



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY



United Nations University 2016 Annual Report

Contents

Introduction	3
Council Chair's Message	4
Rector's Message	5
About the United Nations University	6
Human & Financial Resources	7
Contributions Received	8
Governance	9
Leadership	10
Organisational Structure	11
Selected Highlights	13
Institutional Priorities	16
The Work of UNU	18
Research Projects	19
Policy Linkages	23
Education & Capacity Development	25
Public Events	27
Communications & Dissemination	30

United Nations University
53-70 Jingumae 5-chome
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925 JAPAN

Visit UNU online: unu.edu

Copyright © 2017 United Nations University. All Rights Reserved.

ISBN 978-92-808-9037-2

All photographs in this report were contributed by UNU staff, unless otherwise indicated.
Cover: UN Photo/Tobin Jones

Introduction

Since 1975, the United Nations University (UNU) has been conducting evidence-based research that addresses real-world concerns. The aim of UNU's research is to provide credible, objective guidance aimed at solving both the current and emerging global challenges facing humankind.

UNU balances three related identities, functioning as:

- a solutions-focused research institution
- a think tank for the United Nations (UN) system
- a postgraduate training and capacity development organisation

UNU's identity as a knowledge-generating UN institution brings credibility to the University's work, while the policy focus of its research enables UNU to serve as a bridge between global policy and academic communities. UNU is uniquely positioned to mobilise interdisciplinary academic networks to examine challenges that are, or may one day be, the subject of debate at the United Nations.

The University's research programme integrates projects that deliver insights on current policy challenges with medium-term "horizon" studies that examine emergent issues. UNU provides policymakers and practitioners with fresh, critical perspectives on complex issues by translating science-based research findings into comprehensible, policy-relevant analyses and recommendations.

In its training and capacity development efforts, UNU seeks to help individuals enhance their capacity for self-sustained learning and innovation and, by doing so, to strengthen global academic and scientific communities — particularly in developing and transitional countries.

The world has been changing at unprecedented speed in terms of technological advances, demographic shifts, economic conditions, political complexities, and human impacts on the environment. These changes are interconnected in ways that remain poorly understood — and even as some chronic problems are mitigated, new challenges emerge.

Reflecting the evolving state of the world, UNU has been implementing institutional and operational changes (under its *Strategic Plan 2015–2019*) to ensure that its research focus and activities remain responsive to the current needs of the United Nations and its Member States, and that UNU research findings can have a tangible and positive impact on intergovernmental policy deliberations.

This document provides an overview of the global UNU system in 2016. The "About UNU" section highlights institutional developments and achievements during the year, while "The Work of UNU" section presents a snapshot of selected research projects, policy linkages, and educational and informational activities.

Council Chair's Message

On behalf of the Council of the United Nations University, I am pleased to extend our warmest greetings on the publication of the *UNU 2016 Annual Report*.

It is an honour to have this opportunity to present my first "message" as Chair of the Council. Speaking on behalf of my colleagues who joined the UNU Council in May, I would like to thank our predecessors — in particular, the most recent Council Chair, Professor Mohamed H.A. Hassan — for their valuable insights and advice on the governance role of the Council. I would also like to commend UNU's leadership — Rector Malone, members of the Management Group, and the Directors of the University's institutes and programmes — for their considerable achievements during the past year, as evidenced in this annual report.

In 2016, UNU embarked on its fifth decade of activity. Looking over the University's growth and development, it is remarkable to see how UNU has managed to rise to the challenge of addressing new global problems in every decade since its establishment.



Some of the University's first research institutes were pioneers in their fields: UNU-WIDER and UNU-MERIT stand out as notable examples. And the University's recent ambitious and innovative research agendas are earning UNU wider recognition in policymaking and academic communities the world over. These include the interdisciplinary, policy-oriented work on the sustainable management of water, soil, and waste by UNU-FLORES; the online platform of the UNU Migration Network, which is helping make UNU a significant voice on migration issues; and cutting-edge research on security restructuring, fragile cities, and modern slavery by UNU-CPR and UNU-ONY.

The broadened reach of the UNU system — with branches most recently established in Portugal, Spain, and, soon, Algeria — and the growing scope of its research topics are clear evidence of the University's continued agility and resilience.

Among the many important initiatives undertaken by UNU in 2016, there is one that will be of particular significance for UNU's future. The University is bolstering its effort to achieve gender balance, with a view to achieving gender parity in management positions by 2021. While UNU has long enjoyed relative gender parity among its personnel overall (currently 51% male, 49% female), senior staff positions remain male dominated. It is encouraging that the current UNU Council has more female than male members, but more needs to be done. A vital part of this effort is the new UNU Policy on Gender Equality, which includes ambitious targets endorsed by the UNU Council.

In closing, I would like to thank you, the reader, for your interest in UNU. I hope that, like me, you will find this annual report a useful resource. It offers a quick but comprehensive snapshot of the University and its major initiatives and accomplishments, of which I hope you will agree there are many.

Radha Kumar

United Nations University Council Chair

Rector's Message

I am delighted to introduce the United Nations University's *2016 Annual Report*.

Looking back on the year 2016, the value of a research organisation like the United Nations University could not be clearer. In an environment where science and evidence-based research are increasingly being called into question, the University's core mission only grows in importance: delivering timely, reliable, and objective evidence-based research for policy development and decision-making.

As in previous years, this annual report documents the University's many research collaborations with sister agencies in the United Nations, with the UN Secretariat, and with scientific and policymaking communities distributed across the globe. However, it also calls attention to a less-noted aspect of the University's mission: namely, its vocation to bridge academic and policymaking communities. A key contributor of innovative, evidence-based policy thinking, the University serves frequently as a platform for open exchange and debate between policymakers and leading thinkers.

Early in 2016, UNU demonstrated how its unique identity as both a UN entity and a research organisation could be leveraged to benefit both academic and UN policymaking communities. UNU convened a two-day roundtable in Geneva that brought together senior UN representatives as well as leading think tanks and researchers from the Global South to discuss ways of strengthening research uptake across UN policy processes. The meeting forged consensus on the importance of supporting UN policy processes with substantive research, as well as the need for researchers to provide an evidence base tailored for policymaking. In a similar exercise later in the year, UNU brought together UNESCO Member States, scientific experts, and UN representatives to consider the results and import of research focused on the nexus of water, soil, and waste for national policies geared at implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

In these cases, and many others like them detailed in this annual report, it was the University's unique position in two very different communities — the United Nations and academia — that enabled it not only to identify and address niche policy challenges, but to bring a multitude of voices from around the world to contribute ideas and solutions.

Over several decades, the University has cultivated relationships with sister agencies of the United Nations and forged rich, collaborative relationships with scientific communities in the Global North and South. These diverse, valued relationships enable UNU to bring fresh thinking and outside perspectives into policymaking processes. We are ever-grateful to our collaborators, host governments, and donors that support this important work in an environment of rapid, sometimes disquieting change.

I hope you will enjoy reading this annual report and find in it evidence of the University's unique research offerings at the frontier of policymaking for a sustainable future.

David M. Malone

Rector of the United Nations University
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations



About the United Nations University



“Responding to Crises” conference in Helsinki, 23-24 September.

The United Nations University (UNU) is a solutions-focused think tank and research arm for the United Nations system. The mission of UNU is to provide the United Nations system, and UN Member States, with relevant, reliable evidence-based research that contributes to the debate and development of policy regarding “pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare”.

UNU operates as an autonomous organ of the UN General Assembly, under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations and UNESCO. The University carries out its work in collaboration with other UN system entities — agencies, programmes, commissions, funds, and convention secretariats — as well as with leading universities, research institutes, and think tanks worldwide. In doing so, UNU acts as a bridge between UN policy circles and global academic communities.

