



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-EHS

Institute for Environment
and Human Security

PRESS RELEASE

On 4 June 2007 between 19:30 and 21:15 you will have the opportunity to hold interviews on site at the UN Campus, 29th floor, Hermann-Ehlersstr. 10, Bonn, with Professor Hans van Ginkel, Rector of UNU; Parliamentary Secretary Andreas Storm, BMBF; Professor Matthias Winiger; Rector of the University of Bonn; and Professor Janos J. Bogardi, Director of UNU-EHS.

***THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (UNU) inaugurates its Vice Rectorate in Europe in Bonn
BMBF and UNU signing a strategic partnership agreement***

The United Nations University (UNU) and the Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMBF) will be signing an agreement on the establishment of a UNU Vice Rectorate in Europe (UNU-ViE) on 4 June 2007 at the UN Campus in Bonn.

The foundation of UNU-ViE will be marking the establishment of the first UNU Vice Rectorate outside Tokyo. It constitutes an important building block towards the aim to strengthen the UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY's presence in Europe, and a further step in its process of decentralization. The Vice Rectorate is expected to develop good relationships with agencies and programmes within the UN system, international and regional organizations, governmental bodies and other entities such as enterprises and public and private sector organizations, as well as university and research institutions and foundations primarily located in Europe. These endeavours are further supported by the long standing partnership existing between UNU and the 'Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelm' University of Bonn. The two universities signed an association agreement in March 2007.

UNU-ViE's main focus of topical attention will concentrate first and foremost on questions relating to 'Science and Technology to Ensure Human Security'. Important themes within this context are climate change, energy security, and environmental degradation. The regional focus of UNU-ViE is on Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and Africa. The multidimensional co-operation with the Centre for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn has already materialized in joint projects in Africa and Central Asia. UNU-ViE's activities shall concentrate primarily on the initiation, support, and co-ordination of projects aiming to develop intellectual capacity building and knowledge transfer. To this end, it is intended to carry out numerous scientific exchange programmes involving Europe, Africa and Central Asia and a larger number of UNU research and training centres.

The decision to select Bonn as the seat of the new Vice Rectorate is attributable, among several reasons, to the former German capital's strategic proximity to other UN cities such as Rome, Vienna, Paris, and Copenhagen. This advantage will allow UNU-ViE a wide access to important institutions such as UNESCO and OECD in Paris, the EU in Brussels, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), to cite just a few. Furthermore, many other UN organizations are also located in Bonn, among them the Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), one amongst UNU's 14 research and training centres, which assumed operations in December 2003 and whose thematic focus complements the scope of work of the new Vice Rectorate. Professor Janos Bogardi, Director of UNU-EHS, has been appointed as Vice Rector ad interim by the Rector of UNU, Professor Hans van Ginkel, effective 1 May 2007.

Since UNU-ViE forms part of the Rector's Office, the Vice Rector in Europe will support the Rector accordingly, particularly in regard to the co-ordination of the University's activities in this area.

On 4 June 2007 Parliamentary Secretary Andreas Storm, on behalf of BMBF, and Rector Hans van Ginkel, on behalf of UNU, shall sign a strategic Co-operation Agreement which also includes the Ministry's support to UNU-ViE. By promoting this venture, BMBF enhances and strengthens the Bonn region as a leading edge scientific location, and helps ensure the establishment of a sustainable and globally visible network linking science to research. BMBF's contribution amounts to a total of 5 million Euros until the year 2011.

The Rector of the University of Bonn, Professor Matthias Winiger, the Association Commissioner of the University of Bonn, Professor Paul Vlek, and the Director of the UNU-EHS Institute in Bonn, Professor Janos Bogardi, shall be present to witness the signing ceremony.

About UNU - Background Information

The UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (UNU) was founded in 1973 by the UN General Assembly. As an international community of scholars it serves as the University's think tank. UNU sees itself as a bridge between the academic world and the UN system. The UNU headquarters are in Tokyo, Japan.

UNU has been contributing to the development of capacity building for 30 years, mostly in developing countries, and constitutes a forum for dialogue and exchange of ideas. Its scope of work comprises more than 25 thematic clusters allocated to five thematic fields and can be subsumed under two main fields: Peace and Governance and Sustainable Development.

For further information, kindly visit our website: www.unu.edu and/or www.ehs.unu.edu.

ACCREDITATION FORM

Please fax back to the following number: + 49 228 815-2777
Alternatively, you may wish to send an email to Karen.Foernzler@uno.de
until NOT LATER THAN 1 June 2007

4 June 2007

19:00 h

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY INAUGURATES VICE RECTORATE IN BONN

**UN CAMPUS
Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10
D-53113 Bonn**

Yes, I would like to attend:

Name:

Function/Title:

Type of media/affiliation:

Address:

Telephone/fax:

Email:

Should you be accompanied by other persons, kindly indicate their full names and function. Many thanks!

Please do not forget to bring your identity card / passport to ensure admission to the UN Campus!