

A woman is walking through a dry, grassy field under a clear blue sky. She is carrying a large, white, rounded pot balanced on her head. She is wearing a bright yellow short-sleeved shirt with a patterned design on the back, and a long, flowing orange skirt. Her right arm is extended outwards, and she is wearing a silver digital wristwatch. The background shows a line of trees in the distance.

# UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

Annual Report  
2007

## **The United Nations University System**

The United Nations University operates as a decentralized “network of networks” with a truly interdisciplinary and global perspective. The UNU system comprises a global network of 13 Research and Training Centres/Programmes coordinated by UNU Centre in Tokyo.

For complete information about the UNU, visit the United Nations University website at <http://www.unu.edu>.

### **United Nations University Centre**

**UNU Centre – Tokyo** is the headquarters location of the United Nations University. In addition to assisting the Rector in the programming, planning and administration of the UNU system, UNU Centre – Tokyo is home to three academic units:

- the UNU Peace and Governance Programme,
- the UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme, and
- the UNU Capacity Development Programme.

Other functional units of UNU Centre located outside of Japan are:

- an administrative unit in Malaysia (UNU Centre – Kuala Lumpur)
- the UNU Office at the United Nations (UNU-ONY, New York, NY, USA)
- the UNU Office at UNESCO (UNU-OE, Paris, France), and
- the UNU Vice-Rectorate in Europe (UNU-ViE, Bonn, Germany)

## **UNU Research and Training Centres and Programmes**

### **UNU Programme for Biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean**

UNU-BIOLAC, Caracas, Venezuela

### **UNU Programme on Comparative Regional Integration Studies**

UNU-CRIS, Bruges, Belgium

### **UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security**

UNU-EHS, Bonn, Germany

### **UNU Food and Nutrition Programme for Human and Social Development**

UNU-FNP, Ithaca, New York, USA

### **UNU Fisheries Training Programme and**

### **UNU Geothermal Training Programme**

UNU-FTP and UNU-GTP, Reykjavík, Iceland

### **UNU Institute of Advanced Studies**

UNU-IAS, Yokohama, Japan

### **UNU International Institute for Global Health**

UNU-IIGH, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### **UNU International Institute for Software Technology**

UNU-IIST, Macao, China

### **UNU International Leadership Institute**

UNU-ILI, Amman, Jordan

### **UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa**

UNU-INRA, Accra, Ghana

### **UNU International Network on Water, Environment and Health**

UNU-INWEH, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

### **UNU Maastricht Economic and Social Research and**

### **Training Centre on Innovation and Technology**

UNU-MERIT, Maastricht, The Netherlands

### **UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research**

UNU-WIDER, Helsinki, Finland

# Rector's Message



Having assumed the post of Rector of the United Nations University on 1 September 2007, I look forward to the challenge of leading the University to a new level of achievement and success. My goal over the next five years is to put in place a series of measures that will assure the long-term viability and effectiveness of the UNU as a global institution.

But, while the UNU is truly a global institution, we must ensure that our work is based on a strong foundation in each of our host countries. Key among these measures, therefore, will be to ensure that the University is well rooted in its main host country of Japan as well as in the host countries of its 13 research and training centres and programmes.

The UNU will continue to contribute substantially to resolving some of the world's most pressing problems – in particular, those that are on the agenda of the United Nations. We will systematically extend our collaboration with other UN organizations (above all with UNESCO, with which we share many goals) and seek to be a credible, much-sought-after adviser, not only within the United Nation system but also for national governments, civil society and the corporate sector.

We will give priority to mobilizing new funding for the UNU's work, and will address the asymmetry of the University's current geographical presence by pairing existing UNU units in northern countries with a "twinning partner" in a developing country. In the future, a substantial portion of the UNU's teaching and research initiatives will be carried out jointly through these new twinning partnerships.

To strengthen its educational efforts, UNU plans to introduce its own graduate and Ph.D. programmes wherever feasible in collaboration with other high-level universities.

The UNU will focus on combining science value with user value — that is, integrating scientific merit and practical application. In this context, we will implement a new quality assurance and improvement framework to ensure the highest possible quality of the University's research, teaching and governance. Autonomy and objectivity guaranteed by the UNU Charter and a careful selection of staff and students will be key.

From a thematic perspective, the University will aim at joining the group of the world's leading universities who are dealing with the issue of sustainable development. Our focus will be not just on knowledge production, but also on knowledge accumulation; I foresee the UNU becoming a recognized international knowledge bank, with a complete registry of experts in a multitude of domains. We will achieve this, in part, by building a strong network of former students and staff and other collaborators — a network that will include people from basically every country of the globe.

My intention, under this new vision of the University, is to make the UNU an antenna to probe the future for the benefit of humanity. I am convinced that, by working together, we can make that future a positive one.

**Konrad Osterwalder**  
Rector



#### Going for Green

UNU is committed to the ideals and practices of environmental sustainability. The four goals of UNU's "Going for Green" initiative are: "greening" our work practices, "greening" our work place, contributing to the global community and contributing to the local community. In January 2001, UNU (UNU Centre) became the first UN agency, and the fifth academic institution in Japan, to obtain ISO14001 certification. In July 2006, UNU received its newest certificate from DNV Japan with a dual accreditation scheme (JAB and UKAS) for ISO14001:2004 standards, and in September 2006 UNU Centre undertook its 4th ISO140001 internal audit.



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## Supplementary Annexes

Available online at <http://www.unu.edu/publications/annualreports/>

Cover: **SUDAN Pieri, Jonglei State** — Women carry water from a hand pump in the village to their homes. Target 10 of the UNU Millennium Development Goals is to “reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation” by 2015.  
Photo: Sven Torfinn/Panos Pictures

Designed by Mori Design Inc., Tokyo

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A woman is walking through a field, carrying a large white container on her head. She is wearing a patterned dress and a watch. The background is a vast, open field under a clear sky.

# An Overview of the United Nations University

**F**or more than three decades, the United Nations University has been helping to develop original, forward-looking solutions to the world's most pressing problems, and to build human and institutional capacity (in particular, in developing countries) to address current issues and confront emergent challenges related to human security, peace and development. The UNU provides world decision-makers with fresh, alternative perspectives on today's problems, proactive analyses of emergent problems, and sound policy alternatives to address them.

# Frequently Asked Questions about the United Nations University

## What is the United Nations University?

The United Nations University is “an international community of scholars, engaged in research, post-graduate training and dissemination of knowledge in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations” (UNU Charter, I.1). The UNU functions under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations and UNESCO.

## What is the United Nations University’s role within the UN system?

The Charter of the United Nations University grants the UNU “autonomy within the framework of the United Nations” and guarantees it “the academic freedom required for the achievement of its objectives” (Article II.1). The key roles that the UNU fulfils are to function as:

- an international community of scholars
- a think-tank for the United Nations system
- a bridge between the United Nations system and the international academic community
- a builder of capacity, particularly in developing countries
- a platform for dialogue and new and creative ideas.

## What does the United Nations University do?

Article I.2 of the Charter of the United Nations University stipulates that “the University shall devote its work to research into the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare”. Pursuant to this stipulation, the UNU undertakes four types of knowledge-generation, knowledge-transfer and knowledge-application/-management activities: (i) basic and applied research; (ii) targeted foresight and policy studies; (iii) capacity development activities; and (iv) communications, dissemination and outreach measures. The UNU works primarily through networking and collaboration with external partners, both within the UN system and among the global academic and research communities.

## What are the particular strengths of the United Nations University?

The United Nations University’s unique identity as an academic unit within the United Nations system provides the University with a number of valuable institutional strengths, including:

- objectivity, intellectual integrity and academic autonomy
- mobilizing power (bringing together the international academic community with the UN system and its Member States’ policy-makers)
- networking capacity (linking scholars from developing and developed countries)
- the capacity to meld theory and practice (and thus provide high-quality, relevant research findings and recommendations)
- the ability to undertake innovative, focused training (leading to the development of institutional and human capacity)
- the standing to provide input on key issues to the UN General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations.



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## **When was the United Nations University established?**

proved the establishment the United Nations University (G.A. Res. 2591 [XXVII]). The Charter of the United Nations University was subsequently approved by the UN General Assembly on 6 December 1973 (G.A. Res. 3081 [XXVIII]). The United Nations University launched academic work at its headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, in September 1975.

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## **Where is the United Nations University located?**

Article X.1 of the Charter of the United Nations University specifies that the University shall operate as “a world-wide system of research and training centres and programmes” (RTC/Ps) and “will have its location at the site of each centre or programme”. Thus, unlike a traditional university, the UNU functions as a unique, decentralized global network.

Currently, the United Nations University system has 13 UNU RTC/Ps, located in 13 UN Member Nations around the world (Belgium, Canada, China (Macao), Finland, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, The Netherlands, the USA, and Venezuela). The global UNU system is coordinated by UNU Centre in Tokyo, Japan. In addition to its Tokyo headquarters, UNU Centre has a functional unit in Malaysia, offices at UN Headquarters (USA) and at UNESCO Headquarters (France), and a Vice-Rectorate in Europe (Germany).

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## **Where can I find out more about the United Nations University?**

Visit our website <<http://www.unu.edu>>. There you will find news, announcements, event listings, media releases and other information as well as links to the websites of all of the units of the UNU system.

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## **Why was the United Nations University created?**

In 1969, then UN Secretary-General U Thant proposed the establishment of a new type of university that would be devoted to researching pressing global issues and promoting international understanding. Based on that vision, the United Nations University was established and tasked with “contributing, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States”. The mandate of the UNU covers issues of human survival, development and welfare, with a particular focus on the problems facing developing countries.

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## **Why was Tokyo selected as the location for the UNU Headquarters?**

The location of the United Nations University Headquarters in Tokyo reflects a long-standing commitment by Japan to the goals of the United Nations and the willingness of the Japanese Government to demonstrate this through its investment in the University. In 1973, the Government of Japan pledged US\$100 million to establish the UNU Endowment Fund and offered headquarters facilities for the UNU in Tokyo. The United Nations University launched its operations in Tokyo in 1975 and moved to its permanent headquarters building, on land provided by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, in 1992.

## Who works for the United Nations University?

The academic and professional staff of United Nations University Centre and the UNU RTC/Ps are recruited from universities, research institutions and international organizations worldwide, often on secondment for fixed terms. The support staff typically are recruited locally. UNU staff members represent a wide variety of nationalities and cultures. As of year-end 2007, the global UNU system had a personnel component of 433, representing individuals from some 60 countries; about 35 per cent were developing country nationals.

## Who are the United Nations University's students and faculty?

While this may change in the near future, at present the United Nations University does not grant academic degrees but functions primarily a research institution/think tank. Thus, it does not have a student body in the traditional sense. The UNU's "students" are, rather, the postgraduate or postdoctoral academics and researchers, civil society actors, policy makers and other professionals (mainly from developing countries) who receive advanced training in UNU courses, seminars and workshops, or who expand their skills and knowledge by working on UNU projects in collaboration with skilled professionals (often as UNU Fellows or interns). The UNU's "faculty" is the UNU academic/research staff and the broader international network of scholars and professionals with whom the UNU works.

## How is the United Nations University administered and governed?

The Rector is the chief academic and administrative officer of the University, with responsibility for the direction, organization and administration of the University's overall programme. UNU Centre in Tokyo is designated by the Charter of the United Nations University "to assist the Rector in the programming, co-ordination, support, administration and financing of the overall University programme".

The principles and policies of the UNU are set by the governing University Council, whose 24 appointed members serve six-year terms in their individual capacities (rather than as representatives of their countries). The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Director-General of UNESCO and Executive Director of UNITAR serve as ex officio members of the UNU Council. The UNU Rector also serves as a Council member.

## How is the work of the United Nations University financed?

The United Nations University is supported entirely by voluntary contributions — from governments, agencies, international organizations, foundations and others. The UNU receives no funds from the regular UN budget. The UNU's basic revenue for operating expenses is generated by investment income from its Endowment Fund. In 2007, this investment income was supplemented by some US\$30.4 million in contributions from 17 governments and more than 100 other sources. The UNU also benefited from counterpart and other support, such as cost-sharing support for fellowships and other activities. Some donations for academic activities do not go through the UNU accounts but are paid directly to UNU cooperating institutions (including, among others, primary funding for UNU-CRIS, UNU-FTP and UNU-GTP, and some joint programmes with UNU Associated Institutions).

# Knowledge Generation

A variety of key institutional and normative processes (such as globalization) are rapidly and profoundly affecting our world. Institutions play an important role in effecting these ongoing transformations, but at the same time also are affected by them (and being changed in the process). The topics that the United Nations University selects for research and study are characterized by their contributions to greater in-depth knowledge about, and a better understanding of, these major processes, including scenarios for change and for improvement of the core institutions involved. It is these three variables —the topics, the processes and the institutions — that articulate the “programme space” within which the UNU works.

For the past decade, the University has clustered its activities within the two broad programme areas — (i) Peace and Governance and (ii) Environment and Development. As a further focus within the framework of these two overarching programme areas, the UNU clusters its activities into five general thematic areas: (a) Peace and Security; (b) Good Governance; (c) Economic and Social Development; (d) Environment and Sustainability; and (e) Science, Technology and Society.

These themes are not mutually exclusive, nor collectively exhaustive, in terms of the issues that are addressed; some issues and problems (for example, globalization, human rights, water management or food security) cut across thematic areas, leading to significant overlap and substantial interaction of efforts. Furthermore, some important perspectives (such as gender roles, ethics or equality) pervade the work of all thematic areas.

In selecting specific research and policy/foresight study topics, the UNU assesses their central issues against a set of basic criteria that include:

- the relevance of the topic to the UN objectives of promoting peace and prosperity (including the Millennium Development Goals)
- the relevance of the topic to the developing world, and whether it reflects a need for North–South and South–South collaboration
- the nature and scale of human impact, the degree of urgency, and the potential for replicability of solutions
- the potential for developing practical solutions and policies, including the potential for the UNU to make a real contribution and bring “additionality” to the effort
- the extent of the perceived “interconnectedness” with other topics, issues and problems.

The special nature of the UNU enables it to combine research and policy/foresight studies. The University utilizes its worldwide knowledge networks to imbue this work with a global perspective that incorporates both theoretical and practical approaches. Particularly, in its role as a “think-tank for the UN”, the UNU strives to provide analyses and recommendations on policy-relevant issues that engage the attention of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States. The University not only serves as a reservoir of ideas for the United Nations and its agencies, but tries to proactively anticipate and respond to their needs.

**Basic and Applied Research** —The University undertakes basic cross-cultural and multidisciplinary research, utilizes innovative techniques and methodologies, and studies important global processes to provide forward-looking proposals for solutions aimed at achieving an improved quality of life for all. To ensure academic credibility, UNU research retains strong disciplinary foundations and methodological rigor. A major source of the UNU’s comparative advantage, however, is its capacity to take a holistic (interdisciplinary) view of the complex processes that affect human security, peace and development.

