor and Vice Dean, Faculty of Economics, Rafael Landívar University; as a production manager and business development consultant; as a leader in the Chamber of Industry; and as a board member of the Guatemalan Exporters Association. He holds a degree in industrial engineering from the University of San Carlos.*

**MEDIA ADVISORY**