

Bonn/ Dresden, 11 November 2010

## United Nations University Establishes Institute in Dresden: Scoping Workshop on UNU-FLORES Begins Today

*In Dresden, Germany's second Institute of the United Nations University (UNU) is about to be established. The UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES) will focus on sustainable management of resources, such as water, soil and waste. A scoping workshop on UNU-FLORES and its Twin Institute in Mozambique takes place today and tomorrow in Dresden. It will be attended by high-ranking delegates of the host countries Mozambique and Germany, scientists from Africa and the Arab region, international representatives of UN-Water and other UNU Institutes worldwide. The workshop aims to develop a strategy for the initial phase of UNU-FLORES, as well as to develop measures for establishing a Twin Institute in Mozambique. A Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of UNU-FLORES will be signed in the coming weeks by UNU, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Free State of Saxony and the Technical University of Dresden.*

"I am delighted that this international workshop lays the foundation for a new UNU Institute", said Prof. Dr. Konrad Osterwalder, Rector of UNU, today in Dresden. "UNU-FLORES will focus on issues of crucial importance in the area of sustainability, the hallmark of UNU. It's work will have an important North-South dimension as the Dresden based UNU Institute will have an African Twin Institute in Maputo, Mozambique. Only if we act and work together, we can tackle the enormous sustainability challenges we are facing. I thank all partners involved, especially the Saxonian State Minister Prof. Dr. Sabine von Schorlemer, for their excellent cooperation", added the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Saxonian's State Minister for Science and Art Prof. Dr. Sabine von Schorlemer: "The UN University has a new location in Dresden - which honors and fosters the research strength of Saxony at the same time. In cooperation with TU Dresden, scientists will work at UNU-FLORES together with researchers from the Twin Institute in Mozambique on the development of integrated and sustainable management strategies for the use of the resources water, soil and waste. Beyond pure knowledge sharing, the focus lies on building and strengthening skills and competencies, technologically, organizationally, as well as structurally.

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She announced that the total annual costs of about one million Euros in the initial phase will be funded half by the Federal Government and the Free State of Saxony; the latter will provide premises to accommodate the Institute.

The Rector of the Technical University of Dresden Prof. Hans Müller-Steinhagen: "Becoming a partner of the United Nations University is a great honor and commitment at the same time for TU Dresden. I regard this as recognition of the professional reputation of our disciplines, which are successfully dealing with the issue of an integrated resources management. Herewith we are meeting the requirement to develop efficient strategies to deal with the resources water, soil, air and the problem of waste. This challenge is indeed a global one and therefore, the right topic for a new United Nations University Institute."

UNU-FLORES will make a significant contribution to the development of integrated and sustainable management strategies for the use of the resources water, soil and waste. It is committed to research, postgraduate education and continuing education. It aims to work very closely with other UNU Institutes, as well as UN bodies (e.g., UN-Water) in the field of sustainability. Through the cooperation with TU Dresden (in particular the Faculty of Forestry, Geo and Hydro Sciences) and other research institutions in Saxony, the corresponding research areas should be strengthened at the international level and viewed in a global perspective.

#### **Workshop Information**

**Date:** 11th-12th November 2010

**Venue:** Steigenberger Hotel de Saxe, Neumarkt 9, 01067 Dresden

**Programme:** <http://unu-flores-mozambique.blogspot.com/search/label/iswprogramme>

**For more information about UNU-FLORES and the workshop:**  
<http://unu-flores-mozambique.blogspot.com>

#### **Background**

##### **United Nations University**

The United Nations University (UNU) is an autonomous organ of the United Nations General Assembly. UNU serves as a bridge between the academic world and the UN system. Its goal is to develop solutions for current and future problems of humankind in all aspects of life using systems thinking and a concentrated scientific approach. The headquarters of UNU are located in Tokyo, Japan. UNU has more than a dozen Institutes and Programmes world wide. In Germany (Bonn) UNU is represented by the Vice Rectorate in Europe, which is part of the Headquarters, and the Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). As part of UNU in Bonn, the "Secretariat of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change" (UNU-IHDP) and the "UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DCP) are hosted by the Vice Rectorate in Europe.

**For more information**

**United Nations University, <http://www.unu.edu/>**

**United Nations University Vice Rectorate in Bonn,  
<http://www.vie.unu.edu/>**

**UNU Institutions in Bonn, <http://www.vie.unu.edu/unuinbonn/>**

**Ministry of Science and Art of the Free State of Saxony,  
<http://www.smwk.sachsen.de>**

**Technical University of Dresden, <http://tu-dresden.de>**

**Faculty of Forestry, Geo and Hydro Sciences  
[http://tu-dresden.de/die\\_tu\\_dresden/fakultaeten/fakultaet\\_forst\\_geo\\_und\\_hydro\\_wissenschaften](http://tu-dresden.de/die_tu_dresden/fakultaeten/fakultaet_forst_geo_und_hydro_wissenschaften)**