**Targeted Foresight and Policy Studies** — The UNU addresses the growing demand for solutions to critical problems, and for information on the implications of important processes, among four sets of actors: (i) the UN system and Bretton Woods Institutions, (ii) regional organizations and national and local governments, (iii) civil society and (iv) the private sector. The University performs diagnostic analyses, transforms fundamental research and knowledge into policy-relevant prescriptions and analyses, develops models and scenarios, and evaluates the comparative advantages of different policy options.

# Capacity Development

The United Nations University seeks to develop human and institutional potential to address current problems and confront emergent challenges related to human security, peace and development. This includes fostering capabilities and competence for self-sustained learning, for the generation of new knowledge/technology, and for the implementation of development activities — capacities that are crucial to the development efforts of poor countries, to the effectiveness of UN programmes, and to achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals. By focusing its efforts on training the trainers, research leaders, policy makers and decision makers, the UNU aims to achieve a multiplier effect.

The UNU's capacity development activities support:

- the growth of vigorous academic communities in developing countries and countries in transition, and their linkage with international academic networks
- the work of the UN system and other international and regional organizations
- the efforts of policy makers and practitioners, at all levels and in all sectors of society
- the improvement of institutional capacity, especially in developing countries and countries in transition
- the expansion of the human resources needed for institutional development.

**Project-Based Capacity Development** — Capacity development is an integral component of UNU research projects, as well as of the policy-making, development and advocacy processes to which the UNU contributes. By working on UNU projects in collaboration with skilled professionals, young researchers and scholars have the opportunity to enrich their skills and knowledge. Many project workshops and seminars also contain important training and capacity development components.

**Specialized Advanced Training Programmes** — The UNU offers three types of specialized advanced training for (primarily) postgraduate academics and professionals:

- short-duration training courses and workshops (of up to two-months' duration);
- long-duration training programmes (of up to one-year's duration);
- M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree-oriented study programmes (for scholars from developing countries or for students of partner universities in Japan).

**Research Fellowships/Internships** — The University provides short-term opportunities for highly qualified, young researchers to work in cooperation with staff in UNU Centre and the UNU RTC/Ps as fellows or interns.

**Capacity Development through Networking** — The UNU helps to alleviate the isolation of scholars and researchers in developing countries by promoting their integration into regional and global academic, professional and policy-making communities. This is accomplished by providing travel grants to attend important international conferences, supporting university staff exchanges, and assisting in organizing workshops and conferences in developing countries. The UNU collaborates with the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI) and supports the biennial African Conference on Research in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics (CARI).

**Global Learning** — Through online learning, the UNU is able to offer quality educational programmes to larger numbers of participants, and at lower cost. In this context, the University seeks to achieve an "Information Society Open for All" by supporting open courseware/content, open source software, open platforms/networks and open standards. Among the pilot online educational programmes that the University has been implementing in collaboration with partners across the globe are the UN Water Virtual Learning Centre (implemented by UNU-INWEH), UNU Global Virtual University (hosted at GRID-Arendal, a UNU Associated Institution) and Asia Pacific Initiative as well as participation in the Forest Policy and Economics Research (FOPER) project, in collaboration with the MesoAmerican Network for the Conservation of Biological Resources.

**UNU Financial Assistance Programme** — This programme, funded by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, provides loans to self-financed students from developing countries enrolled in a cooperating Japanese university. The aim is to help them gain knowledge that will enable them to contribute to the future development of their home countries.



# Knowledge Transfer

The fundamental goal of the United Nations University's communications and dissemination efforts is to deliver the “right” knowledge to those who need it most, in a timely manner and in a useful form. What differentiates the UNU from traditional universities is its mandate to reach out to a broad range of audiences, including the United Nations and its agencies; government and non-governmental organizations; regional, national and local organizations; policy-makers and decision-makers; scholars, researchers and practitioners; and the general public. Since each of these audiences has different interests and concerns, different messages and delivery methods are required.

The rapid evolution of information and communications technologies is having a great impact on the way knowledge is exchanged and applied. The UNU, therefore, is continually upgrading its tools and methods, refining its target audiences, and tailoring its outputs accordingly. Even as its knowledge transfer methods increasingly become digital (websites, e-mail, CD-ROMs, etc.), the University continues to publish print resources (including books, briefs, papers and brochures) and to hold public informational events (such as conferences, lectures, workshops and seminars). Ensuring that current scientific information and best practices are disseminated to relevant audiences in the developing world — including those who may be on the wrong side of the “digital divide” — is a particular priority.

The University has two main channels for sharing the findings of its projects: commercial academic book publishers (such as Oxford University Press and Routledge) and UNU Press, the scholarly publishing arm of the University. Established in 1990, UNU Press publishes numerous books each year as well as a series of UNU policy and research briefs.

Each UNU RTC/P coordinates its own series of publications (working papers, research reports, technical reports, policy briefs, online newsletters and other materials) and maintains a website. Other channels of dissemination include chapters in books, articles in peer-reviewed journals and articles/commentaries in mass media publications.

The media is an effective dissemination channel, both for raising awareness about important global issues and for increasing the visibility of the UNU. In addition to coordinating UNU Centre media relations, the UNU Office of Communication oversees the production of such public information materials as the online *UNU Update* newsletter and the *UNU Annual Report* and maintains the main UNU website.

UNU Online Learning, in cooperation with the UNU Campus Computing Centre, supports online education projects and operates the UNU Media Studio.

Active outreach to those unfamiliar with the UNU also is a priority. Ongoing outreach endeavours of the UNU include:

- the UNU Global Seminar series (for college students and young professionals; these three- to five-day sessions are held in Japan and other locations worldwide)
- the Global Environment Information Centre (a joint initiative of the UNU and the Japan Ministry of the Environment; GEIC organizes workshops and training sessions, supports environmental centres and environmental NGOs, and disseminates information)
- the UNU Zero Emissions Forum (which brings together representatives from business, local governments and the scientific community with the aim of achieving zero emissions in industries (sustainable production) and in society (sustainable consumption)).

# Networking

The United Nations University operates as a decentralized, global “network of networks”. Among the advantages of this networking approach are a global perspective, improved interaction with worldwide academic communities, and an ability to tap a wide range of human and financial resources.

**A “Network of Networks”** — The 13 UNU RTC/Ps complement and support the work of UNU Centre by focusing on specific sets of issues, thereby enabling the University to extend its outreach in a unique, decentralized manner. The work of some UNU RTC/Ps is enhanced by Operating Units located at prestigious universities in Africa and the Middle East. (UNU-INRA has Operating Units in Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Namibia and Zambia, while UNU-INWEH has an Operating Unit in Jordan.)

Supplementing the work of the core UNU system are 21 institutions of academic excellence that have been designated by the University Council as UNU Associated Institutions. These are organizations engaged in a long-term joint programme with the UNU for which there is assured multi-annual funding and which represents a clear “win-win” situation for both the UNU and the Associated Institution.

In 2006, the UNU began developing a network of Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCEs), in support of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. These RCEs are networks of existing formal, non-formal and informal education organizations aiming to deliver education for sustainable development to a regional/local community.

Further extending the UNU’s global reach are hundreds of cooperating institutions — research institutions, professional organizations and associations, non-governmental organizations, and private sector companies — that have a sustained involvement in a specific UNU activity or set of activities. These formal and informal institutional relationships are augmented by the numerous individuals (researchers, scholars and practitioners) who support and participate in UNU activities.

**Linkages within the UN System** — The UNU also maintains close cooperative relationships with other UN system organizations. The UNU is uniquely positioned,

as an academic unit within the UN system (and with intellectual independence guaranteed by its charter), to contribute to the generation and sharing of knowledge relevant to the roles and work of the United Nations, and to the application of that knowledge in formulating sound policies, strategies and programmes for action. The UNU maintains a regular dialogue with its sister UN organizations to determine their research and capacity development needs, and sustains cooperative relationships and strategic alliances on issues relevant to the mission of the UNU.

The UNU works with a broad range of UN system agencies, programmes, commissions, funds and convention secretariats, both through formal agreements of cooperation and through joint activities based on functional links. Key UN system partners include FAO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNITAR, WHO and WIPO, as well as the UN Secretariat and other UN organizations such as DESA, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT and WTO. Joint activities with UN partners and others based on effective functional linkages include those relating to water (with GEF, UNESCO and WMO), drylands management (with FAO, ICARDA, UNCCD, UNDP and UNESCO), forests and mountains (with FAO and UNEP), dialogue among civilizations (with UNESCO) and world trade (with UNCTAD and WTO).

The UNU offices in New York and Paris actively represent the University at UN Headquarters and UNESCO Headquarters, respectively, while the new UNU Vice-Rectorate in Europe facilitates communication with UN offices in Europe. The UNU organizes workshops and seminars annually at UN Headquarters in New York and at the UN Offices in Geneva on issues of global importance.

At the highest level, the UNU (through the Rector) provides inputs to meetings of the UN Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) — and, in turn, is alerted about pressing UN policy issues to which the University can contribute. The UNU monitors and participates, as appropriate, in the discussions and communications of the High-level Committee on Programme and the High-Level Committee on Management, both of which support the work of the CEB. UNU representatives also participate in the informal meetings of some former subcommittees of the Administrative Committee on

Coordination — in particular, those related to water, nutrition and gender issues. UNU's experts and advisers also make many specific inputs into the work of the UN.

#### **Links with the International Academic Community**

— Because the UNU is at the intersection of the UN system and the international academic community, it is crucial for the University to extend its outreach to and connection with academic institutions and scholars in different parts of the world (and in particular, with scholars and institutions based in developing countries and countries in transition). The UNU seeks to involve universities and research institutes from around the world in its research and capacity development efforts, either as project partners or as members of existing or newly initiated UNU networks.

Examples of successful networks include not only the work of UNU-FNP, UNU-IIST, UNU-INRA and UNU-INWEH, but also collaborative projects such as those on sustainable land management in marginal drylands (SUMAMAD) and in the Pamir-Alai mountains (PALM) and other mountainous regions, and the community-based rehabilitation of degraded land in the Balkan region. The University continues to forge links with international academic networks with a view to disseminating information on the UNU and its academic programmes, and to develop new cooperative relationships.





A person is walking away from the camera, carrying a large white container on their head. They are wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The background is a field of tall grass under a clear sky. The entire image has a blue tint.

# Highlights of the United Nations University in 2007

The overarching goal of the United Nations University is to provide useful knowledge about, and effective training on, important issues related to human security, peace and development. Within this context, the work of the United Nations University in 2007 was clustered within the two broad thematic areas: (i) Peace and Governance and (ii) Environment and Development.

The initiatives, activities and accomplishments described in this section are neither exhaustive nor indicative of the overall breadth or depth of the UNU's operations. Rather, they describe some of the "trees" that characterize the University's work in such a way that the "forest" comprising the totality of the UNU can be more readily perceived.

# Institutional Highlights

## MARCH

### UNU-INWEH gets increased support from Canada

The Canadian International Development Agency, on behalf of the Canadian Government, signed a five-year contribution agreement with the UNU International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH). The agreement to pay C\$8.5 million towards the UNU-INWEH core budget reflects an average annual increase of 70 per cent in the funds provided to UNU-INWEH.

## APRIL

### After 9 years, Vice-Rector Thakur leaves UNU

Senior Vice-Rector Ramesh Thakur, who had served as Vice-Rector of the UNU Peace and Governance Programme since 1998, and as Senior Vice-Rector since 2003, left UNU at the end of April.

## MAY

### UNU-MERIT establishment is formalized

The UNU, Maastricht University, and the MERIT Foundation signed a collaboration agreement to formalize the establishment of the UNU Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) as a joint research and training centre. This agreement followed a two-year transitional phase of the merger between MERIT and the former UNU Institute for New Technologies (UNU-INTECH).

### CONDIR meets in Maastricht

The UNU Conference of Directors (of the UNU RTC/PS) held its semi-annual meeting (CONDIR 33) on 2–3 May in Maastricht.

### Selection of new UNU Rector is announced

On 9 May, following an extensive international search process and consultations with the Director-General of UNESCO, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the selection of Swiss physicist Prof. Dr. Konrad Osterwalder as the fifth Rector of the United Nations University, effective from 1 September.

## JUNE

### UNU ViE is established

A new Vice-Rector post — the first outside of Tokyo — was established in June: the UNU Vice-Rectorate in Europe (UNU-ViE). Prof. Janos Bogardi, Director of UNU-EHS, was named as Vice-Rector in Europe, ad interim. Located in Bonn and financed by the Government of Germany, UNU-ViE strengthens the UNU's presence on the continent and provides increased access to European institutions, including the UN offices located in Europe.

### New collaborative programmes come to UNU

In conjunction with the establishment of the UNU-ViE, two new collaborative programmes were brought to the UNU: the Secretariat of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP-GEC) and the Secretariat of the UN Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC).

### UNU-IIGH launches operations

The United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH) was established with the appointment of Dr. Mohamed Salleh Mohamed Yasin as its Director. UNU-IIGH began operating in June from temporary premises on the campus of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in Kuala Lumpur; the official launch of UNU-IIGH, in December, coincided with relocation into its permanent premises in the UKM Hospital Complex building.

## JULY

### Bureau of UNU Council meets in New York

The Bureau of the Council of United Nations University, which acts as the executive committee of the Council, held its annual mid-year session on 11–13 July at United Nations Offices in New York.

## AUGUST

### UNU Rector van Ginkel retires

On 31 August, the University community bid farewell to Rector Hans van Ginkel, the fourth Rector of the UNU, in a UNU Rectorate Handing-Over Ceremony. Prof. Dr. van Ginkel had assumed the role of Rector of the UNU in September 1997, and served two five-year terms.

## SEPTEMBER

### UNU welcomes Rector Osterwalder

On 1 September, the UNU officially welcomed its fifth Rector: Prof. Dr. Konrad Osterwalder of Switzerland. Before joining the UNU, Prof. Dr. Osterwalder had served as Rector and President of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, ETH Zürich).

## DECEMBER

### CONDIR meets in Tokyo

The UNU Conference of Directors held its semi-annual meeting (CONDIR 34) on 1 December in Tokyo, prior to the annual UNU Council meeting.

### UNU Council meets in Tokyo

The Council of the United Nations University held its 54th session on 3–7 December in Tokyo. At that session, the UNU Council, among other actions:

- approved the proposed academic programme and budget of the UNU for the 2008–2009 biennium
- discussed the University's financial situation, including those activities funded by sources not channelled through UNU
- considered a variety of progress reports and a review/evaluation of UNU dissemination
- designated seven new UNU Associated Institutions: the Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology, University of Chile (Chile); Gansu Natural Energy Research Institute (China); Shanghai Institute for Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); National Nutrition Institute, Ministry of Health and Population (Egypt); University of Nairobi (Kenya); National Institute of Public Health (Mexico); and Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University (Thailand).

