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PRESS INVITATION

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Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction: Lessons Learned from 3/11 for the World and the Future

DATE + TIME: Saturday, 14 March 2015, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

VENUE: TKP Garden City Sendai Kotodai

ORGANIZERS: Ministry of the Environment of Japan, UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-
IAS), and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

LANGUAGE: Japanese and English (simultaneous interpretation will be provided)

You are cordially invited to attend the international symposium "Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction: Lessons Learned from 3/11 for the World and the Future", which will be held as one of the side events at the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Public Forum on 14 March 2015. The event will start with opening remarks by Mrs. Akie Abe, Spouse of the Prime Minister of Japan.

Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and reconstruction is increasingly gaining international attention and its implementation is encouraged in decisions by the Convention on Biological Diversity. Ecosystems such as coral reefs, coastal forests and wetlands can function to reduce disaster risks, which can be leveraged and incorporated into existing disaster prevention measures. Such ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction is sustainable and cost-effective in the long term. It also contributes to climate change adaptation, the enhancement of local tourism, agriculture, and fisheries, as well as biodiversity conservation.

This symposium will showcase Japan's best practices, such as those in Kesenuma Oshima, based on the lessons learned from Japan's 11 March 2011 disaster, and refer to other cases outside of Japan. The event will discuss how to mainstream ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and reconstruction measures in Japan and internationally.

For more information and an event programme, please see the event page on the UNU-IAS website:
<http://ias.unu.edu/en/events/upcoming/mainstreaming-ecosystem-based-disaster-risk-reduction-and-reconstruction.html>

To register for the event, please send an email to geoc@unu.edu with your contact information (name, organization and telephone number). Journalists who have questions, or who prefer to register by email or phone, may contact Ms. Hana Takebe, UNU-IAS (geoc@unu.edu, +81 3 5467 1212).