UNU seeks to:

- influence policymaking within the UN system and at international, regional, and national levels
- contribute to UN assessments and to the work of other UN system entities and civil society organisations
- raise awareness about pressing global issues, and contribute to the rethinking/revisiting of existing policies and perspectives
- assist developing countries to enhance their institutional and individual capacities for research and teaching, and support developing country academic communities
- provide specialised postgraduate-level training, develop relevant interdisciplinary curriculums, and further the advancement of science-based knowledge

This section introduces the UNU system — its structure, governance/leadership, resources, and current priorities — and presents some of the year’s highlights.

Human & Financial Resources

Budget

UNU receives no funds from the regular United Nations budget. UNU is financed solely by voluntary contributions — from host governments of the University’s institutes, foundations, agencies, international organisations, and others (see the table for contributions received by UNU in 2016) — and by investment income derived from the UNU Endowment Fund (which had a year-end market value of more than US\$330 million).

The UNU budget for the 2016–2017 biennium is US\$117.6 million. Of this amount, it is anticipated that about 67% of UNU’s biennial income will be derived from core funding (operating contributions, UNU Endowment Fund interest income, and cumulative surplus carried forward), 30% from special project contributions (SPC), and 3% from other income.

Personnel

UNU’s unique blend of human resources is by far its most important asset. UNU staff, personnel, and contractors have expertise in research that spans a wide range of issues and disciplines.

UNU strives to achieve gender parity; as of 2016 year-end, the global UNU system had a personnel complement of 725, of which 51% were male and 49% female. While a significant gender gap remains at the director and senior staff levels, UNU has put in place new measures aimed at achieving gender parity in all mid-career and senior professional positions by 2021.

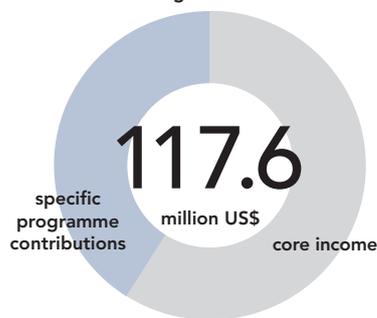
UNU also seeks to ensure that developing countries are duly represented; in 2016, 38% of UNU personnel were developing country nationals.

By employment category, UNU personnel in 2016 comprised 65 “professional staff” and 43 “general services staff” supplemented by 205 PSA (personnel service agreement) employees and 412 contract workers.

Personnel



2016-2017 Budget



Contributions Received

1 January – 31 December 2016

MEMBER STATES	US Dollars		
Australia	111,690	Farmer's Market Association	177,864
Belgium	313,231	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies	590,642
Cameroon	1,363,814	Institute of Development Studies	108,225
Canada	1,592,357	Ishikawa Prefecture	234,654
Denmark	151,515	Japan Educational Exchanges and Services	31,900
European Union	1,560,205	Japan Foundation for the United Nations University	311,411
Finland	2,205,637	Japan Science and Technology Agency	248,044
Germany	4,185,800	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science	69,161
Japan	8,068,097	Kanagawa International Foundation (KIF)	63,450
Korea, Republic of	60,123	Kanazawa City	239,478
Liechtenstein, Principality of	10,277	Korea International Cooperation Agency	61,000
Luxemborg	202,985	Kirin Holdings Company, Ltd.	230,224
Macau	452,298	Maastricht City Council	373,689
Netherlands	1,167,899	Maastricht Graduate School of Governance	157,140
Norway	934,579	McMaster University	45,629
Portugal	2,000,000	Munich Climate Insurance Initiative	289,320
South Africa	397,332	Munich Re Foundation	161,118
Spain	609,568	Munich Re Insurance (Münchener Rückversicherung)	28,345
Sweden	795,948	New Partnership for Africa's Development, Planning and Coordinating Agency	40,909
Switzerland	61,052	Nippon Koei Co., Ltd.	29,695
United Kingdom	149,947	Rockefeller Foundation	29,881
USA (Environmental Protection Agency)	40,000	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund	200,000
Subtotal	26,434,354	United Nations Development Programme	224,358
		United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	149,966
OTHER CONTRIBUTORS		United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	27,681
African Development Bank Group	429,500	United Nations Environment Programme	194,569
Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation	20,442	United Nations Industrial Development Organization	39,641
Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research	72,131	University of Copenhagen, Department Of Economics	214,041
Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation	38,957	University of Hannover	44,391
Asian Development Bank	92,180	University of Tokyo	21,436
AXA	33,296	Wellcome Trust	61,305
Cardiff University	70,604	Other donors (31 other donors with individual contributions of less than US\$20,000)	225,484
The Christensen Fund	65,500	Subtotal	6,323,822
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	110,354	TOTAL	32,758,176
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH	104,176		
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst	170,384		
Deutsches Zentrum für Luft-und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR)	121,373		
Edmonton Power Corporation Water Services Inc.	70,274		

* In addition to the above amounts, in 2016 UNU benefited from indirect contributions not paid directly to the University, including support from the Government of Iceland for the activities of UNU-FTP, UNU-GEST, UNU-GTP and UNU-LRT.

Governance

The **UNU Council** serves as the governing body of the University; its responsibilities include, *inter alia*, devising and adopting the principles and policies that govern UNU's operations, and approving the UNU budget and work programme. The 16-member Council — which comprises 12 appointed members, the UNU Rector, and three *ex officio* members (the UN Secretary-General, the UNESCO Director-General, and the UNITAR Executive Director) — normally convenes two sessions each year.

Appointed members of the Council serve in an individual capacity and not as representatives of their country's government. They are selected with an eye to achieving a geographic and gender balance, with due regard to each member's field(s) of expertise. On 3 May, 12 new appointed members joined the UNU Council, replacing the retiring 2010–2016 cohort of Council members:

- **Prof. Ernest Aryeetey** (Ghana), Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana
- **Prof. Carlos Henrique de Brito Cruz** (Brazil), Scientific Director, São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP); Professor, Gleb Wataghin Physics Institute, State University of Campinas
- **Prof. Simon Chesterman** (Australia), Dean, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
- **Amb. Elizabeth Cousens** (USA), Deputy Chief Executive Officer, United Nations Foundation
- **Ms Isabel Guerrero Pulgar** (Chile), Director, IMAGO Global Grassroots; Lecturer at Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- **Ms Angela Kane** (Germany), Senior Fellow, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation; Professor, Sciences Po
- **Dr Segenet Kelemu** (Ethiopia), Director General and CEO, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
- **Dr Bassma Kodmani** (Syria), Executive Director, Arab Reform Initiative
- **Dr Radha Kumar** (India) (UNU Council Chair), Former Director General, Delhi Policy Group
- **Prof. Irena Lipowicz** (Poland), Professor, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw
- **Prof. Tsuneo Nishida** (Japan), Director, Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University; Director, Toho Zinc Co., Ltd
- **Prof. Lan Xue** (China), Dean, School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University; Director, China Institute for S&T Policy

For more about the UNU Council and Council member profiles, see unu.edu/about/unu-council.

The **65th session of the UNU Council**, held in Vienna on 3–4 May, served as an orientation for the new Council members. The topics discussed at that session included, *inter alia*:

- an overview of UNU and its governance
- the functioning of the UNU Council and responsibilities of Council members
- institutional development and quality control
- the *UNU Strategic Plan 2015-2019*
- leading examples of policy-relevant research at UNU
- UNU finances, human resources, fundraising, and communications and outreach efforts
- ongoing and new institutional development initiatives

The agenda of the **66th session of the UNU Council**, held at UNU Headquarters in Tokyo on 13–14 December, included, *inter alia*:

- an oral report by the Rector on “the State of the University”
- the 2016–2017 biennium financial overview
- progress reports on ongoing and new institutional development initiatives
- a progress report on implementation of the *UNU Strategic Plan 2015-2019* and the recommendations of the 40-year evaluation
- discussion of a new policy on gender equality
- brief annual reports of the UNU institutes, programmes, and operating units
- adoption of the draft “Report of the Council of the University for 2016”

Leadership

The Rector (Dr David M. Malone), who holds the rank of UN Under-Secretary-General, serves as the chief academic and administrative officer of UNU. Based at UNU Headquarters in Tokyo, the Rector is responsible for the direction, organisation, administration, programming, and coordination of the University, in accordance with the general policies and criteria formulated by the UNU Council.