### Vice-Rector Yasui retires

Vice-Rector Itaru Yasui, who had served as Vice-Rector of the UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme since 2003, retired at the end of December.

### Year-end staffing levels

As of year-end 2007, the UNU system had a personnel component of 433, of whom 153 (35 per cent) were developing country nationals. Consistent with the University's role as "an international community of scholars", the UNU staff included nationals of more than 60 countries. By gender, the UNU staff included 230 men and 203 women.

## ONGOING INITIATIVES

The number of Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCEs) acknowledged by the UNU quadrupled during the year, from 12 to 48. The level of cooperation among the RCEs rapidly increased with the establishment of four regional networks and several thematic networks.

The partial migration of some back-office administrative functions from UNU Centre in Tokyo to an office in Kuala Lumpur, a process begun in 2006, was completed in late 2007. Because of the differential in local salaries and operational expenses, this restructuring is expected to achieve an almost 68 per cent saving in UNU administrative functions.

The University continued to hold discussions throughout the year with several national governments (including Algeria, Australia, Slovakia and Spain) regarding the possible establishment of new UNU Research and Training Centres/Programmes or other UNU initiatives.

## ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2007, the UNU received some US\$27.7 million in contributions from more than a dozen governments and 100 other sources (See page 21 for a list of the major donors). The UNU also benefited from counterpart and other support, such as cost-sharing support, as well as "extra-budgetary" contributions for UNU-related academic activities that were paid directly to cooperating institutions.





1 UNU-IIGH Director Mohamed Salleh Mohamed Yasin; 2 UNU Council member Ms. Angela Cropper;  
3 UNU Senior Vice-Rector Ramesh Thakur; 4 UNU Vice-Rector Itaru Yasui.





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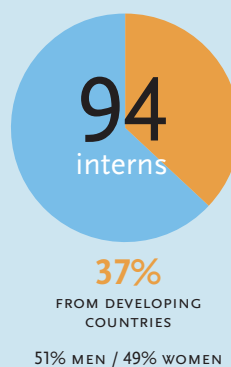
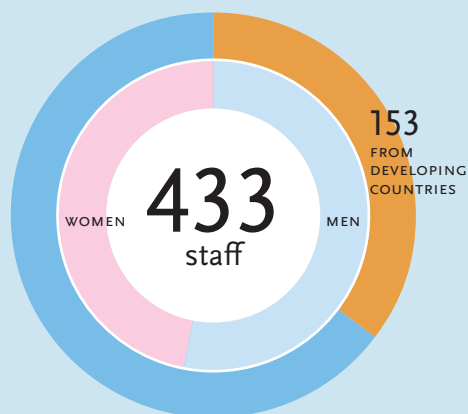
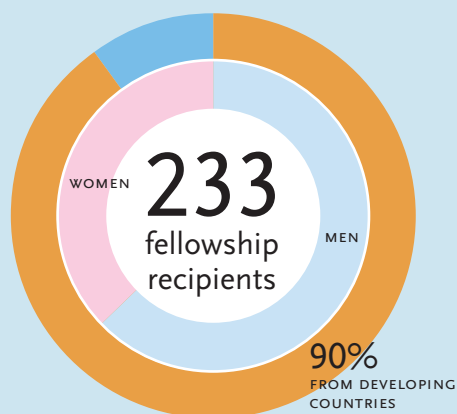
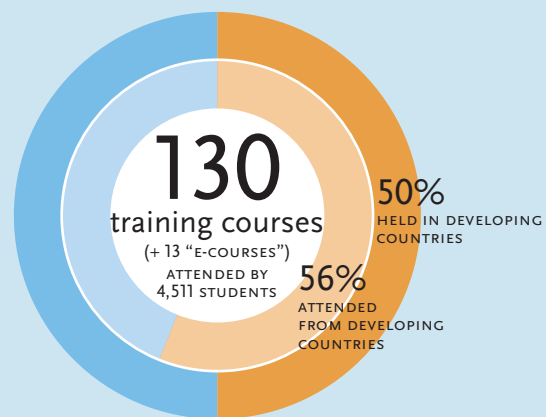


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5 UNU-EHS Director and Vice-Rector ad interim Janos Bogardi; 6 UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura, fifth UNU Rector Konrad Osterwalder and fourth UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel; 7 UNU Council member Prof. Paolo Blasi; 8 Senior UNU officers after the CONDIR 34 meeting at UNU Headquarters. Photos: Jeremy Hedley & Curtis Christophersen/UNU

## A quantitative look at the UNU

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2007



**53**  
books  
(BASED ON UNU RESEARCH OR  
BY UNU STAFF)

**138**  
articles in  
peer-reviewed journals

**119**  
articles in other  
publications

## Contributions received by the UNU

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2007

GOVERNMENTS*	(US\$)
Australia.....	16,700
Belgium.....	185,547
Canada.....	1,293,103
Denmark.....	256,975
Finland.....	5,050
Germany.....	4,169,821
Ghana.....	249,950
Indonesia.....	5,000
Japan.....	6,602,663
Jordan.....	575,490
Macao.....	757,182
Malaysia.....	4,850,000
Mongolia.....	33,000
Norway.....	197,879
Sweden.....	984,565
The Netherlands.....	3,308,431
United Kingdom.....	442,770

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>23,934,126</b>
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OTHER CONTRIBUTORS	(US\$)
Alchemy Foundation.....	15,000
American Council for UNU.....	160,000
Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.....	34,671
Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND).....	85,000
Asia Pacific Network (APN).....	18,560
Atlas.....	20,061
Banco Do Brasil.....	50,000
Christensen Fund, The.....	500,000
Cisco Systems.....	27,175
Dataserv - CES Ltd.....	13,333
Datec Technologies Ltd. (Scotland).....	14,409
Dell Corporation Ltd. (Ireland).....	13,514
Deutsches Zentrum fuer Luft-und Raumfahrt e.v. (DLR).....	239,747
Ericsson.....	27,027
European Commission.....	263,854
European Parliament.....	65,532
FAO.....	89,000
Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (Germany).....	174,260

Federal Public Service, Public Health Food Chain Security and Environment.....	12,500
Geographical Research Centre (Potsdam).....	439,216
GRID Arendal.....	50,000
Hewlett-Packard.....	31,572
Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES).....	86,957
Institute of Development Studies.....	24,234
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI).....	20,000
International Council for Science (ICSU).....	15,000
International Development Research Centre (IDRC).....	48,112
International Institute for Sustained Dialogue.....	15,531
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).....	25,000
Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange.....	135,950
Japan Foundation for the United Nations University.....	260,305
Kanagawa Foundation for Academic and Cultural Exchange.....	66,432
King Abdullah II Fund.....	14,124
Kirin Brewery Company.....	280,992
MunichRe Foundation.....	135,473
Nakheel Corporation.....	718,594
Nokia Oyj.....	27,027
Okinawa Prefectural Government.....	17,391
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.....	12,553
Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research (EMPA).....	31,368
The World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development).....	22,250
UNCTAD.....	35,585
UNEP.....	482,398
UNESCO.....	188,081
UNOPS.....	459,452
University of Bonn.....	299,940
University of Queensland.....	379,978
University of York.....	29,045
WHO.....	25,000
Zero Emissions Forum Secretariat.....	74,732
Other donors (individual contributions of less than \$12,000 each).....	213,088

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6,489,023</b>
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<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$30,423,149</b>
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\* In addition, the United Nations University receives indirect support from many governments, foundations and other organizations. In 2007, contributions not paid directly into the UNU accounts included \$3,640,000 from the Government of Iceland as support for the activities of UNU-FTP and UNU-GTP, and \$676,871 from the Flemish Government (Belgium) as support for the activities of UNU-CRIS.





# Research: Peace and Governance

*“The research programmes of the institutions of the University shall include ... coexistence between peoples having different cultures, languages and social systems; peaceful relations between States and the maintenance of peace and security; human rights; ... and universal human values related to the improvement of the quality of life.”*

— UNU CHARTER ARTICLE I.3

The maintenance of international peace and security has always been a main item on the UN agenda. Thus, issues of peace and security, as well as appropriate governance, institutions and arrangements, are a primary focus of the United Nations University. The UNU adopts an approach that conceptualizes peace, security and good governance in the broadest sense, and organizes/supports research that produces policy-oriented recommendations for current problems and identifies long-term trends and patterns.

## International Order

Many of the pressing issues underlying peace and security are still fiercely disputed among states and among scholars; there is disagreement on even the basic definitions of such terms as “aggression”, “terrorism” and “genocide”. Driven by existing gaps both in knowledge and in policy, the UNU Peace and Governance Programme undertook several projects that explored challenges to international order. The book *War in Our Time* (Thakur; UNU Press) addresses peace and security gaps in the international order, arguing that the growing

gulf between “legality” and “legitimacy” is evidence of an eroded sense of international community.

The UNU Peace and Governance Programme and the University of California, Santa Barbara, co-organized a conference on “Legality and Legitimacy in International Order” in California; participants considered cases of disconnection between the legality and the legitimacy of international legal regimes, and discussed the origins of existing gaps and possible ways to bridge them.

## Peacekeeping

It is widely recognized that the United Nations’ strength lies not in fighting wars, but in building and maintaining cooperation among states to achieve peace, development and respect for human rights. *Unintended Consequences of Peacekeeping Operations* (Aoi, de Coning and Thakur, eds.; UNU Press) compiles the results of a UNU Peace and Governance Programme research project of the same name. This book, which investigates the “unintended consequences” for individuals, groups and societies, represents a unique attempt to reveal and understand the negative side-effects of peacekeeping

**KENYA Rift Valley Province** — An armed Nilotic Turkana herdsman watches over his grazing herd in Turkana District. In this and many other pastoralist regions of the world, livestock rustling and conflicts over land and scarce natural resources are a daily concern. Photo: Sven Torfinn/Panos Pictures

operations. It discusses how the deployment of large numbers of troops and civilian personnel may harm the host country's economy and affect local communities, most critically when unlawful actions (such as sexual abuse, corruption or smuggling) accompany the missions, and addresses issues of accountability (or, rather, the lack thereof) for such actions. This project manifests how the UNU can capture an under-researched topic of great importance for the UN, and engage a group of leading scholars in the field to develop timely policy recommendations.

The UNU Peace and Governance Programme also continued to work closely with the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese Diet (parliament) to develop a dialogue on UN peace operations and Japanese involvement in UN missions. Several meetings were organized for Diet Members to discuss the latest initiatives in establishing a UN Emergency Peace Service, the developing concept of a "Responsibility to Protect" in linkage with a parallel "Responsibility to Prosecute" perpetrators of international crimes, and other topics.

### **Criminal Accountability and Human Rights**

The new concept of the "Responsibility to Prosecute" addresses instances in which governments commit atrocities against their own populations. The book *Atrocities and International Accountability: Beyond Transnational Justice* (Schabas, Thakur and Hughes, eds.; UNU Press) resulted from a UNU Peace and Governance Programme project that challenges the traditional debate on "transitional justice". The book argues that while, on the one hand, impunity for past crimes often undermines confidence in new democratic structures and casts doubt on commitments to human rights, on the other hand, the need to consolidate peace sometimes makes local and international authorities reluctant to confront suspected perpetrators of human rights violations — especially when they are a part of a peace process. The findings point to a growing consensus that some forms of justice and accountability are integral to (rather than in tension with) achieving peace and stability.

The book *After Mass Crime: Rebuilding States and Communities* (Poulin, Chesterman and Schnabel, eds.; UNU Press) is the output of a UNU Peace and Governance Programme project that refocuses attention from

the level of states to that of communities and individuals in the process of recovering from mass crimes and human rights violations. The findings argue that the various reconstruction issues that must be dealt with after mass crime are defined by radical transformations in the belief systems and codes of conduct among both individuals and communities.

The UNU Peace and Governance Programme joined with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute to organize a workshop in May in Lund, Sweden, on "Human Rights Special Procedures: The Role of the Special Rapporteurs". This workshop provided a forum for human rights experts to deliberate on the role of special mechanisms in the UN system to protect human rights. Recognition of the expertise of the UNU in the field of international criminal law and human rights was further evidenced by an invitation to write an Amicus Curiae Brief of International Law in support of a former child soldier in US custody at Guantánamo Bay. This brief drew from the UNU Peace and Governance Programme book *International Criminal Accountability and the Rights of Children* (Arts and Popovski, eds.; Cambridge University Press, 2006) in noting that international law recognizes child soldiers more as victims than as perpetrators.

### **The Role of People in Conflict and Peace**

While the focus of peace and security paradigms is shifting from states to groups and individuals, and from territorial security to human security, the frame of reference for the majority of academic literature remains focused on states and their institutions. Three UNU Peace and Governance Programme projects, each culminating in a book, looked at how people can make a difference in building peace. *Humanitarian Diplomacy: Practitioners and Their Craft* (Minear and Smith, eds.; UNU Press) presents the diverse experiences of humanitarian practitioners and establishes the concept of "Humanitarian Diplomacy", which is expected to be a main component in future UN missions.

*Diasporas in Conflict: Peacemakers or Peace Wreckers?* (Smith and Stares, eds.; UNU Press) examines the various roles of exiles, refugees, migrants and others in fuelling conflicts, but also in helping the victims of conflicts and supporting peace, reconstruction and reconciliation efforts. This book, one of the first to



comprehensively address the powers and the limitations of diasporas in all stages of conflicts and peace-making, offers wide geographical coverage. It illustrates that, like diasporas, protracted refugee situations can be both a source and a consequence of conflict.

The UNU Peace and Governance project on Protracted Refugee Situations and Peacebuilding critically questioned the impact of dealing with refugee situations exclusively within the humanitarian community without involving the broader peace and security and development communities. The project developed concrete policy recommendations for a holistic approach and examined opportunities for engaging the newly established UN Peacebuilding Commission. Project results were published in an academic journal and as a UNU Policy Brief; a book (to be published by UNU Press) is planned.

### **Gender-Focused Issues**

The shift of emphasis from states to individuals in international relations is reflected in the increasing appearance of studies of how gender affects the maintenance of peace and security. In March, to mark International Women's Day, the UNU Peace and Governance Programme organized and coordinated a joint public forum by UN agencies in Japan on "Ending Impunity for Violence against Women". This was followed two weeks later by a UNU Peace and Governance Programme conference on "Women, Justice and Peacebuilding" that brought together prominent female scholars and activists from Africa, Asia and Latin America to discuss and share views on how to empower women in the process of achieving justice and reconciliation after conflicts. In contrast with the first event, which focused on women as victims of violence, this second event looked at the potentially strong role of women as peace builders and provided participants with an opportunity to enrich each other's practical work and to exchange views on how to create synergies in future advocacy, networking and engagement activities.

Gender also was a central focus in the completed UNU Peace and Governance Programme project on Trafficking in Humans: Social, Cultural and Political Dimensions. An output of this project is a book by the same name (Cameron and Newman, eds.; UNU Press)

to be published in February 2008. A related UNU Peace and Governance Programme mission to Phnom Penh in 2007 sought to raise awareness of the social, economic and political contexts of human trafficking.

