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UN Day Will be Celebrated with a Public Forum at UNU Headquarters on 24 October

EVENT: United Nations Day Public Forum

THEME: "Post 'Rio+20: Achieving The Future We Want'"

DATE: Wednesday, 24 October 2012, 2:00-4:00 PM

VENUE: U Thant International Conference Hall, United Nations University Headquarters, Tokyo

ORGANIZERS: United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), United Nations University (UNU), Environmental Partnership Council (EPC)

COOPERATOR: Global Environment Outreach Centre (GEOC)

SUPPORTERS: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, UN agencies based in Japan, Global Compact Japan Network (GC-JN), Rio+20 related organizations, and others

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- United Nations Day (UN Day) is observed annually worldwide on 24 October to commemorate the founding of the United Nations in October 1945. UN Day 2012 will be celebrated in Tokyo with a public forum on the theme of "Post 'Rio+20': Achieving the Future We Want".
 - This forum will provide an opportunity to discuss what we can do to create a sustainable society, taking into account the process of setting Sustainable Development Goals as agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012.
 - At the Rio+20 conference, world leaders together with participants from the private sector, NGOs, academia and others discussed how to set a new course that balances the imperatives of robust growth and economic development with the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable prosperity and human well-being. The two main themes of the conference were how to build a green economy to achieve sustainable development and lift people out of poverty, and how to improve international coordination for sustainable development.
 - UNU organized a number of events at Rio+20, based on our research around the green economy, satoyama and education for sustainable development. Two landmark publications were launched including the book *Green Economy and Good Governance for Sustainable Development* (UNU Press) and *Weathering Uncertainty*, a joint UNU-UNESCO report that explores the role of traditional knowledge in assessing and adapting to climate change.
 - Immediately after Rio+20, Kazuhiko Takemoto, UNU Senior Fellow, noted that "the tremendous challenges our world is facing are being met with an equally impressive amount of energy and enthusiasm to find the right solutions".

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- In moving forward from Rio+20, UNU recognizes that sharing perspectives and experiences among various sectors and strengthening cooperation are critical in our efforts to build a sustainable society. This is why we are delighted to be the host of this year's UN Day celebrations.
- The UN Day Public Forum will open with a video message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon as well as special remarks by Govindan Parayil, UNU Vice-Rector, and by Naoki Kazama, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. There will be a keynote address by Janos Pasztor, Executive Secretary of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, followed by a discussion featuring panelists from the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society, the Japan Youth Ecology League, and Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank. The panel discussion will be followed by a question and answer session.
- Simultaneous Japanese-English interpretation will be provided. For more information, including a list of forum participants, see: <http://unic.or.jp/unic/news/2813/#entry-english>

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend, but pre-registration is required. To register, please send an e-mail message to event@untokyo.jp with your name, affiliation, and contact information (including phone number and e-mail address).

For press inquiries, please call UNIC at 03-5467-4451.

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