

# International Symposium — Living with Deserts II: Linkages between Dryland Science and On-the-Ground Practice

- Event:** Public Symposium for International Year of Deserts and Desertification
- Date/Time:** Friday, 25 August 2006 (Noon – 6:00 PM)
- Venue:** U Thant International Conference Hall, 3F, UN House (Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)
- Organizers:** United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations University (UNU), Tottori University Arid Land Research Center (TU-ALRC), University of Tokyo The Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S), Ministry of Environment, Japan (MOE), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), Japan Green Resources Agency (J-Green)
- Supporters:** Science Council of Japan (SCJ), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan (MOFA), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan (MAFF), Japanese Association for Arid Land Studies (JAALS), Japan Forum on International Agricultural Research for Sustainable Development (J-FARD)
- Cooperator:** Global Environmental Forum (GEF)

## Background:

- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was adopted in 1994, and entered into force in 1996. To commemorate a decade of effort, the United Nations General Assembly has declared 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD) in order to raise public awareness and to highlight desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.
- Drylands cover more than 40 per cent of the Earth and are home to nearly 2 billion people -- one-third of the world's population. Poverty, unsustainable land management and climate change are turning drylands into deserts, and desertification, in turn, exacerbates and leads to poverty.
- It is estimated that between 10 and 20 per cent of drylands are already degraded. The problem is particularly acute in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where dryland degradation is a serious obstacle to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, and is jeopardizing efforts to ensure environmental sustainability. The exacerbation of desertification also deeply concerns its far-reaching implications for the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals which must be met by 2015.
- IYDD will also celebrate the fragile beauty and unique heritage of the world's deserts. The unique natural habitats with their diverse fauna have been home to some of the world's oldest civilizations.

## About the Symposium:

- This symposium is the second of a series, following an international conference held in May 2004. It offers an opportunity for networking of international research and activity within the field of dryland research. Symposium participants will review the research and outcomes produced to date and discuss future directions; specialists will discuss how we can help those who live in the desert achieve better lives in the future. (For your information, a tentative programme is attached.)
- Simultaneous English-Japanese interpretation will be provided.
- The symposium is open to the public, but advance registration is required. Those interested in attending should contact the Global Environmental Forum IYDD Secretariat Office at tel: 03-3592-9735, fax: 03-3592-9737, e-mail [iydd@nifty.com](mailto:iydd@nifty.com) (Mr. Takeshi Chizaki); the registration deadline is 16 August. More information is available online at <http://www.alrc.tottori-u.ac.jp/iydd/>.
- For those unable to attend, the symposium will be “webcast” live (and archived) at <http://c3.unu.edu/unuvideo/>
- Symposium participants are also invited to attend the 13th U Thant Distinguished Lecture by Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, former President of Iran. The Lecture will be held at the same venue from

9:30a.m. Separate registration is required (see [http://www.unu.edu/uthant\\_lectures/index.htm](http://www.unu.edu/uthant_lectures/index.htm)), and further detailed information available at the same webpage.

- An International Conference on Dryland Studies and Combating Desertification will be held at Tottori Prefectural Culture Hall on 27 (Sunday) and 28 (Monday) August. More information is available online at <http://www.alrc.tottori-u.ac.jp/iydd/>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend the Living with Deserts Symposium. Please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: [media@unu.edu](mailto:media@unu.edu)) by 24 August to confirm your attendance.

**International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD)**  
**Tokyo Event: International Symposium**  
**“Living with Deserts II: Linkages between Dryland Science**  
**and On-the-ground Practice“**

- 12:00–12:20 Opening Address  
Hama Arba Diallo (Executive Secretary, UNCCD)  
Gaku Hashimoto (Member, House of Representatives, Japan; on behalf of the late Ryutaro Hashimoto (IYDD Honorary Spokesperson, former Prime Minister of Japan))  
Kiyoshi Kurokawa (President, SCJ)
- 12:20–13:50 Keynote Speech  
Mahmoud Mohamed Bachir El-Solh (Director General, ICARDA (Syria))  
Wang Tao (Director General, CAREERI (China))  
Youba Sokona (Executive Secretary, OSS (Tunisia))  
Hans van Ginkel (Rector, UNU)
- 13:50–14:20 Short Break
- 14:20–16:05 Panel Discussion 1: Role of dryland science in combating desertification  
Panellists:  
Zafar Adeel (Director, UNU-INWEH (Canada))  
Atsushi Tsunekawa (Director, TU-ALRC)  
Kazuhiko Takeuchi (Deputy Executive Director, IR3S)  
Houcine Khatteli (Director General, Institut des Regions Arides Medenine (Tunisia))  
Shi Peijun (Vice President, Beijing Normal University (China))  
Barry Shapiro (Director, ICRISAT (India))  
Moderator: Shinobu Inanaga (President, JIRCAS)
- 16:05–17:50 Panel Discussion 2: Practices on the ground in combating desertification  
Panellists:  
Pietro Laureano (Director, IPOGEA (Italy))  
Kikue Sugimoto (Deputy Representative, NGO Human Network)  
Norio Ishida (Emeritus Professor, Kyoto University)  
Naoya Shimizu (Director, Research and Design Division, Overseas Activities Department, J-Green)  
Makoto Kitanaka (Group Director, Group 3, Rural Development Department, JICA)  
Charmine Koda (Director, UN Information Center)  
Moderator: Iwao Kobori (Senior Programme Advisor, Environment and Sustainable Development Programme, UNU)
- 17:50–18:00 Closing Remarks  
Itaru Yasui (Vice Rector, UNU)
- 18:15–20:15 Reception