### **Conflict Interventions by African Regional Organizations**

While the international community has been enthusiastic about the potential of African regional organizations for handling disputes on the continent, this enthusiasm has overlooked some of the unofficial (biased) causes for such military interventions. At issue is whether, once the biased causes for interventions are identified, African regional organizations will still be considered an asset in peace and security, or whether it will be found that they are being instrumentalized by regional players in a complex game of influences, ethnic interests and individual motivations.

The UNU-CRIS research project on Why African Regional Organizations Intervene in Conflicts addresses a gap in the academic literature by assessing the real reasons that lead regional organizations to intervene in conflicts and the impact that they have on the typology of intervention. The aim is to generate original theory that can explain and describe military intervention by regional organizations in conflicts, to collect empirical data and produce descriptions on the reasons for and the types of intervention, and to pinpoint biased and unbiased causes of intervention so as to better understand the motivations and conditions that may generate future interventions. UNU-CRIS is collaborating on this project with Göteborg University (Sweden); the African Institute for Arbitration, Mediation, Conciliation and Research (Ethiopia); the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (Ethiopia); the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs; and Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisas (Guinea-Bissau).

### **Regional Capacity for Maintaining Peace and Security**

In response to a request from the 6th High-Level Meeting between the United Nations and Regional and Other Intergovernmental Organizations in 2005, in 2006–2007 UNU-CRIS and the UN Department of Political Affairs

undertook a Capacity Survey of Regional and Other Intergovernmental Organizations for the Maintenance of International Peace and Security. Preliminary results were submitted for discussion in preparation for the 7th High-Level Meeting in September 2006. As part of an effort to reassess the process of cooperation and search for a way forward, this was followed in 2007 by a second phase of the survey undertaken to provide a clear knowledge of the different capacities of regional partners.

### Monitoring of Regional Integration

Recent years have seen a number of stagnating integration initiatives in different parts of the world. The underlying concept behind the UNU-CRIS World Report on Regional Integration project is that, from a long-term perspective, a stronger level of regional governance is required — one situated between the national and global levels. The rationale is that many of the economic, security, environmental and other challenges facing humanity cannot be adequately addressed at the national level, and that an effective multilateral system needs some form of regional organization. The regional governance level thus functions as complementary to (not in contradiction to) the other governance levels in a modern and flexible system of multilevel governance.

UNU-CRIS has launched a series of world reports to monitor trends and prospects for regional governance, in collaboration with UNCTAD, the five regional UN Economic Commissions and UNU-WIDER (and supported by the GARNET Network of Excellence). The goal is to create a reference point for future debates among policy makers, academics and the broader public on the role of regions in world governance. The first volume of the series, *Multilateralism, Regionalism and Bilateralism in Trade and Investment: 2006 World Report on Regional Integration* (De Lombaerde, ed.; Springer), was published in October 2007. The second volume, *Aid for Trade: Global and Regional Perspectives*, will serve as a contribution to the April 2008 UNCTAD XII Conference in Ghana on “Addressing the Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization for Development”, while a third volume will address the position and importance of regions in the context of the United Nations.

The World Report on Regional Integration project is part of a wider UNU-CRIS research theme on Monitor-

ing Regional Integration. In this context, UNU-CRIS is continuing, in cooperation with GARNET, to develop a web-based Regional Integration Knowledge System (RIKS). The RIKS, envisioned as a “missing link” between existing region-based initiatives for providing information on regional integration and cooperation, contains a public database of quantitative and qualitative data on regional integration schemes worldwide.

### Social Dimensions of Regional Integration

A two-year awareness and capacity development project on Regional Integration, Economic Partnership Agreements and Their Impact on Employment and Labour Market Policies was launched in 2007 by UNU-CRIS and the ILO International Training Centre. The focus of this project is mainly on the training needs of ILO constituents. Based on discussions in the wake of the report by the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation, this project addresses the impact of regional integration processes and open-trading regimes on employment and labour market policies in Africa. It focuses specifically on the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU).

### Transitional Democracy in the Russian Federation

While some observers view the contribution of President Vladimir Putin to the development and democratization of Russia in a positive light, others are concerned that the path to democracy made possible by the collapse of the Soviet system has been derailed. The UNU-ILI project on Political Leadership and Transitional Democracy in the Russian Federation: Challenges and Prospects explored the role and impact of Russian political leadership on the transitional democratic process. Based on an examination of the status and roles of the state, civil society, economy, media and human development in Russia's transition from a totalitarian state to a democratic polity, the project concluded that the outcomes of political, social and economic reforms under Putin are likely to negatively affect Russia's long-term development.



# Research: Environment and Development

*“The research programmes of the institutions of the University shall include ... economic and social change and development; the environment and the proper use of resources; [and] basic scientific research and the application of the results of science and technology in the interests of development ....”*

— UNU CHARTER ARTICLE I.3

The interactions between human activities and the environment, and the implications for sustainable management of our natural resources, are a core concern of the United Nations University. The UNU adopts a multidisciplinary approach that combines the natural and social sciences, while making special efforts to include perspectives from both the North and South as well as from countries with economies in transition. In line with the subjects identified in its Charter, UNU's research and policy study activities have been clustered around the themes of economic and social development; environment and sustainability; and science, technology and society.

## Education for Sustainable Development

Based on the recommendation of the Ubuntu Committee of Peers for Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) on Education for Sustainable Development, in 2007 the UNU acknowledged 36 new RCEs. The number of RCEs worldwide thus quadrupled, from 12 at year-end 2006 to 48. At the Second International RCE Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, organized at RCE Penang in August by UNU-IAS in its role as the Global RCE Service Centre, participants exchanged

ideas for thematic and regional networks and discussed the experiences of the RCEs to date. The RCEs began to establish both regional networks (namely, African, Asia-Pacific, North American and European networks) and some thematic networks; the creation of additional thematic networks is a major focus of RCE development.

UNU-IAS also continued to seek collaboration with the corporate sector for training on Education for Sustainable Development. In July, in cooperation with Corporate Social Responsibility in Asia and the Asian Institute of Technology, UNU-IAS convened an intensive five-day leadership programme on “Business Strategies for Sustainable Development” in Bangkok for regional participants from the business sector and civil society. The UNU also has been collaborating with universities on postgraduate courses to strengthen the roles of higher education institutions in promoting Education for Sustainable Development. In November, UNU-IAS convened a “Meeting of Heads of Higher Education Institutions in the Asia-Pacific on Postgraduate Sustainable Development Education and Research”. UNU-IAS and the UNU Media Studio, in collaboration with the University of the South Pacific, worked on developing online learning modules on Education for Sustainable Development.

INDIA Goa — A REVA electric car sits in front of a dwelling. The Reva Electric Car Co., based in Bangalore, India, is said to be the world's leading electric car manufacturer. Photo: Dhaval Momaya/www.dmomaya.com

## Knowledge and Development

The “World Knowledge Report”, UNU-MERIT’s new flagship publication series, offers a new and unique global perspective on knowledge and development in the world economy. This study, which challenges some conventional views on the allocation of knowledge and the relative importance of actors and regions for innovation dynamics, seeks to contribute new empirical and policy-based analyses to explore how developing as well as industrialized countries can enhance access to knowledge across all segments of society, and how they can build on this knowledge base to add value to their economic production activities and overall sustainable development. The culmination of a major collaborative effort by a large team of UNU-MERIT researchers during 2007, the “World Knowledge Report” series will be launched in 2008.

Results of a UNU-MERIT study on The Impact of Intellectual Property Rights as an Innovation Incentive were included in the 2007 UNCTAD *Least Developed Countries Report*. That study, which investigated the impact of intellectual property rights on the pharmaceuticals, agro-processing, and textiles and garments sectors in Bangladesh, found that strong intellectual property rights tend to discourage learning and innovation in local firms and, thus, can undermine the evolution of nascent domestic industries.

## Institutions for Economic Development

The issue of creating better institutions for development has come to the fore in recent years, in part because of the poor results achieved by economic reform programmes that failed to take account of the need for appropriate supporting institutions. Nevertheless, the debate continues to be dominated by generalities; researchers have yet to determine precisely what form institutions should take so that they can be effective for development, or how such institutions can be built. The UNU-WIDER project Institutions for Economic Development: Theory, History and Contemporary Experiences aimed to fill the existing intellectual and policy gap by translating the abstract theoretical notions that commonly underlie discussions on the role of institutions in economic development into more

practical terms. In addition to theoretical work aimed at developing new discourses on the “technology of institution building”, the project conducted a wide range of case studies, both thematic and country-specific. The project concluded that a variety of factors suggest the orthodox recipe of importing “best practice” formal institutions does not work well. While rejecting the existence of universal formulas, the project nevertheless distilled some general principles of institution-building. The project resulted in several UNU-WIDER Research Papers, a UNU Policy Brief, and a book (*Institutional Change and Economic Development*, Chang, ed.; UNU Press and Anthem Press).

## Innovation and Business Strategies

UNU-MERIT projects on the theme of Innovation, Global Business Strategies and Host Country Development ranged from large-scale regional projects (such as a detailed European study covering 650 small and medium enterprises) to a UNESCO-funded national project looking into science, technology and innovation policy in Nigeria. Researchers also initiated a project on the interplay between investment promotion and innovation policy; continued to analyse the contribution of policy in fostering knowledge-based activities in the new EU Member States; and undertook projects on Brazil, China, India and Mexico. A goal is to identify the types of policies that host (developing) countries can adopt to maximize and capture the potential positive impacts of foreign multinational corporation subsidiaries in their innovation and productive systems. The research will contribute to the development of a framework for better articulating and coordinating strategies of foreign direct investment promotion and innovation policies in developing and transition economies.

## Development and Poverty Reduction

The important link between financial development and growth has long been explored, but recent attention has focused on the “follow-up” linkage between financial development and poverty reduction. With recent developments in international development theory and practice having re-established poverty reduction as the central goal of development efforts, it is crucial to shed light on



the channels through which financial development can promote poverty reduction. In addition to an indirect link (through the promotion of economic growth), financial development can be made more “pro-poor” in a direct way, as can the resulting economic growth.

The UNU-WIDER project on Financial Sector Development for Growth and Poverty Reduction analysed these issues and sought to detail the exact transmission mechanisms through which financial development can enhance pro-poor development. The findings present a variety of experiences, both cross-country and country-focused case studies, from Africa and Asia. The theoretical models are complemented by applied cases, with evidence that draws on both macro and micro (household-level) data. The project has so far resulted in the publication of several UNU-WIDER Discussion & Research Papers; two books — *Financial Development, Institutions, Growth and Poverty Reduction* (Guha-Khasnobis and Mavrotas, eds.) and *Domestic Resource Mobilization and Financial Development* (Mavrotas, ed.) — will be published by Palgrave-Macmillan in 2008.

## Human Well-being

Achieving and sustaining higher levels of human well-being is a challenge for governments, international organizations and individuals worldwide. Measurements of human well-being levels, an integral part of this process, increasingly are being used to monitor and evaluate conditions both within and among countries. Not only have the numbers of measurements of human well-being increased in recent years, but so too have demands that these measurements more fully capture progress in the various (and especially in the non-economic) dimensions of human well-being.

The UNU-WIDER project on Measuring Human Well-being seeks to derive insights into how human well-being might be better assessed. The project has been reviewing a variety of concepts and measures and providing recommendations for future practice and research. It has resulted in three books, including one (*Human Well-being: Concept and Measurement*, McGillivray, ed.; Palgrave-Macmillan) published in 2007, as well as articles in two special issues of academic journals and in a UNU Policy Brief. Key findings of the project were presented at UN Headquarters in September.

## Hunger and Food Security

Some 840 million people are undernourished or chronically food-insecure; as many as 2.8 million children in developing countries die every year because of malnutrition. Yet, despite this scale of human suffering, the fight against hunger receives far less attention from bilateral and multilateral donors/lending agencies than does the fight against poverty. This neglect, in turn, means that hunger plays a less prominent role than poverty in policy formulations. A UNU-WIDER project on Hunger and Food Security sought to address this imbalance by considering a range of related issues (with substantive research contributions from FAO).

This project resulted in two books published in 2007: *Food Security: Indicators, Measurement, and the Impact of Globalization and Food Insecurity* (Guha-Khasnobis, Acharya and Davis, eds.; Oxford University Press) and *Vulnerability and Human Rights Failure* (Guha-Khasnobis, Acharya and Davis, eds.; Palgrave-Macmillan). The findings, which address various dimensions of hunger in several developing countries of Asia and Africa at the national, household and individual levels, reiterate the need to look at the problem from a combination of economic, social and political perspectives. The intertwining of these perspectives implies that academic research, the experiences of international organizations, and key messages emanating from the grassroots-level work of civil society organizations must all inform one another if a well-concerted action toward eradicating hunger is to be achieved.

## Nutrition in Asia

At the 34th Session of the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition in Rome in February–March, the chair of the UNU-FNP Capacity Strengthening in Nutrition in Asia (CASNA) initiative made a presentation on the progress of CASNA in its core areas of training and research on malnutrition, food safety, food and nutrition security, and improvement of traditional foods. The emphasis of CASNA is on capacity development at the institutional level through a pioneer training module aiming at a strategic research plan of action; this module was presented during a February pilot model workshop in Bangkok, organized in collaboration with the International

Nutrition Foundation (INF) and Ellison Medical Foundation (EMF).

The pilot training module was reviewed and modified in a three-day workshop on “Strategies for Institutional Planning, Management and Communication of Public Nutrition Research” in September, prior to the 10th Asian Congress of Nutrition in Taiwan. That workshop, attended by representatives from several Asian food and nutrition research institutions, was supported by the INF-EMF fellowship programme in collaboration with CASNA and the International Union of Nutritional Sciences.

### African Development

The UNU is collaborating with Cornell University to map out, via a series of conferences, the state of scientific and policy knowledge in Africa in four critical areas: food and nutrition; governance, development and security; public health; and environment and sustainability. The first conference, “Food System and its Interactions with Health and Nutrition”, funded by Cornell University and UNICEF, was held in November. Through the process, the UNU and Cornell, in cooperation with other UN agencies and African academic institutions, are advancing fundamental knowledge and policy formation in the aforementioned areas in an African context, as well as strengthening future capacity development initiatives in the region. This joint effort will inform the high-level meeting on “Africa’s Development Needs” to be held during the 2008 meeting of the UN General Assembly. It is envisioned that five books related to this effort will be published by Cornell University Press.

### Women’s Roles in Judiciary

Benefiting from a climate of reform and democratization, calls are being heard in Jordan for legal reforms and greater representation of women within the judicial system. The UNU-ILI project on Women, Law and the Judiciary: The Case of Jordan studied the status and role of women within the judiciary as well as women’s legal status, with a special focus on family laws. It further examined the patterns and trends in women’s access to and participation in the legal system.