The Rector is supported by the Office of the Rector, which assists in executive management and coordination, provides overall direction in matters of governance and policy development, supports the work of the UNU Council, and manages the legal affairs of the University.

The Rector is assisted by a Management Group — senior UNU personnel who advise on policy development, strategy, planning, and other priority issues. The Management Group comprises the Rector, the Vice-Rectors (Prof. Taikan Oki and Prof. Jakob Rhyner), the Director of Administration (Dr François d’Artagnan), and the Executive Officer (David Passarelli).

For profiles of Office of the Rector and Management Group members, see unu.edu/about/unu.

Directors

The Directors of UNU’s institutes and programmes have direct oversight over the formulation of their institute/programme’s budget, human resources, and research and programme development. (For a list of UNU Directors, see the “Organisational Structure” on page 11.) The UNU institute and programme Directors benefit from the guidance and oversight of, respectively, international Advisory Boards and Advisory Committees.

The Conference of Directors (CONDIR), which convenes once per year, provides an opportunity for the Directors of UNU’s institutes and programmes to meet and discuss matters of policy and coordination, as well as research programming. At the 48th session of CONDIR at UNU Headquarters in Tokyo on 12 December, after a summary by the Rector of developments since CONDIR47, the Directors considered such topics as the roles and responsibilities of board members, project management guidelines and improvements, communications, a revised gender equality policy, and UNU’s approach to migration research. As this CONDIR session coincided with the 66th session of the UNU Council, the Directors also had an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with members of the UNU Council.

Leadership Changes

Among senior-level personnel changes at UNU in 2016 were the following:

- In January, Dr Iván Galindo-Castro was appointed Interim Coordinator of UNU-BIOLAC, following the retirement of former programme coordinator Dr José Luis Ramírez.
- In July, Dr Vladimir Smakhtin joined UNU as Director of UNU-INWEH. He succeeds Dr Zafar Adeel, who had served as UNU-INWEH Director since 2006.
- In September 2016, Dr Obijiofor Aginam assumed the position of Officer-in-Charge (Acting Director) of UNU-IIGH.
- In October, Professor Taikan Oki (University of Tokyo) joined UNU as Senior Vice-Rector; in that role, he holds the rank of UN Assistant-Secretary-General. He succeeds Professor Kazuhiko Takeuchi, who served as UNU Senior Vice-Rector from July 2008 through June 2016.
- In October, David Passarelli (previously Chief of Staff) assumed the role of UNU Executive Officer.
- At the end of December, Max Bond retired from UNU after 34 years of service. Among his various roles, he served as Executive Officer from 2003 to September 2016 and (concurrently) as Vice-Rector from August 2014 until his retirement.

Organisational Structure

UNU operates as a global network of academic institutes, programmes, and operating units coordinated by UNU Centre in Tokyo.

UNU Centre

UNU Centre serves as the administrative, coordination, and services hub of the global UNU system. In addition to the Headquarters unit in Tokyo, Japan (which houses the Office of the Rector, the Administration and Finance Services unit, the Office of Communications, and the Campus Computing Centre), UNU Centre incorporates several adjunct offices:

- an auxiliary Administration and Finance Services unit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- the **UNU Vice-Rectorate in Europe** (UNU-VIE, Bonn, Germany; host of the Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme)
- the **UNU Centre for Policy Research** (UNU-CPR, Tokyo; Director: Sebastian von Einsiedel)
- the **UNU Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance** (UNU-EGOV, Guimarães, Portugal; Head *ad interim*: Luís Barbosa)
- a liaison **Office at the United Nations in New York**, USA (UNU-ONY; Head: James Cockayne)

Institutes

The main research and academic work of the University is carried out by a global network of 11 research and training institutes:

- **UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security** (UNU-EHS, Bonn, Germany; Director: Jakob Rhyner)
- **UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources** (UNU-FLORES, Dresden, Germany; Director: Reza Ardakanian)
- **UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa** (UNU-INRA, Accra, Ghana; Director: Elias Ayuk)
- **UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability** (UNU-IAS, Tokyo, Japan; Director: Kazuhiko Takemoto)
- **UNU Institute for Water, Environment and Health** (UNU-INWEH, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; Director: Vladimir Smakhtin)
- **UNU Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies** (UNU-CRIS, Bruges, Belgium; Director *ad interim*: Anthony Antoine)
- **UNU Institute on Computing and Society** (UNU-CS, Macau, China; Director: Michael Best)
- **UNU Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility** (UNU-GCM, Barcelona, Spain; Director: Parvati Nair)
- **UNU International Institute for Global Health** (UNU-IIGH, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Officer-in-Charge: Obijiofor Aginam)
- **UNU Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology** (UNU-MERIT, Maastricht, Netherlands; Director: Bart Verspagen)
- **UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research** (UNU-WIDER, Helsinki, Finland; Director: Finn Tarp)

A 12th UNU institute, the **UNU Institute for Sustainable Development** (UNU-IRADDA, Algiers, Algeria) is in a start-up phase.

Programmes

UNU programmes are smaller research operations. These are:

- **UNU Programme for Biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean** (UNU-BIOLAC, Caracas, Venezuela; Interim Coordinator: Iván Galindo-Castro)
- four Iceland-based training programmes:
 - **UNU Fisheries Training Programme** (UNU-FTP; Director: Tumi Tomasson)
 - **UNU Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme** (UNU-GEST; Director: Irma Erlingsdóttir)
 - **UNU Geothermal Training Programme** (UNU-GTP; Director: Ludvik Georgsson)
 - **UNU Land Restoration Training Programme** (UNU-LRT; Director: Hafdís Hanna Aegisdóttir)

For more about the units of the global UNU system, visit unu.edu/about/unu-system.

UNU System Map



★ ADMINISTRATIVE & ACADEMIC SERVICES UNITS

- UNU Centre – Tokyo, Japan
- UNU Centre – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- UNU Vice-Rectorate in Europe, Bonn, Germany
- UNU Office at the United Nations in New York, New York, NY, USA

◆ OPERATING & SPECIAL UNITS

- UNU-CPR Tokyo, Japan
- UNU-EGOV Guimarães, Portugal
- UNU-IAS Kanazawa, Japan
- UNU-INRA Yaoundé, Cameroon; Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Dakar, Senegal; Lusaka, Zambia

◆ INSTITUTES & PROGRAMMES

- UNU-BIOLAC Caracas, Venezuela
- UNU-CRIS Bruges, Belgium
- UNU-CS Macau, China
- UNU-EHS Bonn, Germany
- UNU-FLORES Dresden, Germany
- UNU-FTP Reykjavik, Iceland
- UNU-GCM Barcelona, Spain
- UNU-GEST Reykjavik, Iceland
- UNU-GTP Reykjavik, Iceland
- UNU-IAS Tokyo, Japan
- UNU-IIGH Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- UNU-INRA Accra, Ghana
- UNU-INWEH Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
- UNU-LRT Reykjavik, Iceland
- UNU-MERIT Maastricht, Netherlands
- UNU-WIDER Helsinki, Finland

Selected Highlights

January

On 1 January, UNU's Bonn-based Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) unit — previously an operating unit of UNU-IAS — was relaunched as a programme hosted by UNU-ViE. The activities of SCYCLE remain focused on the development of sustainable production, consumption, and disposal patterns of ubiquitous goods, with a focus on electrical and electronic equipment. The programme also leads the Issue Management on “E-waste” in UN's Environmental Management Group.

