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PRESS RELEASE

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UNU-ISP Forum Will Focus on the Human Consequences of the 11 March 2011 Disasters

EVENT: Public Forum: "11 March in Context: Human Security Perspectives"

DATE: 22 February 2012 (Wednesday), 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon

VENUE: United Nations University Headquarters, Tokyo

ORGANIZERS: United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP), Waseda University School of International Liberal Studies, RMIT Global Cities Research Institute

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- This event looks at the human consequences of the Great East Japan Earthquake of 11 March 2011, in comparison with other major natural disasters, such as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the 2008 Sichuan earthquake.
 - A panel of international experts (see <http://isp.unu.edu/events/2012/11-march-in-context.html>) will focus on the insecurities and vulnerabilities that are created and exacerbated by such disasters. Participants will consider how a "human security" approach, which often is used to understand armed conflicts, can help us better understand and respond to natural catastrophes.
 - By comparing Japan's experience with those of other countries, panelists will consider how natural disasters interact with pre-existing vulnerabilities, and how the consequences are influenced by specific social and cultural contexts. They also will examine the similarities and differences between natural disasters in highly developed countries, such as Japan, and those in developing countries.
 - This event is part of a collaborative research project on Human Security and Natural Disasters by UNU-ISP, the Waseda University School of International Liberal Studies and the RMIT Global Cities Research Institute. The project has been made possible by the support of the Japan Foundation.
 - **This event will take place in English.**

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. To confirm your attendance, please register online at <http://unu.edu/events/2012/11-march-in-context.html>.