### Drylands Management

The four-year Sustainable Management of Marginal Drylands project, completed in December 2007, assisted developing countries to enhance the sustainable management and conservation of their marginal drylands areas. This project was undertaken by a collaborative network of researchers and institutions in China, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Pakistan, Syria, Tunisia and Uzbekistan; project activities were managed by UNU-INWEH on behalf of project partners UNESCO and ICARDA. UNU-INWEH also led the development of a harmonized assessment framework to critically evaluate sustainable land management approaches.

The major achievements of the project, including several country-based success stories, were presented at the Sixth Project Workshop, held in September in China. Seeking to build on the project’s success, the primary donor (Flanders Government, Belgium) and project partners will meet in 2008 in Jordan to finalize plans for a five-year second phase of the project.

### Coping with Desertification

The 2007 UNU Policy Brief on “*Re-thinking Policies to Cope with Desertification*” was based on the input of 200 experts from 25 countries convened for an international conference in Algiers in late 2006. The policy brief notes that although persistent degradation of natural resources in drylands (a process commonly termed “desertification”) is widely recognized one of the greatest environmental challenges of our times, and is global in nature, national and international policy responses are largely inadequate; the world may face mass migrations of people driven from their degraded homelands within a single generation.

The brief urges global leaders and policy makers to reject the notion that aridity and water scarcity are inevitable, and advocates the creation of financial incentives for pastoralists and other drylands users to preserve and enhance the ecosystem services that their land provides to all. It also suggests that capturing (sequestering) carbon dioxide through increased vegetation in drylands could be an effective means to simultaneously combat desertification while mitigating human-induced climate change. The policy brief was launched by UNU-INWEH

**CHINA Guangdong Province** — A heap of discarded keyboards sits at an e-waste recycling workshop in Guiyu. Sometimes called “the e-waste capital of China”, Guiyu processes more than a million tons of global computer waste each year. Toxic ingredients in this e-waste, such as lead, beryllium and mercury, have created serious environmental and health issues.  
Photo: Natalie Behring/Panos Pictures

at UN Headquarters in June; the findings served as a basis for dialogue at the Eighth Conference of Parties of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, held in September in Madrid.

### **Sustainable Land Management**

The objective of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) initiative on Ensuring Impacts from Sustainable Land Management is to develop a method to demonstrate the global benefits derived from GEF-funded actions aimed at combating desertification and deforestation. The initiative, which is being implemented by UNU-INWEH in cooperation with UNDP, UNEP, FAO and others, also seeks to develop a learning network that can synthesize knowledge generated from global efforts and, thus, enable adaptive management of sustainable land management activities. At a workshop of leading global experts, held in August in Iceland, participants identified four broad indicators (land cover, land productivity, water availability and rural income) for identifying the benefits accrued through sustainable land management.

### **Agrodiversity Management**

Fragile ecosystems often are home to diverse agricultural and biological heritages that underpin the resilience of local communities; protecting them from unexpected environmental and social pressures is essential. The UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme cooperated with Jawaharlal Nehru University (India) to organize a two-year review of relevant studies on sustainable management of mountain ecosystems across mainland Southeast Asia and South Asia. The findings were published as *Shifting Agriculture in Asia: Implications for Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood* (Saxena, Liang and Rerkasem, eds.; Dehra Dun).

In collaboration with Wageningen International (The Netherlands), the UNU assisted the Chinese Academy of Sciences in drafting the National Project Framework on Traditional Rice-Fish Culture for the FAO programme on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS); the FAO used that framework as a model for other participating countries. Also, in cooperation with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain

Development, the UNU assisted the Government of Sikkim (India) in drafting a proposal on Sikkim Himalayan Agriculture; this led the FAO to include it as an associate GIAHS site. The UNU joined with Sikkim University and others to organize a November workshop on sustainable “Conserving Agricultural Heritage Systems in Mountainous Landscapes”.

The UNU also joined with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations Conference and other partners to organize an international conference on “Sustainable Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation: Roles of Traditional Forest-related Knowledge (TFRK)” in December, in China. The conference, which provided a platform for sharing information and exchanging experiences related to TFRK in the Asia Pacific region, highlighted the importance of TFRK for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable forest management.

### **Basin Water Cycle Management**

The UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme carried out three research studies on basin water cycles in 2007. One, a study in Viet Nam on power optimization subjected to downstream river ecological constraints, showed that ecological constraints can be maintained at a 10 per cent reduction of power production compared to existing operational rules. Another, in the Mekong delta region, mapped the spatial water power index to identify the social, economic, development and policy criteria that contribute to reducing “water poverty”; it seeks to develop a comprehensive geographic information system approach for the Mekong basin. The third study examined water resources vulnerability in two catchments in Nepal.

The UNU is a main resource organization in the Asia Water Cycle Initiative, which is being implemented under the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) capacity development programme. The UNU is leading the capacity development component with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and the flood management group with UNESCO-ICHARM. The UNU co-organized two related symposiums in Tokyo in January, a workshop in Indonesia in September, and a workshop associated with the Asia Water Forum in Beppu, Japan, in December.







## Coastal Zone Management

A multi-year project on Coastal Zone Management in the Arabian Gulf was started in January as a collaborative effort of UNU-INWEH and Nakheel (a subsidiary of the Dubai Ports Authority). The project seeks to design and implement a long-term environmental monitoring programme and a sustainable management plan for marine waters — particularly in the context of large-scale, off-shore coastal developments. It is researching the ecology of the newly developed ecosystems around man-made islands to clarify how they respond to weather and other environmental variables. The project is a platform for capacity building in relevant aspects of coastal marine management in the Gulf region.

## Coastal Environment Monitoring

The 11th year of the project on Environmental Monitoring and Governance in the Asian Coastal Hydrosphere started with the completion of a quality assurance document into which the project partners put their experiences accumulated during the project's initial four phases. The UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme represented the UNU at the Stockholm Convention's COP3, held in Senegal in May, and made an intervention on the potential of private-sector partnerships using this project as an example. The Asia-Pacific Network (APN) is funding part of this project to support the capacities of Indian and Pakistani partners in collaboration with the APEC Marine Environmental Training & Education Center.

A November project symposium on "Persistent Organic Pollutants: Global Transport, Best Environmental Practice, and Risk Perception" in Jakarta was co-hosted by UNU with the Indonesian Ministry of Environment (sponsored by APN and Shimadzu Corporation). Analytical training for 10 trainees was hosted by the UNU and Shimadzu in February–March, in Kanagawa, Japan, and a Dioxin Conference sponsored by the UNU was convened in Tokyo in September.

## Integrated Water Resources Management

The UN Water Virtual Learning Centre, a distance-learning programme on integrated water resources

management, implemented by UNU-INWEH, has brought international focus on the need for adult/practitioner learning. Four regional centres — for Southeast Asia, South Pacific, West Africa and North America — are operational and contributing to capacity development in their respective regions. UNU-INWEH also secured funding from AGFUND (Saudi Arabia) to create an East African regional centre, which launched operations in late 2007.

## Extreme Flood Risk Assessment

The UNU is conducting a series of training/application workshops to develop "what if" scenarios to support Asian decision-makers in realistically assessing what is at risk in the event of an unprecedented flood in a major city. The first workshop, with participants from five Asian countries, focused on setting up tools and systems for rainfall downscaling that can be localized to provide high-resolution rainfall information, and on development of a high-precision flood inundation model. Institutes involved in designing the modules and training include the UNU, UNESCO-IHE, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT, Thailand), Monash University (Australia) and Nippon Koei Co. (Japan).

The first phase included an intensive three-week flood modelling programme conducted at AIT. Rainfall downscaling and flood inundation modelling were carried out for a major city in each country. After the applications are verified in the respective countries, the second stage will focus on extreme floods, seeking to find ways to minimize losses through various mitigation options.

## Disaster Risk Management

The southern African region suffers from various natural hazards, including droughts, floods and strong winds, and from human-induced hazards. The implementation of effective disaster management legislation requires synchronized effort in four parallel activities: disaster management framework development and implementation; institutional restructuring; implementation of manageable communication and information technologies; and tertiary education in disaster risk management. The UNU Cooperation Unit for Southern

Africa (UNU-CUSA), administered by UNU-EHS, acts as an adviser in those processes. Research topics for UNU-CUSA include disaster risk management policy and the implementation of relevant research, with the main focus on risk assessment methodologies. Based on the requirements of the National Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (South Africa), drought-related research topics were identified, and several drought information system modules are being developed.

### **GLOWA Volta Project**

UNU-INRA is active in the Phase III training and knowledge transfer component of the GLOWA Volta Project. This interdisciplinary project, coordinated by the University of Bonn and funded by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (Germany) and the Ministry of Science and Research of North Rhine–Westphalia, supports sustainable water resource management in the Volta basin of Africa. The implementation of phase III, started in late 2006, includes three years of training and disseminating knowledge and technology related to climate–water–land–human interactions. UNU-INRA developed a training programme on water and climate change, with workshops in English (Ghana) and French (Burkina Faso). UNU-INRA also participated in regional GLOWA conferences, planning workshops and planning meetings. In 2007, UNU-INRA organized two workshops on “Stakeholders’ Capacity Needs Assessment” and two on “Data Management and Applications of GIS and Remote Sensing in Natural Resources Management”.

### **Sustainable Production of Devil’s Claw**

UNU-INRA is cooperating with the University of Namibia on a project to increase the germination rate of devil’s claw and, ultimately, to achieve sustainable production by farmers in Namibia of this endangered medicinal plant. The plant, *Harpagophytum procumbens*, is found only in the dry southern African region; it is used in Namibia among local communities to treat rheumatism and other ailments. Large quantities of devil’s claw tubers also are harvested and exported to Germany, where they are processed into drugs.

Responding to fears that intensive over-harvesting and unsustainable harvesting methods could lead to the

plant’s extinction, this project focuses on the domestication and cultivation of devil’s claw so as to promote its sustainable utilization and to assist rural communities that are dependent on it for their livelihoods. Successful seed germination is difficult (as low as 2 per cent) and erratic (not all seeds germinate at the same time), so developing cheap, reliable propagation methods is a major challenge; the project has achieved a seed germination rate of over 30 percent.

### **Alternative Energy Sources**

UNU-MERIT organized a side event on “Hydrogen Fuel Cells and Alternatives in the Transport and Energy Sectors” during the 15th session of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development in New York in May. A book based on the project will be co-published by UNU Press and IDRC in 2008. The project is contributing to the international advisory group for the South African Fuel Cell Strategy and to a study of the Canadian Hydrogen Fuel Cell Cluster.

### **Biodiplomacy**

Research is ongoing at UNU-IAS on such biodiplomacy issues as assessment of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction; assessment of marine bioprospecting in the Pacific, Antarctica and the deep seabed; implementation of an ecosystem approach in marine areas; and application of marine protected areas, traditional practices and access and benefit-sharing considerations in the Pacific region. In support of the First Session of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for the Food and Agriculture Governing Body, UNU-IAS prepared an information report on and assisted with the drafting of several official and informational documents for the Secretariat of the Treaty.

In July, UNU-IAS representatives visited India to design a postgraduate diploma programme on “Regulatory Affairs in Biotechnology”, in cooperation with the Indian Department of Biotechnology and the University of Agricultural Sciences; the programme will be piloted in 2008. UNU-IAS also is assisting the Indian National Biodiversity Authority to develop benefit-sharing guidelines as per the provisions of the Biodiversity Act of India. Based on a December 2006 agreement with the

Australian Department of the Environment and Water Resources, UNU-IAS conducted a case study on the Astra Zeneca/Griffith University/Queensland Government Access and Benefit-Sharing Collaboration.

## **Electronic Waste Management**

The vast number of electric and electronic devices discarded as waste threatens to become a serious environmental problem. In March, the Solving the E-Waste Problem (StEP) initiative was launched by the European Focal Point of the UNU Zero Emissions Forum (hosted by UNU-EHS in Bonn). This public-private initiative seeks to provide a neutral platform for analysis and dialogue, with the aim of finding solutions that can reduce the environmental risk of e-waste and enhance development. The prime objectives are standardizing appropriate recycling processes globally; extending the life of products and encouraging markets for their reuse; and harmonizing world legislative and policy approaches to electronic scrap. Members of the StEP initiative include UNEP, UNCTAD and prominent members from industry, government, international and non-governmental organizations, and academia.

The European Commission asked the UNU to contribute to the 2008 review of Directive 2002/96/EC on Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment. This project, implemented by the UNU-ZEF European Focal Point with partners in Hungary, Spain, the Netherlands and the UK was completed in August. The study found great potential to improve the collection of Europe's e-waste: at present, only about 25 per cent of Europe's medium-sized household appliances and 40 per cent of larger appliances are collected for salvage and recycling. The study suggests that long-term collection rate targets of about 60 per cent and 75 per cent, respectively, are feasible by 2011, but warns that these targets will be a difficult challenge for the new EU member states.

## **WaterBase**

While environmental modelling to support water management has a proven success record, it is too expensive to be implemented widely in developing countries. The aim of the WaterBase project, a collaboration between UNU-IIST and UNU-INWEH, is to create a generic

model of water resources together with a decision support system that is cheap but effective. The model will support development planning, the exploration of ways to counteract environmental degradation, and the mitigation of such events as global warming, storms or polluting accidents. A working prototype, produced in May, was released in December; it is available at <<http://www.waterbase.org>> along with global data sets for soil, land use, river basins and climate. The prototype was presented at several international conferences and written about in proceedings and journals. Collaborating in the Waterbase project are the University of Guelph and University of Waterloo (Canada), University of Idaho and Texas A&M University (USA), and Eawag (the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology).

## **Scientific and Technological Innovation**

In 2007, UNU-MERIT became a full partner — with the Earth Institute of Columbia University (USA) — in coordinating the International Catch Up project. This project seeks to (i) illuminate the key mechanisms and institutions that can enable nations which are behind the scientific and technological frontier to “catch up” and (ii) analyse how the opportunities and obstacles of today differ from those that faced countries which caught up in an earlier era.

Major generic advances in digital geographic information technology (DiGIT) have potentially important applications in agriculture and natural resources management planning/policy in developing countries, but practical applications to address social, environmental and economic concerns in sub-Saharan Africa are still lacking. UNU-MERIT is exploring how DiGIT, and the information it produces, can be integrated into national planning processes. The study also addresses how to integrate different uses of this technology, and the questions this raises about how to deal with different aspects of the rural economy.

As part of its decentralized research and training network on pro-poor rural innovation (LINK), UNU-MERIT is exploring the role of organization financing in rural innovation in South Asia. The study examines how financing, which traditionally has been targeted at existing productive activities, can be used to support innovation and innovation capacity.