February

UNU made a presentation to the 11 February meeting on “Building Synergy and Coherence in the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in the Context of the 2030 Development Agenda”. That meeting, organised at UN Headquarters under the UN General Assembly, provided input to the Istanbul Programme of Action's comprehensive high-level midterm review.

UNU co-hosted a 26 February workshop at the German House in New York to present the *World Risk Report*. More than 100 UN officials, diplomats, and scientists participated in that event.



“Strengthening the UN's Research Uptake” conference in Geneva, 25-26 April. Photo: Ioan Nicolau

April

UNU played a notable convening and research role in support of the debate on illicit drugs policy in the lead-up to the 19–21 April UN General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem (UNGASS 2016) at UN Headquarters in New York.

A two-day conference on “Strengthening the UN's Research Uptake”, co-organised by UNU and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, was held on 25–26 April in Geneva, Switzerland. The conference was attended by some 40 heads of research and policy units from within the UN system as well as by representatives of more than 50 leading international think tanks and research organisations. The post-conference report highlights a broad range of recommendations on how to bridge the chronic research–policy gap at the UN.

June

In early 2016, the Free University of Brussels (VUB) and Ghent University were selected to serve as new host universities for UNU-CRIS. In June, UNU, the Government of Flanders, and the two host universities reached agreement on future funding for the institute. That agreement, signed in November, will enable UNU-CRIS to be relaunched in early 2017.

UNU organised a side event at the first annual “Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals”, held 6–7 June 2016 at UN Headquarters in New York.

UNU co-organised an event at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris with the International Hydrological Programme on “Achieving SDGs: A Nexus Approach to Managing Environmental Resources”. The 22 June event was attended by more than 100 officials and representatives from some 75 Permanent Delegations and numerous UNESCO Secretariat offices.

July

In 2014, UNU and the Government of Spain negotiated an addendum to the Host Country and bilateral agreements for UNU-GCM, and in 2015 the Governments of Spain, Catalonia, and Barcelona reached an agreement that ensures the continuity of the institute’s operations through the end of 2018. In July 2016, that agreement was signed by UNU and the Government of Spain.

August

UNU contributed to the Report of the Secretary-General on “Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition”, presented on 3 August to the UN General Assembly. The University’s input drew attention to how SDG #2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture) interconnects with many other Sustainable Development Goals, and outlined the importance of applying a nexus approach to achieve sustainable solutions to food production.

UNU contributed to the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI, 27–28 August in Nairobi, Kenya). This included organising a Youth Entrepreneurship Forum on 28 August as part of the main summit programme as well as three pre-conference thematic side events.



Building on a long-standing partnership between UNU-MERIT and the Consortium pour la Recherche Economique et Sociale (CRES) at the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, in 2011 it was proposed that a new UNU institute be established in Senegal. In March 2014, UNU signed a Host Country Agreement with the Government of Senegal as a step toward establishing the UNU Institute for Economic and Social Research (UNU-IESR) in Dakar. Based on discussions between UNU and the Government of Senegal in May and August 2016, and subsequent informal exchanges, it is anticipated that a bilateral funding agreement will be signed in 2017.

The UNU policy brief “Safeguarding the Future of the Global Seaweed Aquaculture Industry”, published in August, highlighted the magnitude of the industry (which represents almost 50% of global mariculture production), its importance for livelihood in developing countries, and emerging environmental impacts.

September

UNU has been an important voice on UN responses to modern slavery, human trafficking, and forced labour. UNU's efforts led to the publication on 8 September of a report ("Fighting Human Trafficking in Conflict: 10 Ideas for Security Council Action") that helped shaped debates in the UN Security Council. UNU has also strengthened its collaboration on these issues with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

In the wake of the corruption scandal surrounding former President of the General Assembly (PGA) John Ashe, UNU played a significant role in instigating and influencing discussion among UN Member States on the ethical responsibilities of the PGA, and prepared a working paper on the subject. This effort led to adoption by the UN General Assembly on 13 September of the UNU-drafted "Oath of Office and Code of Ethics" for the PGA and his office.

During the year, UNU made preparations for the Rector to assume the Chair of the Global Migration Group (from 1 January 2017). The GMG is a high-level UN inter-agency mechanism comprising 21 entities involved in migration-related activities. Already an active member of the GMG, UNU led the drafting of one of the concept notes prepared for roundtables at the 19 September UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants. Ahead of that summit, members of the UNU Migration Network also collaborated on the publication of a series of blog posts to draw attention to key challenges in the governance of migration and policy-making.

October

UNU was active at, and during preparations for, the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III, 17–20 October in Quito, Ecuador). UNU's participation included launching the multilingual "Thrive Global" publication on 19 October and convening conference side events on 17 and 20 October. A series of expert commentary articles was also published on the main UNU website.

UNU and the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative published an October policy report on "Making Climate Risk Insurance Work for the Most Vulnerable". The purpose of the report, which included guiding principles for the sector, was to inform and advise the G7 initiative on climate risk insurance (InsuResilience).



November

UNU made significant contributions to the 22nd meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (7–18 November in Morocco). This included organising or participating in several side events, press conferences, and a panel discussion.

December

UNU played an active role at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (4–17 December in Cancún, Mexico). UNU organised and co-organised several side events and contributed to a high-level discussion. UNU serves as secretariat of the 190-member International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative, which was discussed in the COP13 plenary.

Institutional Priorities

To make the most effective use of its limited human and financial resources, UNU focuses its work on areas where it deems that it can make a significant contribution. This judgement is based on such criteria as:

- the relevance of the issue to UN priorities (and to the needs of policymakers and developing countries, in particular)
- the potential to develop new insights and policy recommendations
- the extent and severity of the problem
- the identification of a critical gap (in knowledge or capacity)
- the perceived potential for developing replicable solutions

The evolving focus and priorities of UNU's work are contained in a series of multi-year strategic plans.

UNU's Strategic Plan

The *UNU 2015-2019 Strategic Plan* outlines UNU's mission and focus for the specified period; summarises the main elements of ongoing institutional reform; explores UNU's research, thematic programme, and education/capacity development priorities; and elucidates the plan's implementation and monitoring mechanisms. The plan places a renewed focus on the first two of the above criteria; it calls for the University's expertise and resources to be focused on topics that are of particular relevance to the United Nations and its Member States, and for UNU research findings (and UNU researchers) to become more visible and accessible to policymakers and UN officials.

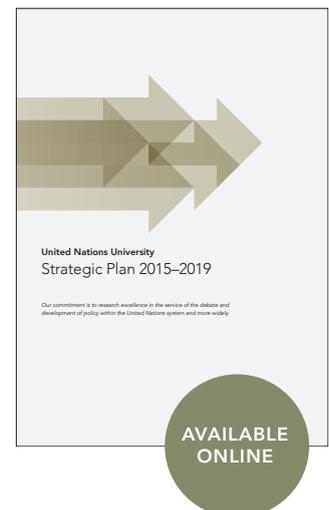
This push has led to a growing awareness within the UN system of UNU's intellectual offerings and potential intersections with current policy debates. In particular, through the work of the Tokyo-based UNU-CPR and New York-based UNU-ONY, the University has successfully contributed to a number of ongoing policy discussions and reviews within the UN Secretariat, and has offered research and policy support to the permanent delegations of several Member States.

