



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-IAS

Institute for the Advanced Study
of Sustainability

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Newsletter 1



UNU-IAS GEOC

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability GEOC Programme

For Our Sustainable Future

The United Nations University (UNU) is a global thinktank and postgraduate teaching organization headquartered in Japan. The mission of UNU is to contribute, through collaborative research and education, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States. In carrying out this mission, the UN University works with leading universities and research institutes in UN Member States, functioning as a bridge between the international academic community and the United Nations system. As one of UNU's 13 institutes and programmes, located in 12 different countries, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) is a leading research and teaching institute based in

Tokyo, Japan. Its mission is to advance efforts towards a more sustainable future, through policy-oriented research and capacity development focused on sustainability and its social, economic and environmental dimensions. UNU-IAS serves the international community, making valuable and innovative contributions to high-level policymaking and debates within the UN system.

The activities of the institute are in three thematic areas: sustainable societies, natural capital and biodiversity, and global change and resilience. UNU-IAS applies advanced research methodologies and innovative approaches to challenge conventional thinking and develop creative solutions to emerging issues of global concern in these areas.

It all started with one meeting

In the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development as well as Agenda 21, which were adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil in 1992, it was declared that a

sustainable society should be developed by a partnership approach. They encouraged partnerships among the public, private, and community sectors, and urged governments, business and industry, including transnational corporations, to strengthen partnerships to implement the principles and criteria for sustainable development.

In response, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (which was still the Environment Agency at the time) and the United Nations University joined hands to establish the Global Environment Outreach Centre (GEOC) in October 1996. In order to realize a sustainable society, GEOC contributes to improving communications and outreach between stakeholders through establishing partnership.

United Nations University will roll out various activities and projects to promote sustainable development through GEOC programme, in which we closely collaborate with the Ministry, in view of international discussions on the environment and sustainable development.



GEOC Global Environment Outreach Centre

GEOC, a joint programme between the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and UNU, contributes to improving communications and outreach between stakeholders through establishing partnership in order to realize a sustainable society.



UNU-IAS GEOC's Major Activities from 2010 to 2014

Three Pillars

International Information Centre

GEOC will collect and provide information on various activities related to environment and sustainable development issues implemented by international organizations, governments, universities, companies and NGOs.

Forming Multi-Stakeholder Platforms

GEOC will support the creation of multi-stakeholder platforms and encourage information exchange between individuals and organizations for resolving environmental issues.

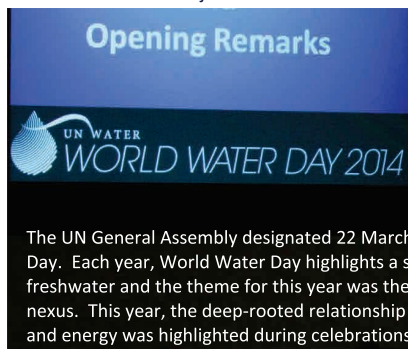
Outreach to Civil Society

GEOC will provide information about international initiatives regarding environment and sustainability to individuals and organizations by harnessing websites, publications, Internet magazines, seminars, symposiums and workshops.

geoc.jp
ias.unu.edu/jp

2014

Symposium "Thriving with Nature on Islands: Leveraging Their Multifaced and Interconnected Characteristics" in conjunction with the UN International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) (Tokyo, 22 May)



UN Official Celebration of World Water Day
(Tokyo, 20-21 March)

Symposium "Building Sustainable Community through Partnerships: The World and Japan from the Scope of the Sustainable Development Goals" (Tokyo, 19 February)

2013

International Symposium "Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction" in commemoration of the 1st Asia Parks Congress (Tokyo, 12 November)

Symposium "Ecosystem Service, Communities and the Sanriku Reconstruction National Park" in conjunction with the UN IDB (Tokyo, 22 May)

Special Lecture "Inclusive Wealth Index for Sustainable Society" (Tokyo, 7 January)

2012

International Symposium "World Heritage for Peace and Sustainability" in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention (Tokyo, 10 November)

International Symposium "The Future We Want from Rio+20: Building Partnerships for Green economy and Society" (Tokyo, 6 November)



Rio+20 Official Side Event "Building Resilience toward Disasters in the 21st Century" (Rio de Janeiro, 18 June)

Symposium "Living with Bountiful Sea" in conjunction with the UN IDB (Tokyo, 22 May)

Symposium "Formulating Partnerships through Rio+20" (Tokyo, 19 March)

International Symposium "Domestic Measures to Implement the Obligations under the Nagoya Protocol" (Tokyo, 8 March)

2011

Global Launching of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (Kanazawa, 17-19 December)



The decade was proposed by the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and officially declared by the 65th session of UN General Assembly to highlight the importance of raising public awareness of biodiversity-related issues and the momentum achieved by the International Year for Biodiversity. UNU-IAS has taken part in outreach activities in the area of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), through not only the global launching but also the annual celebration of the IDB every year.

International Symposium "The Post Earthquake Rebuilding Support Symposium" in conjunction with the UN IDB (Tokyo, 23 May)

2010

CBD/COP10 Official Side Event "Satoyama Governors' Summit" (Nagoya, 20 October)

"Biodiversity Governors' Summit: Satoyama/Satoumi Use and Conservation - Revitalizing Local Communities" in conjunction with CBD/COP10 (Nagoya, 19 Oct)