## China's Innovation System

UNU-MERIT is one of four institutions collaborating with the European Commission on the global project Dialogues for a Sustainable Development. This project provided input for the summits and strategic partnerships of the EU with China, India, Russia and South Africa in the second half of 2007. A related UNU-MERIT study for the OECD was included in the OECD's synthesis report on the development of China's innovation system. UNU-MERIT also completed a major study on Regional Productivity Trends in Chinese Industry, which found empirical evidence of growing regional convergence in China. The study results were presented at a conference on "Experiences and Challenges in Measuring National Income and Wealth in Transition Economies", held in September in Beijing. One conclusion was that, contrary to public perceptions, the degree of regional inequality is substantially less now than at the beginning of the reform period (in 1978).

## Healthcare Management

In 2007, UNU-IIGH helped the Government of Indonesia to implement a case-mix system (a healthcare management tool) to improve the quality of care and enhance efficiency in the delivery of health services. UNU-IIGH provided technical support to the Indonesian Department of Health (DEPKES) and assisted in implementation of the system and development of a case-mix-based national hospital tariff. Technical support activities included supporting the establishment of a Case-Mix Centre within DEPKES to coordinate implementation of the system in Indonesia. In October, UNU-IIGH agreed to assist the Mongolian Ministry of Health with a pilot project on implementing a case-mix system in three provincial hospitals; in November, UNU-IIGH co-organized the Third International Case-Mix Conference in Kuala Lumpur, in cooperation with the National University of Malaysia and Malaysian Ministry of Health.

## Electronic Governance

The Centre for Electronic Governance, established in January to strengthen electronic governance-related

activities in UNU-IIST, works with institutions from developing countries, and with international and UN organizations, to build capacity and provide expertise and advice in planning, implementing and evaluating programmes for e-governance. It carries out research and dissemination as well as human, organizational and technical development initiatives to connect the theory and practice of e-governance. As part of the ongoing e-Macao Programme, UNU-IIST is providing the Government of Macao with both high-level advice and technical guidance on e-government issues.

The outcomes and experience of UNU-IIST projects are disseminated to developing countries through the UNeGov.net initiative (a global community of practice for e-governance). During the year, UNU-IIST organized 17 regional and national UNeGov.net events around the world, including the 1st International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (December), an event on South-South Cooperation for e-Governance at UN Headquarters, and regional workshops and schools in East Africa and the Asia-Pacific.

## rCOS Methodology

Research on Formal Methods of Object-Oriented and Component-Based Systems at UNU-IIST seeks to establish a software development methodology — known as the "refinement of Component and Object Systems", or rCOS — for reducing the complexity of software development projects and ensuring that the software works correctly. The rCOS methodology includes techniques of modelling, design and analysis, supported by an integrated tool suite.

The project seeks to improve the dependability and quality of software systems. International collaboration on this project, which is funded in part by the Macau Science and Technology Fund, has been established with eight universities (in Macao, China and Europe) and with Tata Consultancy Services in India. Five years of research has achieved significant results and contributed to the education programme at UNU-IIST. Many courses based on this research have been taught in developing countries, and the research results were reported at major conferences and symposiums and published in books and academic journals.





# Capacity Development

*“The University ... shall endeavour to alleviate the intellectual isolation of persons in ... developing countries.... In its post-graduate training the University shall assist scholars, especially young scholars, ... to increase their capability to contribute to the extension, application and diffusion of knowledge.”*

— UNU CHARTER | ARTICLES I.6, I.7

The United Nations University focuses its capacity development efforts on postgraduate-level academics and researchers, civil society actors, policy makers, and other professionals who are contributing to the enhancement of human security/welfare and the promotion of sustainable human development. In 2007, the UNU held 130 specialized training courses and organized 13 online-learning courses. Also during the year, the UNU awarded 233 fellowships and offered 94 internship opportunities.

## Short-Duration Training

The UNU organizes or supports a variety of short-duration training courses and workshops (of up to two-months' duration) for postgraduate academics and professionals. Among the short-duration training opportunities offered in 2007 were the following:

- UNU International Courses — six-week courses on “Armed Conflict and Peacebuilding”, “Environmental Change: Managing Risks”, “Globalization and the Multilateral System”, and “International Trade and Development” (May–June; Tokyo, UNU Centre)
- “Promoting Peace through Dialogue” — a two-week course (June; Amman, UNU-ILI with Global Majority

and Palestine-Israel Journal)

- “Leadership, Media and Democracy” — a one-week course (March; Amman, UNU-ILI)
- “Democracy and Human Rights Transition – Challenges of the Globalizing World” — a three-day course (April; UNU-ILI)
- “Design and Evaluation of Innovation Policy in Developing Countries” — a one-week training session (October; Maastricht, UNU-MERIT)
- “Modelling, Systems and Dynamics” — a two-week training course; part of the Dynamics of Institutions and Markets in Europe (DIMETIC) Summer School (October; UNU-MERIT)
- “Advancing Youth Leadership for Sustainable Development” — a one-week seminar (October; UNU-ILI)
- “Megacities as Hotspots of Risk: Social Vulnerability and Resilience-Building” — a one-week course; part of the 2nd annual Summer Academy on Social Vulnerability (July; Bavaria, UNU-EHS and Munich Re Foundation)
- “UNU Summer School on Environment with Bird’s Eye View” — a two-week seminar (Tokyo; UNU Centre with support by 11 Japanese private sector companies)
- “Analysis and Management of Geological Risks” (April–June; UNU and University of Geneva)

- “Disaster Management/Information” (January; UNU-EHS)
- “Vulnerability Assessment and Risk Management” (March; UNU-EHS)
- “Leadership for Energy and Water Security in the MENA Region” — a three-day course (July; UNU-ILI)
- Biotechnology workshops in Cuba (May), Spain (June), Costa Rica (August) and Brazil (September) (UNU-BIOLAC)
- Biotechnology short courses — in Venezuela (July), Costa Rica (July–August), Mexico (August) and Cuba (August) (UNU-BIOLAC)
- “Biosafety of Genetically Modified Crops and the Evolution of Regulatory Frameworks: Issues and Challenges” — a one-week course (September; Brazil, UNU-BIOLAC with ICGEB (Italy), Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentos (Argentina) and Associação Nacional de Biossegurança)
- “Production and Use of Food Composition Data in Nutrition” — a two-week course (October; at Wageningen University, UNU provided fellowships)
- “African Nutrition Leadership Programme” (cosponsored by UNU-FNP)
- “Short Course on Surface Exploration for Geothermal Resources” — a two-week course (November; Kenya; UNU-GTP and KenGen)
- “Short Course on Geothermal Development in Central America – Resource Assessments and Environmental Management” — a one-week course (El Salvador; UNU-GTP)
- “Fisheries Project Cycle Management and Vessel Stability” — a four-day course (Sri Lanka; UNU-FTP)
- “Profitability Assessment in Fisheries and Aquaculture Enterprises” — a 10-day course (Cuba; UNU-FTP)
- “International Training Course on Mangroves Biodiversity” — a 15-day course (October–November; India; UNU-INWEH, Annamalai University and UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme)
- Information technology courses and schools — six courses (Argentina, Chile and Nigeria) and 14 schools (of up to four courses; Brazil, China, Columbia, India, Kenya, Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Mongolia Mozambique, Nepal and Peru) (UNU-IIST)

- “Persistent Organic Pollutants Analysis in Fish Species” — a three-day workshop (Japan; UNU Centre and Shimadzu Corp.)
- “Case-Mix Training” — a pilot initiative (Malaysia; UNU-IIGH with 15 provincial and teaching hospitals)
- “Case-Mix Implementation” — a training workshop (Ulaan Batar, Mongolia; UNU-IIGH, National University of Malaysia and Ministry of Health of Mongolia).

### Long-Duration Training

Long-duration advanced training courses and workshops (of up to one-year’s duration) offered by UNU in 2007 included:

- Fisheries — the annual six-month UNU Fisheries Training Programme (Sept. 2006 – Feb. 2007, and Sept. 2007 – Feb. 2008; Iceland, UNU-FTP)
- Food Technology — the annual one-year UNU/Kirin Research Fellowship programme at the National Food Research Institute (Tsukuba, Japan; UNU Centre and Kirin Brewery Co.)
- Geothermal Energy — the annual six-month UNU Geothermal Training Programme (April–October; Iceland, UNU-GTP)
- Health Management Credentials — a six-month programme (March–September; Malaysia, UNU-IIGH and Ministry of Health of Malaysia)
- Remote Sensing — an eight-month training programme on “Remote Sensing Technology” (Brazil, at Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais, supported by UNU).

### Degree-Oriented Study

The UNU supports M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree-oriented study programmes for scholars from developing countries, and for students of partner universities in Japan. Among the degree-oriented programmes supported in 2007 were the following:

- Joint Graduate Programme in International Relations — four-month courses on “Functions of the United Nations System in a Turbulent World: Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development” and “Conflicts, Causes, Prevention and International Action” (Oct. 2007 – Feb. 2008; Tokyo, UNU Centre)

**JAPAN Kyoto** — Yasujiro Yamaguchi is a 103-year-old Nishijin weaver. In "The Wisdom Years", an open educational resource and documentary film being produced by the UNU Media Studio, he shares his insights about aging and health. Photo: Ryo Murakami/UNU

- "UNU-MERIT Ph.D. Programme on Economics and Policy Studies of Technical Change"
- "UNU-MERIT Ph.D. Programme in Innovation Studies and Development"
- "Joint Master's Degree Programme on Integrated Drylands Management" (UNU in cooperation with Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie and Institut des Régions Arides (Tunisia), and Cold and Arid Regions Environmental & Engineering Research Institute (China), International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (Syria), and Tottori University (Japan))
- "Postgraduate Studies in Fisheries" (in cooperation with the University of Iceland)
- "M.Sc. Studies in Geothermal Energy" (in cooperation with the University of Iceland).

### Research Fellowships/Internships

UNU Centre and many of the UNU RTC/Ps provide short-term opportunities for highly qualified, young researchers to work in cooperation with UNU staff. UNU fellowship and internship programmes offered in 2007 included the following:

- "JSPS-UNU Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme" (UNU-IAS and UNU-Centre)
- "UNU-CRIS Ph.D. Programme"
- "UNU-CRIS Visiting Researchers Programme"
- "UNU-EHS Ph.D. Programme"
- "UNU-IAS GRIPS/FASID Internship Programme"
- "UNU-IAS Junior Professional Fellowship Programme"
- "UNU-IAS Ph.D. Fellowship Programme"
- "UNU-IAS Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme"
- "UNU-IIST Fellowships"
- "UNU-IIST Postdoctoral Fellowships"
- "UNU-MERIT Ph.D. Internship Programme"
- "UNU-ONY Junior Professional Programme"
- "UNU-WIDER Ph.D. Research Internship Programme"
- "UNU-WIDER Visiting Fellows (Sabbatical) Programme and Short-Visits Programme".

### Online Learning

In 2007, the UNU Media Studio launched three new open educational resource (OER) packages:

- a Strategic Environmental Assessment OER (launched in February; developed in collaboration with Oxford Brookes University (UK))
- an Environmental Impact Assessment OER (launched in April; developed in collaboration with the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University (Australia))
- an Introduction to Forestry, Forest Policy and Economics OER (launched in March; developed in collaboration with the University of Joensuu (Finland)).

A joint project by the UNU Media Studio, UNU-IIST, UNU-MERIT and UNU-INWEH was launched in April to develop a prototype opencourseware portal for the UNU. The portal was set up and customized using an open source software content management system called eduCommons, from the Centre for Open and Sustainable Learning at Utah State University (USA). Under commitments made when joining the Global OpenCourseWare Consortium, the UNU will place ten courses online at the earliest possible opportunity. The UNU Media Studio also provides direct support for the Asia Pacific Initiative (API), including the videoconferencing delivery of semester-based seminar courses by a network of universities across the region. Two 15-week seminars were completed in February.


### UNU Financial Assistance Programme

In 2007, UNU-FAP made disbursements to some 115 foreign students attending cooperating Japanese universities. Since the programme was launched in 2003, UNU-FAP has assisted more than 560 students.









# Communications, Dissemination and Outreach

*“The University shall disseminate the knowledge gained in its activities to the United Nations and its agencies, to scholars and to the public, in order to increase dynamic interaction in the world-wide community of learning and research.”*

— UNU CHARTER ARTICLE I.4

To ensure that pertinent information reaches the right audiences in a useful form and in a timely manner, the United Nations University disseminates its materials through both traditional (print) and electronic methods, organizes a variety of public events, and conducts outreach activities.

## Print Media

In 2007, UNU Press published 13 new titles, reprinted 9 titles and licensed 13 low-cost editions of its books for the South Asian market. Sales of UNU Press books surpassed 11,000 books during the year, while another 2,580 books were distributed as complimentary copies to scholarly journals and other book reviewers, institutions, dignitaries, libraries, non-governmental organizations, and key distributors for display and promotion at academic events and conferences.

Sales income for UNU Press in 2007 was up by 47 per cent from the previous year. The highest selling UNU Press titles during the year were *The Iraq Crisis and World Order* (Thakur and Sidhu, eds.), *Humanitarian Diplomacy* (Minear and Smith, eds.) and *Industrial Innovation and Environmental Regulation* (Parto and Herbert-Copley, eds.).

In addition to its regular book publications, UNU

Press produced nine UNU policy and research briefs.

## Digital Media

More than any other communications channel, the UNU website <<http://www.unu.edu>> represents the “public face” of the University. Indeed, for many the website is their major — and sometimes only — exposure to the work and activities of the UNU. Standards-based renovation of the main UNU website, begun in 2006, was continued in 2007, with a new template applied to all top-level pages of the English website and the main page of the Japanese website. A continuing emphasis in website page design has been to increase the UNU’s profile in search engine results; a mid-year assessment found that the number of visits to the UNU website had increased by 22 per cent from the previous year, while the number of pages viewed had increased by 37 per cent.

Online newsletters and blogs of the UNU system include:

- *UNU Update* <<http://update.unu.edu/>> by UNU Centre
- *WIDER Angle* <<http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/newsletter/>> by UNU-WIDER
- *e-CRIS* <<http://www.cris.unu.edu/newsletter.asp>> by UNU-CRIS,

- *I&T Weekly* <<http://www.merit.unu.edu/i&tweekly/>> and Access to Knowledge <<http://www.merit.unu.edu/a2k/>> by UNU-MERIT
- *TK Bulletin* <<http://tkbulletin.wordpress.com/>> by UNU-IAS.

The UNU, in cooperation with Australian National University, continued to publish the “PLECserv” research briefs <<http://c3.unu.edu/plec/index.html>> for the scientific and professional communities concerned with development and conservation in smallholder farming regions of the developing world.

Digitization of UNU project research outputs on “Japanese Experience: Technology Transfer, Transformation and Development” (published from the 1970s to 1990s) was achieved in cooperation with the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE); some 150 published digitized reports and books (many in Japanese) are now available on a bilingual website <<http://d-arch.ide.go.jp/>>.