The *UNU 2015-2019 Strategic Plan* sets out three key organisational priorities:

Strengthening management – The role of the Office of the Rector has been refined to focus on providing strategic guidance, thereby encouraging greater autonomy in management and planning at the institute level. Institute advisory boards have been empowered to take a more active role in oversight and strategic orientation. An ongoing effort is being made to ensure that board membership (as well as senior leadership systemwide) represents an appropriate geographic, age, and gender balance.

Ensuring sustainable growth – A new benchmark financing model has been introduced to ensure the medium- and long-term financial stability of all new (and existing) UNU institutes. This includes requiring at least five years of core operational funding as well as a capital contribution to the UNU Endowment Fund by host governments. For any future expansion, particular attention will be given to regions that remain under-represented within the UNU system.

Streamlining partnerships – New research and capacity development partnerships will be limited to those that are of clear strategic advantage to UNU. Ongoing partnerships that are judged to be either financially unstable or not sufficiently meaningful for UNU are being phased out.



Other Prioritised Initiatives

Among other prioritised initiatives of the global UNU system for the 2016–2017 biennium (and beyond) are the following:

Restructuring capacity development activities – Existing MSc programmes continue to receive support, but preference is being given to developing PhD-level programmes (as these have more potential to contribute to UNU research activities and to help to build capacity in developing countries). Outside of the University’s formal degree programmes, UNU capacity development activities are being measured against new, stricter standards of relevance and impact, with preference given to initiatives that take place in developing countries.

Setting research priorities – The strategic plan stipulates that, going forward, UNU research activities will eschew quantity (numerous small, opportunistic research projects) in favour of quality (fewer but more-ambitious, high-impact research efforts), and that policy-relevant research and advice will be prioritised over academic-focused studies. As part of this effort, increased collaboration across UNU institutes is being encouraged to leverage the University’s varied “in-house” expertise and thereby increase the likelihood of providing an innovative, interdisciplinary perspective.

Promoting gender equality – In early 2016, a working group was established to develop a new UNU Policy on Gender Equality (to replace the 2011 Policy on Gender Mainstreaming). Based on input from gender focal points at each institute, the revised policy and an accompanying action plan were submitted to the UNU Council session in December. The UNU Council underlined the importance of further pursuing and implementing the policy, and underlined its commitment to this initiative — in particular with regard to narrowing the gender gap at the senior management levels.

Sustaining host country relationships – Maintaining close cooperative interactions with governmental, academic, and scientific communities of its host countries remains a priority for UNU — as does “giving back” to the local populace. This is particularly true for UNU’s main host country of Japan.

In its research activities, UNU works with numerous Japanese partners, including universities, specialised government agencies, city and prefectural governments, scientific and research institutions and societies, and civil society and private sector entities. Several recent and ongoing UNU research projects have been conducted (partly or wholly) in Japan. The Global Environment Outreach Centre (GEOC) is a joint initiative of UNU and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan.

On the academic front, UNU serves as an important link between scholars in Japan and those in other countries. UNU’s Japan-based postgraduate degree programmes offer joint instruction with selected leading Japanese universities, and are accredited by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education.

For the general public, UNU maintains three Japanese-language websites and offers a continuing variety of events – among them, the Conversation Series, Sustainable Development Goals Dialogue, UNU Library Talk, and UNU CAFÉ events; an annual UNU Global Seminar; and numerous topical seminars, symposiums, and conferences.



UN Photo/David Ohana

The Work of UNU

UNU is an international community of scholars engaged in research, postgraduate teaching and capacity development, and dissemination of knowledge in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States. UNU employs an interdisciplinary, problem-solving approach in its research and teaching and — with intellectual independence guaranteed by its Charter — is able to offer unbiased, fresh perspectives on current and emerging global challenges.

This section covers some highlights of UNU’s research efforts, postgraduate training opportunities, public events, and communications and dissemination activities in 2016.

Research Projects





UN Photo/Sylvain Liechti

Research Projects

UNU research integrates the quantitative rigour of the natural and physical sciences with the qualitative insights of the social sciences and humanities. Given its relatively small size, UNU strives to maintain a high level of quality and impact by focusing its research activities into specified thematic areas. In order to remain relevant in our rapidly changing world, this focus constantly evolves in response to the changing state of global ecosystems, the social impact of scientific discoveries, and the challenges facing the UN and its Member States — with a particular focus on the needs of developing countries.

The research work of UNU is carried out by a decentralized network of institutes and programmes. Much of this research is conducted in collaboration with partners — including leading universities, research institutes, and think tanks worldwide, as well as other UN system entities — and/or is funded by external donors.

The three overarching thematic clusters prescribed by the *UNU Strategic Plan 2015–2019* are:

- Peace and governance
- Global development and inclusion
- Environment, climate, and energy

During the year, UNU researchers worked on more than 200 projects (some of which comprised multiple sub-projects). The following is a representative sample, with a particular focus on projects that were initiated or completed in 2016. For more, see unu.edu/projects.

Peace and Governance

The **Changing Nature of Violence** project produced a series of policy research papers on different aspects of the changing nature of violence to inform UN thinking on the issue.

The aims of the **Crime-Conflict Nexus** project are to fill major knowledge gaps on the inter-linkages between crime and conflict, and thereby help the UN to assess, adapt, and develop effective policy tools and interventions.

The project **Digital Technology, Digital Media for Political Party Regulations** addressed how digital technologies and media are redefining political parties' decision-making processes, communication strategies, and funding mechanisms.

Within the European Union-funded project **European Leadership in Cultural, Science and Innovation Diplomacy**, UNU leads work focused on exploring the EU's promotion of regional and inter-regional processes in the Global South through science and cultural and economic diplomacy.

The project **Identifying Common Ground for UNGASS 2016** collected evidence that could inform policy discussions ahead of the UN General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem.

The **Measuring Institutions in Africa** project proposed new objective indicators to clarify the development paths of several African countries from the early days of colonisation to the present.

The project **Policy Monitoring on Digital Technology for Inclusive Education** developed a web-based monitoring tool for UNESCO's "Model Policy for Inclusive ICTs in Education for Persons with Disabilities".

The project **Resilience and the Fragile City** (i) analysed vulnerability and resilience in disaster and violence-prone cities, and (ii) identified options to reduce the vulnerability and enhance the resilience of at-risk urban populations.

The **Strengthening the Multilateral Response to Modern Slavery** project analyses the roles of international criminal justice and the UN system in responding to modern slavery from the perspectives of normative development and institutional practice.

Global Development and Inclusion

The **Biodiversity and Community Health Initiative** focuses on the human health consequences of disturbances to nature-human linkages, and on our capacity to take appropriate actions relative to health and healthcare delivery.

Currently in its second phase, the **Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance in the Caribbean** project explores how to extend a financial safety net to previously excluded low-income persons in three countries, and seeks to scale up its previous efforts in two other countries.

The ongoing project **The Demand for Manufacturing, Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Consumption, in a Globalized Economy** will contribute to UNIDO's Industrial Development Report 2018.

The project **Developing a Disaster Risk Insurance Framework for Pakistan** provided design options on how to operationalise a national insurance fund against weather extremes for the poor and vulnerable.

The project **Earth Observation-based Information Products for Drought Risk Reduction on the National Level** is developing methods and means of communication for responding to the goals, targets, and indicators of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The **Extractives for Development** project seeks to share knowledge about how natural resources wealth (such as oil, gas, and mineral revenues) can be managed to achieve inclusive growth in low-income and middle-income countries.

The **Hopeful Journeys** project examines the role of “hope”, at individual and collective levels, as a strategy of survival and progress in the context of human displacement in the Mediterranean region.

The project **Inclusive Growth in Mozambique – Scaling-up Research and Capacity** addresses current development challenges in the country by generating evidence necessary for effective policy formulation, designing policies, and building capacity inside ministries and universities.

