

Training Series on Biodiversity

Participation Costs

Some 30 participants from the Asia-Pacific region will be selected for the training workshop. UNITAR scholarships, given in priority to least developed country candidates, will cover tuition fees, travel, accommodation and meals. Candidates from industrialized countries are requested to obtain financial support from their country/organization. For those covering their own expenses, please note that the average cost for hotel and meals for five days in Kushiro is around \$600US and return flights from Tokyo to Kushiro are about \$700US. The final decision as to the conditions for participation remains with UNITAR.

Selection Criteria

Selection, by an *ad hoc* committee composed of UNITAR and the Faculty, will be based on the candidate's merits, opportunities for a training role and the potential benefits (s)he may gain from the workshop in the conduct of her/his daily professional duties. *The short paper consisting of a case study and letter of motivation enhancing UNITAR's Training of Trainers (ToT) initiative, submitted by the applicant, will also be considered* (as will the candidate's background, a fair geographical distribution and gender balance). Candidates should be nominated by appropriate national/institutional authorities.

The **working language of the training workshop is English**. A good understanding of spoken and written English is thus mandatory.

Application Procedure

Call for applications are sent through diplomatic channels to the Member States of the United Nations, Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and other multilateral instruments in the Asia-Pacific region as well as to all UNDP Resident Representatives therein. The UNITAR Alumni Network will also be consulted. Interested individuals and organizations can submit the completed **application form, Personal History (CV) and two recommendation letters** from the applicant's supervisors as well as the requested **short paper** (consisting of a case study and letter of motivation). Please refer to the annexed *Instructions for the Short Paper*. Incomplete application documents as well as those reaching UNITAR HOAP after the closing date will not be considered.

Notification of selection will be made by mid-July 2006.

The attached application form accompanied by a personal history (CV), two (2) recommendation letters from different individuals/organizations and the requested short paper should be submitted, preferably by EMAIL, at the latest, by 15 June 2006 to:

UNITAR Hiroshima Office for Asia and the Pacific (HOAP)
hiroko.nakayama@unitar.org
or by Fax : +81/(0)82/211 0511

Application can also be made through the UNITAR HOAP website:
<http://www.unitar.org/hiroshima/programmes/kushiro06>

ECOSYSTEM, WATER AND BIODIVERSITY



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Series co-organized with the



Kushiro International Wetland Centre

In partnership with



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Convention on Biological Diversity

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Kushiro: Biodiversity in Action

The Kushiro wetland, the largest in Japan, is closely connected to the lives of the area's population and as such, deeply valued by them. The wetland has a rich biodiversity that contributes significantly to the economy and the quality of life in the region. As a reflection of the wetland's importance, the City of Kushiro is actively developing projects about it in order to share experiences with others around the world and to promote knowledge about the cohabitation with and protection of nature.

Since the ratification of the Ramsar Convention in 1980, efforts to increase the number of listed sites in Japan have intensified. In the recent ninth Conference of Parties (COP9) in Uganda, Japan inscribed 20 wetlands, bringing to 33 the number of its Ramsar wetlands. It also committed to intensifying its international cooperation through the Ramsar framework, both in providing leadership in the Asia-Pacific region and in assuming capacity-building efforts and promoting information/technical transfer therein. In the forthcoming workshop, participants will visit the Kushiro wetland and the newly inscribed Akan Lake for gaining practical experiences.

The UNITAR Series on Biodiversity started in 1998 with the financial support from the Government of Japan and the cooperation of the City of Kushiro and its Kushiro International Wetland Centre (KIWC). Between 1998 and 2004, UNITAR organized five week-long workshops for the Asia-Pacific region. UNITAR and KIWC have gained considerable experience and numerous partners; more than 150 participants from some 38 countries have thus far benefited from the Series. The Series provides increased attention to policy matters, aiming to promote not only information and knowledge, but also ready-to-use skills. Over the years, the resource persons and participants have formed a strong network of information exchange regarding biodiversity management.

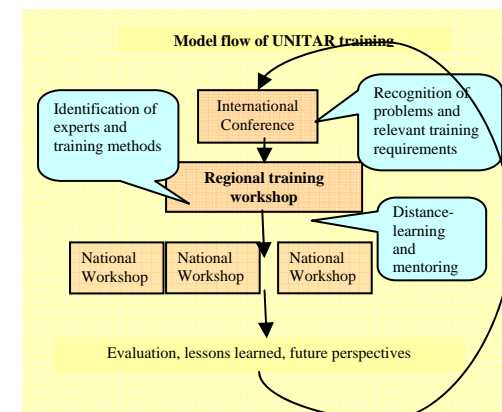
Wetlands, Biodiversity and Water

The ecosystem approach as embraced in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) points at the subtle relationship between conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from genetic resources. Though endorsed by international conventions, the ecosystem approach is not uniform to all countries. Policy adapted to the specific context of each site, country or region should be developed. For that reason the workshop will take a case-study and lessons-learned approach and will select those applicants who can present interesting case studies that will provide lessons to other countries in the region.

Water management is a key to the ecosystem-based management of wetlands. These areas are highly vulnerable to the impact of human activities and mirror the sensitive balance between conservation and wise use. The ecosystem there within is inherently rich and diverse, and dwells in a constant state of fluctuation. Based on the successful outcome of the 2004 workshop which focused on *water management as a tool for comprehensive ecosystem approach*, the 2006 workshop will further pursue this direction to suggest more ready-to-use policy alternatives.

UNITAR and its Training Methodologies

In order to expand the impact of training, UNITAR HOAP gives increasing importance to Training of Trainers (ToT). Selected trainers (from among workshop participants) will be invited to submit projects for national/sub-regional level training. UNITAR supports training projects in areas such as project development, fundraising and methodology development. UNITAR Faculty provides advice on thematic matters through distance-learning and the dispatch of experts.



Objective and Methodology

The objective of the Series on Biodiversity is: to contribute to national policy planning related to biodiversity conservation and management in the Asia-Pacific region, through:

- introducing the participants to updated information and diverse experiences, highlighting priority topics in the field;
- building the professional knowledge and personal training skills of workshop participants;
- equipping the participants with techniques to put into practice the information/knowledge acquired; and
- creating a forum for capacity-building and the exchange of experiences.

Multiple training methodologies such as after-action-review, peer review during sessions and in follow-up, study tours and debriefings and group work are used. One of the expected outcomes is for UNITAR participants to serve as trainers in their respective countries/institutions. In this regard, the ToT aspects will be further pursued. **Study tours** to the Kushiro Wetland and Akan Lake will provide additional case studies and learning opportunities.

Faculty and Participants

UNITAR will work in close partnership with the Secretariat of the CBD, UNEP, Ramsar Convention, UNESCO, IUCN, UNU and selected local, Japanese and regional organizations in designing and carrying out the Series. The Faculty for the workshop will comprise of experts contributing to UNITAR programmes along with additional experts from Japan and beyond.

Participants (up to 30) will include national policy-makers and project managers in environmental and water management, as well as international and non-governmental organizations working in the field of biodiversity. National representatives may also apply from other sectors related to environmental and water management, such as ministries of public works, planning, health or agriculture. A few slots will be made available to representatives of academic institutions and think-tanks as well as to representatives of civil society. It is envisioned that participants will reflect a multi-disciplinary mix, including professionals from legal, policy, economic and scientific backgrounds.