UNU Press continued to expand its online presence through greater participation in the Google Book Search and Google Scholar programmes, and became one of the first publishers to join the Google Book Search Partner Program; users can easily search for recently published UNU Press titles. UNU Press also expanded its distribution agreements with e-book vendors ebrary and netLibrary, and signed an agreement with Mylibrary to promote UNU Press content online in e-book format. The UNU Video Portal <<http://c3.unu.edu/videoportal/>>, maintained by UNU Campus Computing Centre, offers access to broadcasts of major UNU events and other digital media presentations. More than 100 archived video presentations (including 17 new videos in 2007), many in both English and Japanese, are available for public viewing.

In June, the UNU Media Studio launched two websites to better respond to the main interests of online visitors: an Online Learning website <<http://www.onlinelearning.unu.edu/>> and a support website <<http://www.mediastudio.unu.edu/>>. Both sites are based on open source software, and the content is covered by Creative Commons licenses.

It also was an important year for the UNU Media Studio’s work in video documentary production. Building on its experience with the successful “Saving the Ayuquila River” video documentary and e-case

study, the UNU Media Studio produced a documentary focusing on day-to-day life in small communities in the Chichinautzin Biological Corridor (a natural protected area near Mexico City), in collaboration with Canadian production company Canaz and the Autonomous University of Morelos State. The 50-minute, high-definition video documentary, “Voices of the Chichinautzin”, and a supporting website <<http://onlinelearning.unu.edu/en/chinchinautzin/>> were completed in November.

## Media Liaison and Public Relations

In 2007, the UNU Office of Communications issued more than 50 media releases, leading to coverage of UNU events and research in major newspapers and on online news sites. Other media and PR activities in 2007 included a press conference and numerous interviews for the Rector, other UNU staff and prominent event participants; small, informal gatherings with members of the Japanese media; the appearance by a UNU staff member on the NHK satellite-TV “Asia Crossroads” programme; and a number of public information briefings (typically for university students).

## Library Services

The UNU Centre Library houses some 34,900 scholarly monographs, including almost 2,900 UNU publications and 5,800 United Nations publications. While the number of new physical acquisitions has been reduced due to budget and space constraints, this has been offset by an increase in available electronic publications. The expansion in electronic resources has been coordinated through the UN Consortium and the UNU System-Wide Consortium.

The UNU Library organized training sessions in information resources and electronic sources relevant to UNU and UN activities, provided opportunities for self-study, and assisted users to expand their research skills and manage knowledge resources. In 2007, the Library organized special sessions in June on the “World Integrated Trade Solution Database System” (presented by experts from UNCTAD and the World Bank) for UNU International Courses students and others; a semi-monthly “Workshop Seminar on UN Documentation and Tips for Researching”; a monthly “Workshop on UN

Statistics” and two-day training seminar in September for UN Depository Libraries in Japan (both organized jointly with UNIC Tokyo); and a monthly, public Library Lecture series focused on UN organizations and their information management (launched in December in cooperation with UNIC Tokyo).

## Public Events

In 2007, units of the UNU system organized or co-organized more than 330 public events.

Major “regular” events held in 2007 included:

- the inaugural UNU-MERIT Charles Cooper Lecture, by Prof. Raphie Kaplinsky, Sussex University (January, Maastricht)
- an International Women’s Day Public Forum on “Ending Impunity for Violence against Women” (organized by UNU Centre jointly with other UN agency offices in Japan; March, Tokyo)
- an Africa Day Symposium on “Financial Instruments for the Promotion of Infrastructure, Trade and Investment between Japan and Africa” (organized by UNU Centre in cooperation with the African Diplomatic Corps in Japan; March, Tokyo)
- the sixth UNU/UNESCO International Conference on Globalization — “Pathways Towards a Shared Future: Changing Roles of Higher Education in a Globalized World” (August, Tokyo)
- a Michio Nagai Memorial Lecture, by retiring UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel (August, Tokyo)
- a UN Day 2007 Symposium and outdoor events on the theme “The UN, Africa and Me: The First Step is Knowledge” (organized by UNU Centre jointly with other UN agency offices in Japan; October, Tokyo)
- a UNU-WIDER Public Lecture, by Samuel Santos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua (November, Helsinki)
- the first “International Conference on Electronic Governance” (ICEGOV2007, co-organized by UNU-IIST; December; Macao)
- eight UNU–UN Midday Forums (New York, UNU-ONY)
- four UNU-IAS Yokohama Roundtables (Yokohama)
- three UNU-IAS Biodiplomacy Discourse Lectures (Yokohama).

Major lectures organized by UNU in 2007 were:

- a lecture at UNU Centre by Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia (March, Tokyo)
- a lecture at UNU Centre by Dr. José Luis Machinea, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (March, Tokyo)
- a lecture at UNU Centre by Dame Rosalyn Higgins, President of the International Court of Justice (April, Tokyo)
- a lecture at UNU Centre by Bharrat Jagdeo, President of Guyana (June, Tokyo)
- a lecture at UNU Centre by Dr. Srgjan Kerim, President of the Sixty-Second Session of the United Nations General Assembly (August, Tokyo)
- a lecture at UNU-ILI by Prince Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan (October, Amman)
- the Fridtjof Nansen Memorial Lecture at UNU Centre, by Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway (November, Tokyo).

Other noteworthy public events held in 2007 included:

- a two-day UNU-Centre conference on “Women, Justice and Peacebuilding” (March, Tokyo)
- a two-day workshop on “Regional Social Policies” (organized by UNU-CRIS, Sheffield University (UK) and the UK Open University Centre for Citizenship, Identity and Governance; May, Bruges)
- a UNU-ONY and UNU-CRIS joint panel discussion on “How Can Regional Integration Contribute to Social Equity?” (June, New York)
- the UNU “Transition of the Rectorate” handing-over ceremony (August, Tokyo)
- a two-day National Public Health Colloquium on “Public Health Professionals: The Way Forward” (co-organized by UNU-IIGH, the National University of Malaysia, Public Health Association of Malaysia, and Ministry of Health of Malaysia; September)
- a two-day international conference on “Terrorism, Human Security and Development: Human Rights Perspectives” (co-organized by UNU Centre and the City University of Hong Kong School of Law; October)
- a four-day “International Conference on Rural Medicine” (co-organized by UNU-IIGH, the University Malaysia Sabah and the Ministry of Health of Malaysia; October)

- a symposium on “The African Food System: Its interaction with Health and Nutrition” (jointly organized by UNU-FNP and Cornell University; November, New York)
- a three-day “International Case-Mix Conference” (co-organized by UNU-IIGH, the National University of Malaysia and the Ministry of Health of Malaysia; November, Kuala Lumpur).

### Public Outreach Programmes

Eleven sessions of the UNU Global Seminar series were held worldwide: at seven locations in Japan (the Hokkaido, Shimane-Yamaguchi and Tohoku Sessions in August, the Kobe-Awaji and Shonan Sessions in September, the Kanazawa Session in November, and the Okinawa Session in December), and in Ghana (March), the Republic of Korea (July), Tajikistan (September) and Mexico (October). These 2007 UNU Global Seminar sessions were attended by almost 600 participants.

The UNU was active in public outreach in 2007. During the year, the Global Environment Information Centre (GEIC) provided support for the Japanese NGO Forum, which aims to submit policy recommendations to the 2008 G8 Summit in Japan. In May, GEIC joined with UNU-IAS and the Japan Ministry of the Environment to hold a symposium on “Biodiversity and Climate Change”.

The UNU Zero Emissions Forum (UNU-ZEF) held a seminar in May on “Global Warming and Challenge towards a Low-Carbon Consumption Society” and a symposium in November on “Global Warming Prevention – The Scope towards Sustainability and Advanced Practices for Global Warming Prevention” (both in Tokyo), as well as four forums in collaboration with local governments in Japan. Other UNU-ZEF activities included an April seminar in Beijing, a December symposium in Seoul, and the launch by the UNU-ZEF European Focal Point of an initiative on Solving the E-Waste Problem (StEP), which held a briefing on e-waste at the UN Headquarters in New York and a side-event at the Basel Convention Open Working Group Meeting 6 in Geneva.



**JAPAN Tokyo** — Jeremy Hedley of the UNU Office of Communications takes photos at a public event at UNU Headquarters.  
Photo: Curtis Christophersen/UNU





# Networking

*“The University shall have as a central objective of its research and training centres and programmes the continuing growth of vigorous academic and scientific communities everywhere and particularly in the developing countries....”*

— UNU CHARTER ARTICLE I.6

Within the increasingly globalized context of the UNU agenda, networking is a critical foundation for much of the University's work. Formal and informal cooperative relationships with other UN organizations are of particular importance. The following are selected examples of networking activities by units of the UNU system in 2007.

- Key partners of UNU-BIOLAC included the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology as well as the Governments of Costa Rica and Argentina, and LACC agencies for science and technology development. The RNBio Network was fully active.
- UNU-CRIS developed linkages with the five UN regional economic commissions as well as the DPA, DESA, ILO, UNCTAD, and UNESCO. UNU-CRIS also collaborated with several Belgian universities and the Royal Institute for International Relations–EGMONT.
- Most of the research activities of UNU-EHS were carried out in conjunction with partner institutions, including numerous regional and national agencies; national, provincial and local authorities; universities; and representatives of industry and the business community. Key UN system partners were GEF, UNCCD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNFPA, UNHCR and UN-Water. UNU-EHS also maintained cooperative links with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the International Organization for Migration.
- In addition to developing and formalizing a global network of collaborating academic institutions, UNU-FNP began to establish student/faculty exchange and joint research programmes. Cornell, Tufts and Wageningen have many ongoing collaborations that UNU-FNP is utilizing to expand its network. Key UN partners for UNU-FNP were FAO, IAEA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO; nearly all UNU-FNP activities were undertaken in collaboration with one or more UN agencies, in concert with the Standing Committee on Nutrition.
- UNU-FTP cooperated closely with the Icelandic Fisheries Laboratories, University of Iceland and University of Akureyri.
- Networking activities by UNU-IAS in Japan included collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; Ministry of the Environment; City of Yokohama; Ishikawa International Cooperation Research Centre; Japan Bioindustry Association; and Japanese Fair Trade Centre. Other significant institutional networking partners were the International Council for Science (ICSU), Academy of Sciences

for the Developing World (TWAS), Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and Organization of Islamic Countries. UNU-IAS links with the UN system encompassed collaborations with the Secretariat of the CBD, FAO, UNDP, UNEP and UNESCO, and membership in the UN-Biotech consortium.

- UNU-IIGH identified potential partners within the UN system and among international organizations, global health institutes, universities, and university networks and associations. Potential partners at the local level include the departments of community health in all medical faculties, foreign universities operating in Malaysia, government ministries and various local professional organizations and non-governmental organizations related to public health.
- In the area of electronic governance, UNU-IIST has built partnerships with governments in developing countries (such as Colombia, Mongolia, Nepal and Nigeria) and with UN system and international organizations (including the Canada School for Public Service, the OpenCourseWare Consortium, DESA, ESCAP and UNDP) as well as other centres of excellence in electronic governance (such as the US-based Center for Technology in Government) and private-sector organizations (including Microsoft).

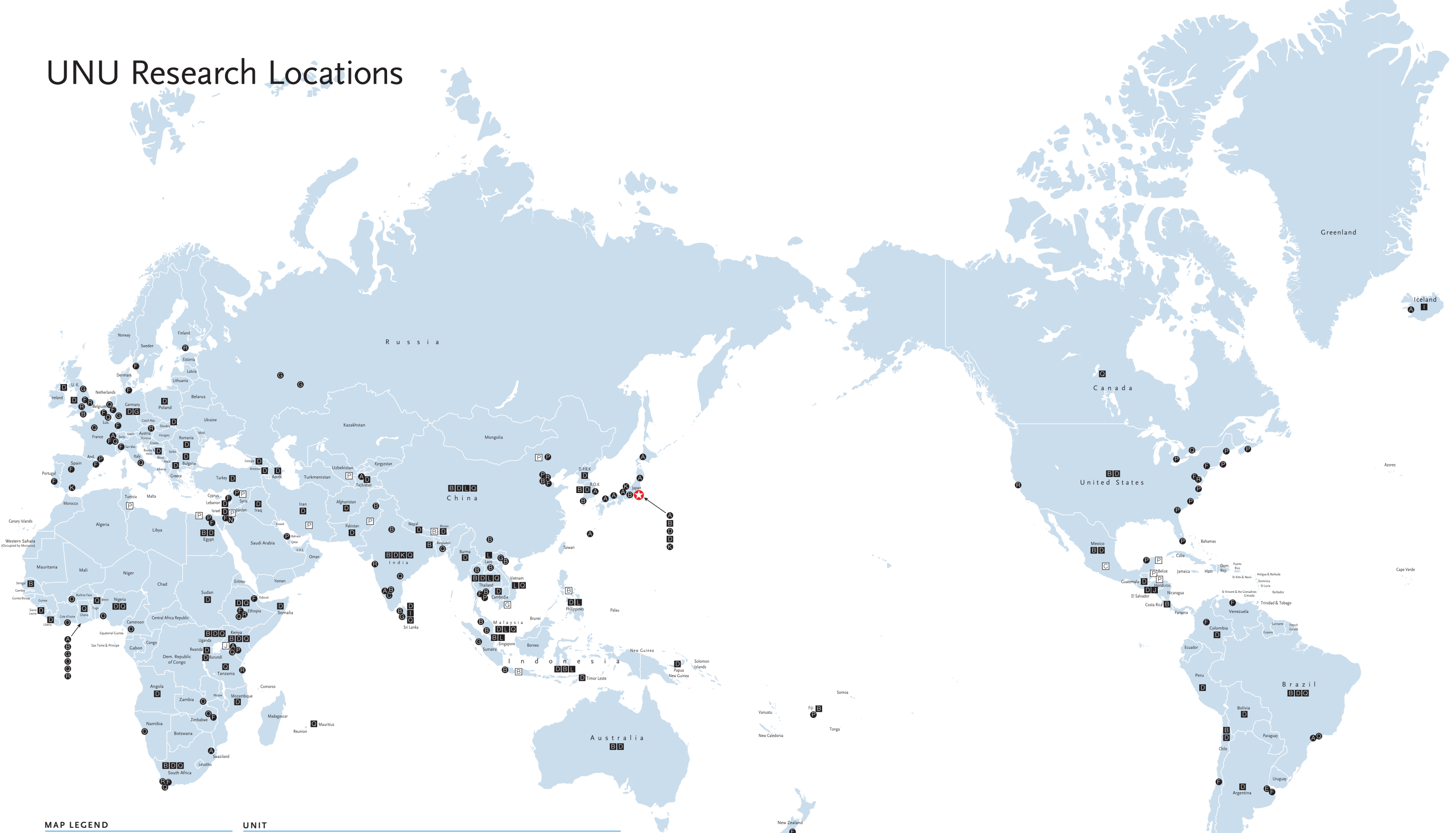
- The interaction between UNU-INWEH and McMaster University (Canada) continued to grow. Current and potential UNU-INWEH collaborators include AGFUND, CIDA, GEF and the Flemish Government of Belgium as well as several developing country partners.
- Key UNU-MERIT collaborators included three Netherlands' ministries (Foreign Affairs, Education and Development Cooperation) as well as FAO, the Advisory Council for Science and Technology Policy (AWT), International Development Research Centre, International Institute for Land Reclamation and Improvement, and UK Department for International Development.
- UNU-WIDER maintained an excellent relationship with the Finnish Foreign Ministry, and collaborated with the Ministry and the Helsinki Centre for Economics Research to organize regular seminars on topical issues with a strong policy focus. The Institute also linked and collaborated with numerous government, international and national institutions as a complement to its own views and available resources.