The **Psychosocial Wellbeing Initiative** explores how information and communication technologies impact social and psychological wellbeing. Field research is currently being conducted in Myanmar.

The project **The Role of Structural Transformation in the Potential of Asian Economic Growth** was a contribution to the Asian Development Outlook (an annual Asian Development Bank publication).

SOUTHMOD – Simulating Tax and Benefit Policies for Development is a major research initiative that will build tax-benefit microsimulation models for seven selected developing countries so as to analyse the impacts of different tax and benefit policy scenarios.

The project **Un/masking Narratives: An Alternative Account of Horn of Africa Migration** analyses how the migration narrative of the European Union and its African partners emphasises the depiction of people smugglers, and explores the need and potential for narratives that better reflect migrants’ realities.

The project **Urban Displacement in Contemporary Asia** explores the role of civil society and grass-roots organisations in contexts where state-level humanitarian responses are almost entirely absent and/or states are not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention.

The **World Humanitarian Summit** project supported preparations for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit by channelling innovative ideas and policy recommendations into the process; the project provided input into the UN Secretary-General’s Agenda-Setting Report for the summit.

Environment, Climate, and Energy

The project **Africa’s Energy Futures** examines upstream hydropower development in the Eastern Nile region to evaluate whether regional economic benefits from upstream development can be shared in a win-win fashion among the region’s riparian nations.

The **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service Scenarios Network** project aims to strengthen researcher collaboration on future scenarios for the benefits obtained from ecosystems; the project contributes to IPBES and Future Earth.

The **Country Analysis for the Civil Security** project aims to identify and examine potential hot-spot and priority countries for international research on civil protection and disaster risk reduction.

The **DeltAdapt** project assesses the socio-ecological sustainability of differing agricultural adaptation pathways in deltaic agro-ecosystems exposed to salinity intrusion and market challenges.

The **DOTCOM Waste** project seeks to help law enforcement agencies, customs and port authorities, and environmental agencies fight cross-border waste-related crime more cost-effectively.

The project **Engaging the Private Sector for Inclusive Extractive Industries and Sustainable Value Chains in Africa** examines and prioritises backward linkages in Africa’s mineral extraction and natural resources sectors, with the aim of enabling those industries to contribute to broad-based, sustainable economic growth and development.

The project **Food Security Impacts of Industrial Crop Expansion in Sub-Saharan Africa** is examining the competition between industrial and food crops, and how this can affect food security.

The **Governance for Sustainable Development** project contributes two international discussions and processes of the Sustainable Development Goals. The current focus is on implementing regional frameworks, including mechanisms to link the attainment of national and global targets.

The **Low-Carbon Technology Transfer** project seeks to advance strategies and build partnerships for the diffusion of low-carbon technology to developing countries, with a particular focus on Asia.

The project **Mining, Game of Powers and Sustainable Development in Burkina Faso** investigated how mining interacts with the environment at local and national levels.

The **Pacific Climate Change and Migration** project produced three country case study reports that highlight past migration and project future movements, with the aim of contributing to regional and international frameworks on climate change and migration.

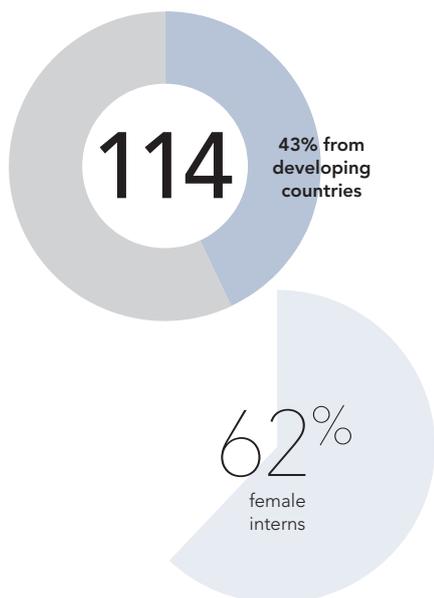
The project **Potential for Phosphorus Retrieval in Zambia** aims to establish a symbiotic relationship between animal husbandry and crop farming through subsistence-level phosphate retrieval/recycling to improve food security.

The project **Remote Sensing of Water Use and Water Stress in African Savanna Ecosystem** aims to support decision-making by developing a modelling framework to quantify savanna water use/stress, and determining where and how invasive species affect water resources.

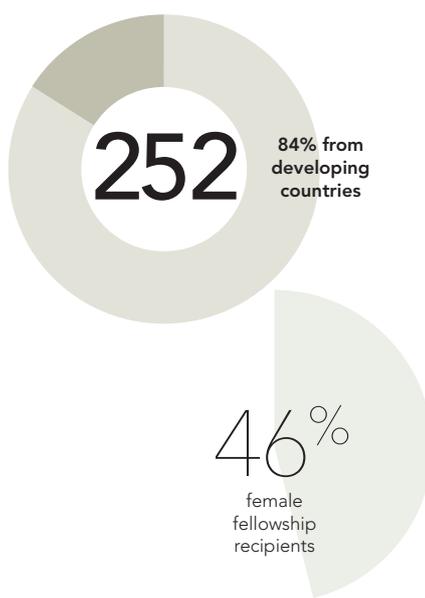
The second phase of the **Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture Initiative** supports and facilitates the sharing of information between countries/regions on good practice examples of safe water reuse in agriculture.

In cooperation with champions from several countries, the project **Water in the World We Want** promotes more comprehensive and effective evidence-based policy- and decision-making on water-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Interns



Fellowship Recipients



Policy Linkages

UNU maintains close cooperative relationships with many other United Nations system organisations. In addition, through the Rector, UNU participates in the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and its three committees.

Contributions to UN Policy Processes

UNU is an active contributor to numerous UN and international policy processes and debates, such as those related to biodiversity, climate change, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action, migration, peace and security, sustainable development, urban development and urbanisation, and water. UNU research touches, to some degree, on all of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UNU interacts with UN policy processes in three ways:

The most common means of interaction is through **indirect analytical influence** — that is, by generating evidence and ideas that can serve to shape policy discourse and debate, particularly on issues that involve new or interdisciplinary scientific inquiry. This is the traditional manner by which academic and scientific communities influence policy.

Another vector is **direct engagement** with UN policy actors. UNU's identity as a UN entity endows it with a level of trust and "comfort" that some UN actors often do not feel for non-UN organisations. Access to the CEB deliberations also affords UNU a strategic opportunity to identify emerging policy trends in the UN's operational arms, and positions UNU as a reliable partner for generating, synthesising, and translating knowledge relevant to UN policy processes.

UNU also influences UN policy processes through **collaborative knowledge generation**. By working in direct partnership with other UN entities, UNU can help to fill the knowledge gaps that those entities have identified in UN policy processes, and develop outputs tailored to be fed directly into those processes.



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development



UNU-GCM director Parvati Nair. Photo: Ioan Nicolau

Collaborations

In 2016, UNU collaborated with more than 40 other UN entities and UN-related organisations, and with numerous international and regional organisations as well as private sector institutions and leading think tanks. UNU also worked directly with UN Member States to help them develop and implement effective policies, and contributed to some official UN country missions.

