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**UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY**

**“Role of Universities in the Promotion of  
Education for Sustainable Development in Africa”**

*Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) Open Symposium*

First joint collaboration between  
UNU INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES (UNU-IAS)  
*and*  
UNU INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND PEACE (UNU-ISP)

27 February 2009  
United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan

# “Role of Universities in the Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development in Africa”

*Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) Open Symposium*

## Background

The sustainable development challenge is deep-rooted and requires a holistic approach. In the endeavor to meet these challenges and to link with the Millennium Development Goals, in 2002, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), spanning from 2005 to 2014. It aims to change the approach to education by integrating the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development.

The Government of Japan has had a particular commitment to DESD since proposing the idea at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa (September 2002) which was then included in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and later adopted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA Resolution 57/254, December 2002). In the latter half of DESD, the Government of Japan aims at enhancing ESD activities in Africa. In 2008, the Japanese Government hosted two global level meetings, the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in Yokohama in May and the Group of Eight (G8) Hokkaido Toyako Summit in July 2008, which focused on climate change and African development.

The United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and the newly established United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP) have been actively working in the areas of environment, education and sustainable development, focusing on incorporating sustainability concerns with human activities. As this year marks the half way point in the DESD, a number of UNU activities have focused on these issues, mainly through facilitating networking and collaboration among stakeholders in Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA). Some of these efforts will be detailed in the context of this open symposium on ESDA.

UNU-IAS and UNU-ISP are pleased to host their first joint collaboration symposium on the “Role of Universities in the Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development in Africa.” The symposium convenes experts in the area of sustainable development and education in Africa to discuss the particular sustainability challenges Africa faces and what is needed in higher education to meet these challenges. Supporters include the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) of Japan.

## Programme

Friday, 27 February, Elizabeth Rose Hall, UNU  
*Simultaneous Interpretation Provided (English - Japanese)*

13:30 – 13:40	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> Govindan Parayil, <i>Director of UNU-IAS</i>
13:40 – 14:00	<b>Key Note Address</b> Akito Arima, <i>Former Minister of Education, Japan and former President of the University of Tokyo</i>
14:00 – 14:10	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Osmund Mwandemele, <i>Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Namibia</i>
<b>Session I - Sustainability Challenges in Africa</b>	
<b>Chair: Claudia ten Have and Yoshihiro Natori, UNU-IAS</b>	
14:10 – 14:20	<b>Natural Resources</b> Karl Harmsen, <i>Director of UNU-INRA</i>
14:20 – 14:30	<b>Land Degradation</b> Robert Abaidoo, <i>Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology</i>
14:30 – 14:40	<b>Urbanization</b> Ademola Braimoh, <i>Hokkaido University</i>
14:40 – 14:50	<b>Climate Change</b> Marie Rarieya, <i>UNU-IAS</i>
14:50 – 15:00	<b>Peace and Security</b> Obi Aginam, <i>UNU-ISP</i>
15:00 – 15:10	<b>Poverty and Health</b> Dorcas Otieno, <i>Kenyatta University</i>
15:10 – 15:20	<b>Science and Technology</b> Claudia ten Have, <i>UNU-IAS</i>
15:20 – 15:40	<b>Question and Answer</b>
15:40 – 16:00	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
<b>Session II - Education for Sustainable Development in Africa</b>	
<b>Chair: Kazuhiko Takeuchi and Masafumi Nagao, UNU-ISP</b>	
16:00 – 16:10	<b>Core Competencies for Sustainable Development in Africa</b> Rob O'Donoghue, <i>Rhodes University</i>
16:10 – 16:20	<b>UNEP's MESA: Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability into African Universities</b> Akpezi Ogbuigwe, <i>UNEP (Video-recorded Message)</i>
16:20 – 16:30	<b>Inter-University Collaboration in Africa</b> Christopher Pauw, <i>Stellenbosch University</i>
16:30 – 16:40	<b>Africa-Japan Education for Sustainable Development Cooperation</b> Osamu Kobayashi, <i>Ehime University</i>
16:40 – 16:50	<b>External Support to Restructure and Reorient Universities for Sustainable Development</b> Zinaida Fadeeva, <i>UNU-IAS</i>
16:50 – 17:00	<b>MEXT International Cooperation Initiative</b> Atsumu Iwai, <i>Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan</i>
17:00 – 17:10	<b>MOE Environmental Leadership Initiatives for Asian Sustainability (ELIAS) in Higher Education</b> Eri Nakajima, <i>Ministry of the Environment of Japan</i>
17:10 – 17:30	<b>Question and Answer</b>
17:40 – 17:50	<b>Concluding Remarks</b> Masafumi Nagao, <i>Coordinator, Education for Sustainable Development in Africa Project, UNU</i>