In 2007, the UNU worked with almost 50 UN system partners.

### Partners in the UN system

- Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
- Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)
- Department of Political Affairs (DPA)
- Department of Public Information (DPI)
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (SBC)
- Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Office of (UNHCR)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- United Nations Inter-Agency Committee on Freshwater (UN-WATER)
- United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (UNOLA)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Publications (UNP)
- United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
- World Bank
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)

# UNU Research Locations



MAP LEGEND

- ★ UNU Centre
- Town, City
- Region
- Country

UNIT

A	Capacity Development Programme	J	UNU-GTP
B	Environment & Sustainable Development Programme	K	UNU-IAS
C	Online Learning	L	UNU-IIGH
D	Peace & Governance Programme	M	UNU-IIST
E	UNU-BIOLAC	N	UNU-ILI
F	UNU-CRIS	O	UNU-INRA
G	UNU-EHS	P	UNU-INWEH
H	UNU-FNP	Q	UNU-MERIT
I	UNU-FTP	R	UNU-WIDER

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

# UNU Capacity Development Locations

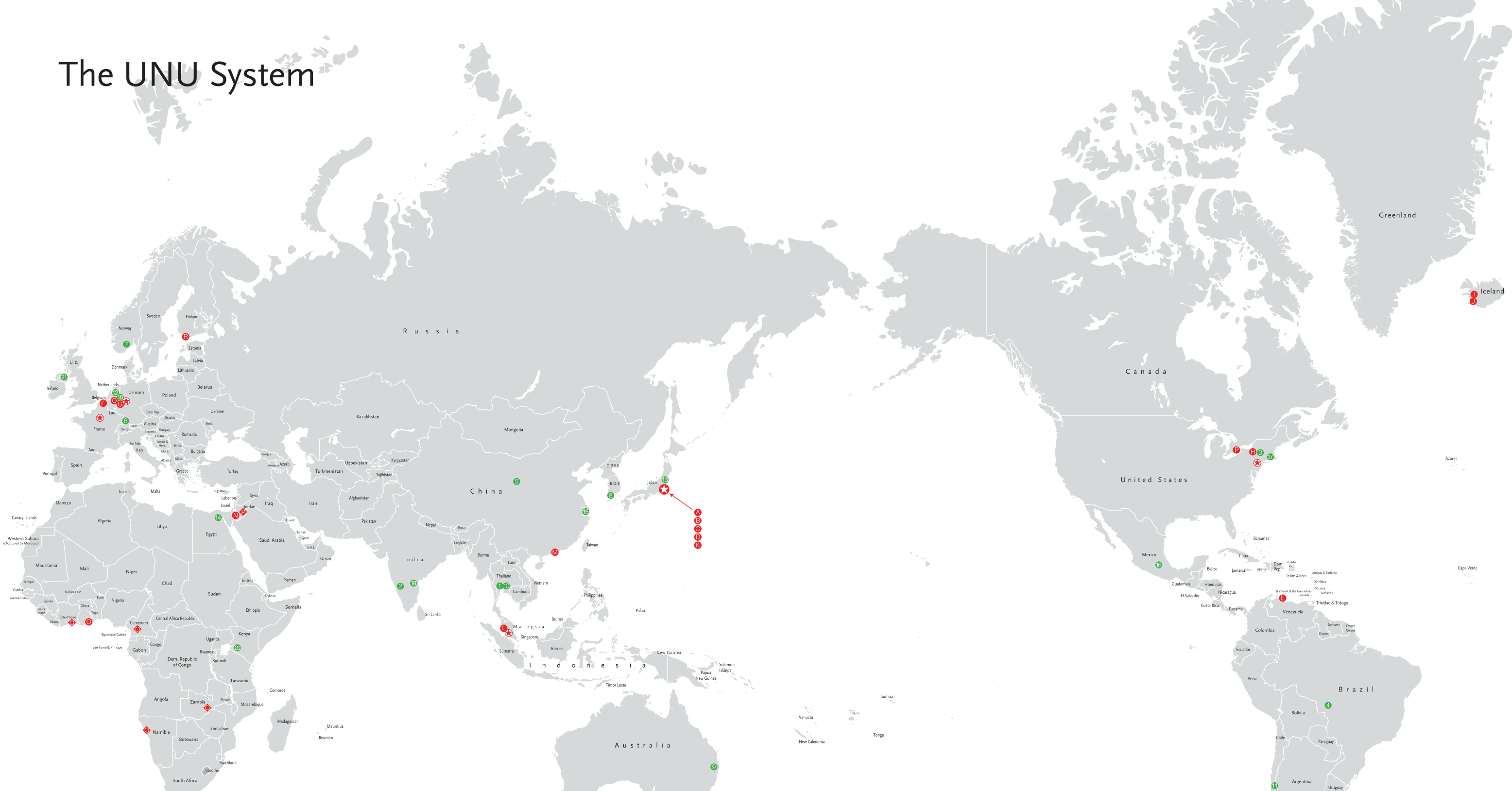


MAP LEGEND	
	UNU Centre
	Town, City
	Region
	Country

UNIT	
A	Capacity Development Programme
B	Environment & Sustainable Development Programme
C	Online Learning
D	Peace & Governance Programme
E	UNU-BIOLAC
F	UNU-CRIS
G	UNU-EHS
H	UNU-FNP
I	UNU-FTP
J	UNU-GTP
K	UNU-IAS
L	UNU-IIGH
M	UNU-IIST
N	UNU-ILI
O	UNU-INRA
P	UNU-INWEH
Q	UNU-MERIT
R	UNU-WIDER



The UNU System



UNU LOCATIONS SEE INSIDE FRONT COVER FOR MORE INFORMATION

★ UNU Centre – Tokyo	A Capacity Development Prog.	K UNU-IAS
★ UNU Centre – Kuala Lumpur	B Environment & Sustainable Development Prog.	L UNU-IIGH
★ UNU-VIE	C Online Learning	M UNU-IIST
★ UNU-ONY	D Peace & Governance Prog.	N UNU-ILI
★ UNU-OE	E UNU-BIOLAC	O UNU-INRA ◆ Operating Unit
	F UNU-CRIS	P UNU-INWEH ◆ Operating Unit
	G UNU-EHS	Q UNU-MERIT
	H UNU-FNP	R UNU-WIDER
	I UNU-FTP	
	J UNU-GTP	

UNU ASSOCIATED INSTITUTIONS

1 Asian Institute of Technology (Bangkok, Thailand)	12 International Institute for Geo-Information Science & Earth Observation (Enschede, The Netherlands)
2 Central Food Technological Research Institute (Mysore, India)	13 National Food Research Institute (Tsukuba, Japan)
3 Cornell University (Ithaca, New York, USA)	14 National Nutrition Institute, Ministry of Health and Population (Cairo, Egypt)
4 Federal University of Mato Grosso (Cuiaba, Brazil)	15 Shanghai Institute for Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences (Shanghai, China)
5 Gansu Natural Energy Research Institute (Lanzhou, China)	16 National Institute of Public Health (Cuernavaca, Mexico)
6 Global Fire Monitoring Centre, Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Sciences (Freiburg, Germany)	17 Tufts University (Boston, Massachusetts, USA)
7 GRID-Arendal (Arendal, Norway)	18 University of Bonn (Bonn, Germany)
8 Gwangju Institute of Science & Technology (Gwangju, Republic of Korea)	19 University of Madras (Chennai, India)
9 Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law, Griffith University (Nathan, Queensland, Australia)	20 University of Nairobi (Nairobi, Kenya)
10 Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University (Bangkok, Thailand)	21 University of Ulster (Londonderry, Northern Ireland, UK)
11 Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology, University of Chile (Santiago, Chile)	

# Senior Officers of the United Nations University

## UNU Centre

**Prof. Dr. Konrad Osterwalder**  
Rector (fifth Rector, from 1 Sept.)

**Prof. Dr. Hans van Ginkel**  
Rector (fourth Rector, until 31 Aug.)

**Prof. Ramesh Thakur**  
Senior Vice-Rector, UNU Peace and Governance Programme

**Prof. Itaru Yasui**  
Vice-Rector, UNU Environment and Sustainable Development Programme

**Dr. Janos Bogardi**  
Vice-Rector in Europe, ad interim

**Dr. François d'Artagnan**  
Director of Administration

**Mr. Max Bond**  
Executive Officer, Office of the Rector

**Dr. Jean-Marc Coicaud**  
Head, UNU Office at the United Nations, New York

**Prof. Marco Antonio Dias**  
Representative of the Rector at UNESCO, Paris

## UNU Research and Training Centres and Programmes

**Dr. Zafar Adeel**  
Director, UNU-INWEH

**Dr. Janos Bogardi**  
Director, UNU-EHS

**Dr. Ingvar Birgir Fridleifsson**  
Director, UNU-GTP

**Dr. Karl Harmsen**  
Director, UNU-INRA

**Dr. Luk van Langenhove**  
Director, UNU-CRIS

**Dr. José Luis Ramirez**  
Programme Coordinator, UNU-BIOLAC

**Dr. Jairam Reddy**  
Director, UNU-ILI

**Prof. George Michael Reed**  
Director, UNU-IIST

**Dr. Mohamed Salleh Mohamed Yasin**  
Director, UNU-IIGH

**Prof. Anthony Shorrocks**  
Director, UNU-WIDER

**Prof. Luc Soete**  
Director, UNU-MERIT

**Dr. Patrick Stover**  
Director, UNU-FNP

**Dr. Tumi Tomasson**  
Director, UNU-FTP

**Professor A. H. Zakri**  
Director, UNU-IAS

# Members of the Council of United Nations University

## Appointed Members (as of year-end 2007)

- **Amb. Jayantha Dhanapala** (Sri Lanka) (Chair of the Council), former Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations, New York, and former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in Geneva
- **Prof. Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad** (Qatar), President, Qatar University, Doha
- **Prof. Paolo Blasi** (Italy), Professor of Physics, University of Florence; former Rector, University of Florence
- **Prof. Dr. Eng. Lidia R. Arthur Brito** (Mozambique), Assistant Professor, Faculty of Agronomy and Forest Engineering, Eduardo Mondlane University; former Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology of Mozambique
- **Ms. Angela Cropper** (Trinidad and Tobago), President, The Cropper Foundation
- **Dr. Juan Ramón de la Fuente** (Mexico), Rector, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
- **Dr. Gloria Cristina Flórez** (Peru), Professor, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima
- **Prof. Dr. Louise Fresco** (The Netherlands), Professor of Foundations of Sustainable Development in International Perspective, Universiteit van Amsterdam
- **Dr. Eduardo Carrega Marçal Grilo** (Portugal), Trustee, Gulbenkian Foundation; former Minister of Education of Portugal
- **Mr. Ji Fusheng** (China), former Director General, Department of High Technology and Fundamental Research of China; former Counselor, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations
- **Prof. Fadia Kiwan** (Lebanon), Professor of Political Science and Director, Faculty of Law & Political Science, St. Joseph University, Beirut
- **Prof. Dr. Marju Lauristin** (Estonia), Professor of Political Communication, Tartu University; former Minister of Social Affairs of Estonia
- **Prof. Dr. Andrei Marga** (Romania), Professor of Contemporary Philosophy and Logic, and former Rector, Babes-Bolyai University
- **Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai** (Mauritius), President, The International Association of Universities
- **Prof. Dr. Otto S. R. Ongkosongo** (Indonesia), Geologist and Research Professor, Research Center for Oceanography, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Jakarta
- **Prof. Akilagpa Sawyerr** (Ghana), Secretary-General, Association of African Universities; former Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Law, University of Ghana
- **Prof. Dr. Komlavi Francisco Seddoh** (Togo), Former Director, Division of Higher Education, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris; former Rector and President of the Board, University of Lomé, Togo
- **Prof. Gita Sen** (India), Sir Ratan Tata Chair Professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore; Adjunct Lecturer at the Center for Population and Development Studies, Harvard University
- **Ambassador Terusuke Terada** (Japan), President, Foreign Press Center/Japan; former Ambassador of Japan to Mexico, Belize and Republic of Korea

- **Dr. Hebe María Cristina Vessuri** (Venezuela), Senior Researcher and Head, Department of Science Studies, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas (IVIC), Caracas
- **Dr. David Ward** (United States), President, American Council on Education; former Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- **Prof. Ivan Wilhelm** (Slovakia), Former Rector, Charles University, Prague
- **Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel** (Germany), President, German Rectors' Conference; President, Saarland University, Saarbrücken
- **Prof. Alison Wolf** (United Kingdom), Professor of Management and Professional Development, King's College London, University of London

## UNU Rector

**Prof. Dr. Konrad Osterwalder** (Switzerland)

## Ex-Officio Members

- **Mr. Ban Ki-moon** (Republic of Korea), Secretary-General, United Nations, New York
- **Mr. Koichiro Matsuura** (Japan), Director-General, UNESCO, Paris
- **Dr. Carlos Lopes** (Guinea Bissau), Executive Director, UNITAR

## Appointed Members Whose Term Ended in May 2007

- **Prof. Rafaa Ben Achour** (Tunisia), Secrétaire d'état auprès du ministre de l'éducation chargé de l'innovation pédagogique, Ministère de l'éducation, Tunisia
- **H.E. Prof. Ahmad Jalali** (Iran), Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNESCO, Paris
- **Prof. Peter H. Katjavini** (Namibia), Ambassador to Belgium and the European Union; Former Founding Vice-Chancellor, University of Namibia
- **Prof. José R. Martins Romeo** (Brazil), Rector, Colégio do Brasil
- **Prof. Dorothy L. Njeuma** (Cameroon), Vice-Chancellor, University of Buea, Cameroon
- **Prof. Jocelyne Perard** (France), Centre de Recherches de Climatologie, Université de Bourgogne – UMR CNRS, Dijon
- **Prof. Dagmar Schipanski** (Germany), President, Thüringian Parliament; Former Thüringian Minister of Science, Research and Art, Erfurt
- **Prof. Vappu Taipale** (Finland), Director-General, National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES), Helsinki
- **Prof. Juan Vela Valdes** (Cuba), Rector, Universidad de la Habana
- **Prof. Lyudmilla Verbitskaya** (Russian Federation), Rector, St. Petersburg State University





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UNIVERSITY



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