MAJOR UN ENTITIES WITH WHOM UNU COLLABORATED IN 2016

- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Global Migration Group (GMG)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)
- UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)
- UN Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA)
- UN Department of Public Information (UNDPI)
- UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- UN Environmental Programme (UNEP)
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Secretariat of
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
- UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- UN Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases
- UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
- UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
- UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD)
- UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD)
- UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- UN-Water
- UN Women
- World Bank (WB)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)

REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF OTHER UNU COLLABORATIONS IN 2016

- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- Brookings Institution, The
- Center for American Progress
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)
- European Commission (EC)
- (The) Freedom Fund
- Future Earth
- Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)
- Igarapé Institute
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- International Council for Science (ICSU)
- International Criminal Court (ICC)
- International Research Association of Institutions of Advanced Gender Studies (RINGS)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Munich Re Foundation
- NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI Agency)
- Nansen Initiative, The
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- Rockefeller Foundation, The
- Thomson Reuters
- World Economic Forum (WEF)
- World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ)

Education and Capacity Development

The objective of UNU’s education and capacity development efforts is to help individuals to enhance their aptitude for self-sustained learning and, by doing so, augment the group and institutional educational and research capabilities of developing countries.

Postgraduate Degree Programmes

In 2016, UNU offered three Master of Science (MSc) degree programmes and two doctoral (PhD) degree programmes. The 258 students enrolled in these five programmes were, by gender, 58% female and 42% male; 29% of these postgraduate-degree students were from developing countries.

Master’s degree programmes

- MSc in Sustainability (Japan; 14 students)
- Joint MSc in the Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security (Germany, in collaboration with University of Bonn; 98 students)
- Double MSc in Public Policy and Human Development (The Netherlands, in collaboration with Maastricht University; 128 students)

Doctoral degree programmes

- PhD in Sustainability Science (Japan; 9 students)
- Joint PhD in Integrated Management of Water, Soil, and Waste (Germany, in collaboration with Technical University of Dresden; 9 students)

Non-degree Programmes and Courses

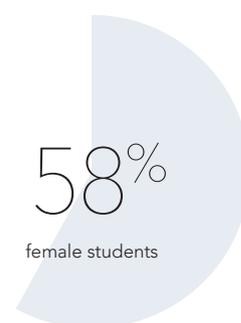
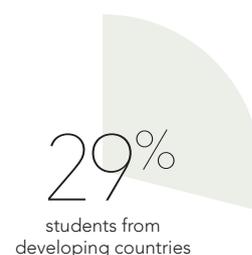
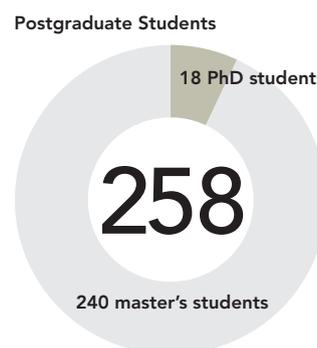
In addition to these postgraduate degree programmes, in 2016 UNU offered 15 long-duration (lasting more than two months) and 83 short-duration training programmes and courses; these were attended by more than 3,150 students (56% male, 44% female). Some UNU training opportunities enable students to earn credit towards a degree, while others confer a certificate or diploma upon completion.

Notable among the long-duration programmes offered by UNU are the annual training programmes of UNU’s Iceland-based units:

- Fisheries Training Programme (September–February)
- Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (January–May)
- Geothermal Training Programme (April–October)
- Land Restoration Training Programme (March–September)

Representative examples of other long-duration study opportunities organised or co-organised by UNU in 2016 are the following:

- joint master’s-level “Development Economics” courses (in collaboration with the Helsinki Center of Economic Research)
- courses on “Evidence-based Policy Research Methods” (January–April & September–December, Maastricht)
- a programme on “Governance for Global Health” (in collaboration with several partner universities)
- a joint “Integrated Drylands Management” MSc programme (with several partner organisations)



- a “Migration Management” diploma programme (March–June, Maastricht)
- a collaborative “Water Without Borders” graduate-degree programme (in cooperation with McMaster University)

Among the short-duration (lasting two months or less) study opportunities that UNU organised or co-organised in 2016 were the following:

- an intensive summer course on “Advancing Disaster Risk Reduction to Enhance Sustainable Development in a Changing World” (June–July, Germany)
- an “African Discovery Camp for Research-based Training: Science for the Sustainable Use and Management of Marine Ecosystems and their Resources” (March–April, Namibia)
- a “Design and Evaluation of Innovation Policies” workshop (January, Panama)
- a Resilience Academy on “Enhancing Resilience to Minimize Loss and Damage – Providing Knowledge for the UNFCCC” (September, Germany)
- the “E-waste Academy – Scientists Edition” (August, Ireland)
- a short course on “Gender-responsive Budgeting” (February, Iceland)
- two intensive courses on geospatial technologies for natural resources management professionals (January & May, Ghana)
- a doctoral school on “Latin American, European and Comparative Regionalism” (August, Ecuador)
- a postgraduate course on “Leadership for Sustainability” (February–March, Japan)
- two mangrove ecosystems courses (May, Kenya; November–December, India)
- two “Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture” training workshops (February, Peru; December, Iran)
- SDG short courses on “Sustainability and Environmental Management of Geothermal Resource Utilization and the Role of Geothermal in Combatting Climate Change” (September, El Salvador) and “Exploration and Development of Geothermal Resources” (November, Kenya)
- the “UNU Global Seminar, Shonan Session” (August–September, Japan)
- “UNU Intensive Core Courses” (September, Japan)

For more about study opportunities at UNU, see unu.edu/admissions.

Capacity Development

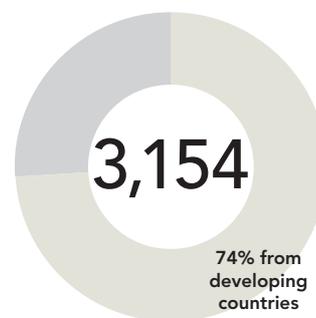
UNU continues to implement numerous capacity development initiatives. The University strives to ensure that these initiatives have a distinct added value rather than merely duplicating the efforts of other national or international entities, and that they:

- educate policymakers and practitioners in the design and implementation of sustainable and equitable development strategies
- enhance the growth of vigorous academic communities in developing countries
- improve the capacity of institutions (particularly those in developing countries) to deal with pressing global issues
- support the work of the UN system, and other international and regional organisations

UNU’s capacity development efforts encompass the concept of “integrated capacity development”. An important component of this effort is project-based capacity development; of 207 projects implemented by UNU in 2016, 52% incorporated both research and capacity development components while another 11% were focused mainly on capacity development.

Many UNU institutes also offer opportunities for young scholars to work alongside UNU research staff through a variety of PhD Internship/Fellowship programmes, Postdoctoral Fellowship programmes, and Research Internship/Fellowship programmes as well as Traineeship and Visiting Scholar opportunities.

Training Course Participants





Rector David M. Malone hosts Mr Hiroshi Kato at a Conversation Series event in Tokyo, 13 June.

Public Events

To maximise the impact and broaden the reach of its work, UNU convenes specialised conferences and workshops as well as a wide variety of public seminars, symposiums, lectures, and other events. As well as providing a convenient venue for sharing knowledge and offering valuable networking opportunities for scholars and practitioners, these events help to put a personal “face” on UNU for the general public.

During the year, UNU organised more than 600 public events around the world, including 159 lectures, 134 seminars, and 133 conferences/symposiums. The topics of these events covered the full gamut of UNU’s research work.

Events of Special Note

UNU Conversation Series — During the year, 17 public UNU Conversation Series events were held in Tokyo. In these events, UNU Rector Malone talked one-on-one with influential experts, world leaders, and respected scholars about contemporary global issues. Participants in 2016 included Mr Hiroshi Kato (Japan), Ms Irina Bokova (UNESCO Director-General), Ambassador Kishore Mahbubani (Singapore), Ms Susana Malcorra (Argentina), and Sir Jeremy Greenstock (UK).

Other ongoing “series” events included:

- five “Another Drop” lectures (Hamilton, Ontario)
- six UNU “Library Talks” (Tokyo)
- seven “Sustainable Development Goals Dialogue” events (Tokyo)
- seven UNU-GEST Spring Lecture Series events (Reykjavik)
- nine “Nexus Seminars” (Dresden)
- ten academic and research seminars (Ghana, Zambia, Senegal, and Côte d’Ivoire)

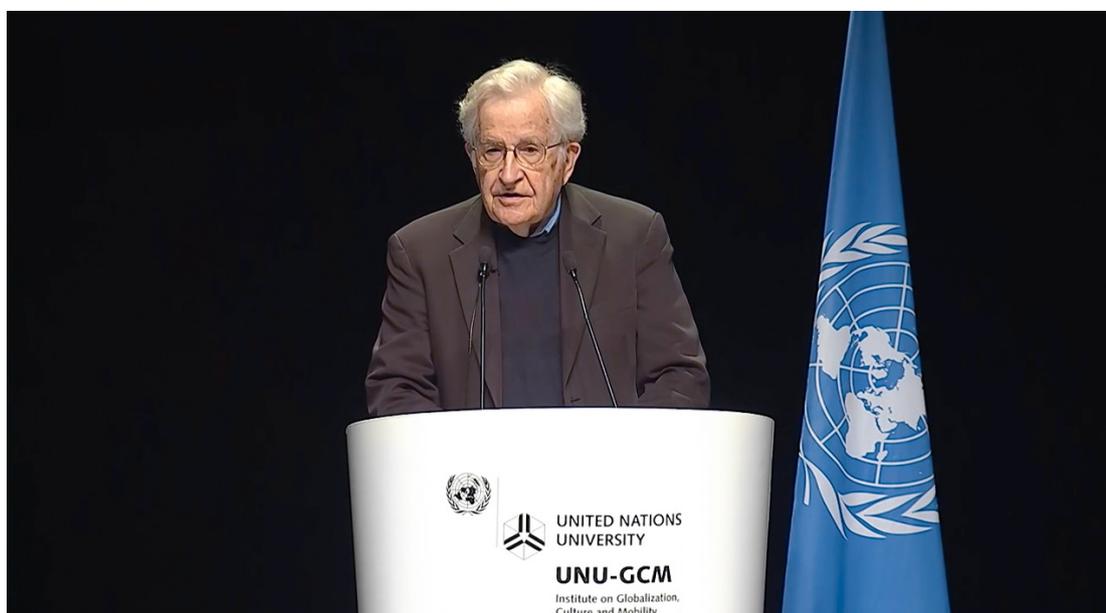
Annual events of particular note included the **20th WIDER Annual Lecture** (“Direct Interventions Against Poverty in Poor Places” by Professor Martin Ravallion; 24 March, Sweden) and the **UNU-GCM Annual Guest Lecture** (“Crises of Immigration” by Professor Noam Chomsky; 5 November, Spain).

The G7-UN Partnership to Meet Global Challenges was a public conference co-organised by UNU and the G7 Research Group preceding the G7 Summit in Ise-Shima to discuss prospects of the Summit in addressing climate change, economic governance, and security threats (19 May, Japan).

UNU-WIDER Development Conferences — Two development conferences were held in Helsinki: “Human Capital and Growth” (6–7 June) and “Responding to Crises” (23–24 September).

TICAD VI side events — UNU organised four side events at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI; 27–28 August, Nairobi).

Habitat III events — Several UNU institutes participated actively at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III; 17–20 October, Quito). UNU organised two events that addressed the role and management of water in urban environments, presented initiatives on health in an urban context, and launched a fragile cities data visualisation platform. Several expert commentaries by UNU researchers about the New Urban Agenda were published on the UNU website: unu.edu/habitat.



“Crises of Immigration” lecture by Prof. Noam Chomsky in Barcelona, 5 November.

Other Events

Other (selected) events organised by UNU in 2016 included the following:

- “International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative Sixth Global Conference” (12–13 January, Cambodia)
- “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Transforming Japan and the World” (15 January, Japan)
- Urban Thinkers Campus event on “Health and Wellbeing in the City We Need” (25–27 January, Malaysia)
- Conference on “International Migration and Current Challenges: Transforming the Debate on Human Mobility” (28 January, Spain)
- Lecture series on “Governance in Small-scale Fisheries”, by Dr Ratana Chuenpagdee (1–3 February, Iceland)
- “What Comes After the War on Drugs?” (3–4 February, USA)
- “Human and Social Impacts of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster” (16 February, Japan)

- “Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture (SUWA) Workshop on Good Practice Examples and Future Research Needs” (24–25 February, Peru)
- 9th Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (1–3 March, Uruguay)
- Workshops on “Improving the Development Outcomes of Private-Public Partnerships in Agriculture and the Environment” (18 March, Cameroon; 7 April, Ghana; 21 April, Senegal; 12 May, Burundi; 26 May, South Africa)
- UNU-INWEH 20th anniversary public seminar on “Water: The Nexus of Sustainable Development and Climate Change” (5 April, Canada)
- International conference on “Inclusive Peace: Women, Peace and Security Post-2015” (14–15 April, Iceland; co-organised)
- Conference on “European Union in International Affairs” (11–13 May, Belgium; co-organised)
- Nexus Observatory workshop on “Water-Wastewater Nexus in Urbanizing Asia: Building Capacity for Monitoring Water Quality Risks” (24–25 May, Viet Nam)
- Lecture series on “Rangeland Ecology and Management”, by Dr Patrick Shaver (6–8 June, Iceland)
- “Unlocking Africa’s Development Potential: How to Translate Economic Growth into Development Goals” (9 June, Helsinki)
- “Fighting Slavery: Is There a Role for International Criminal Justice?” (10 June, USA)
- 3rd Workshop of the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (14–16 June, Germany)
- “Achieving the SDGs: A Nexus Approach to Managing Environmental Resources” (22 June, France)
- “Fighting Human Trafficking in Conflict” (30 June – 1 July, USA)
- 8th “International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific” (12–13 July, Japan)
- Workshop on “Disaster Risk Diplomacy” (12–13 July, Austria; co-organised)
- Conference on “Cities of Welcome/Cities of Transit” (14–15 July, Spain)
- Forum on “Heatwaves, Typhoons, Floods, Landslides: Researchers Detail the Rising Risks, Price of Disasters” (19 July, Malaysia; co-organised)
- “The Role of the Science–Policy Interface for the National Implementation of the 2030 Agenda” (20 July, USA)
- Lecture on “Validating Risk Indices at Different Scales”, by Dr Michael Hagenlocher (5 August, Indonesia)
- IFIP Electronic Government and Electronic Participation Conference (5–8 September, Portugal; co-organised)
- Lecture series on “Geothermal Resources and Their Development”, by James Koenig (5–9 September, Iceland)
- Workshop on “Spatial and Temporal Dynamics of Risk and Vulnerability” (21–23 September, Austria)
- Conference on “Between Cooperation and Competition: Major Powers in Shared Neighbourhoods — Lessons for the EU” (22 September, Belgium; co-organised)
- Workshop on “Mineral Resource Governance for Sustainable Development” (26–27 September, Ghana)
- Conference on “Do No Crime: Organised Crime’s Impact on Efforts to Sustain Peace and Development” (5 October, USA)
- First “Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity” (27–29 October, Japan; co-organised)
- Lecture on “The Challenge of Change in South Africa: Implications for Water Governance”, by Dr Owen Horwood (31 October, Germany)
- Workshop on “Earth Observation-based Information Products for Drought Risk on a National Basis” (1–4 November, South Africa)
- Conference on “New Frontiers in Natural Resources Management in Africa” (28–29 November, Ghana)
- “Reach & Turn” science reporting workshop (12–16 December, Panama; co-organised)

For more events, see unu.edu/events.



Global UNU communications staff meet in Helsinki, May.

Communications & Dissemination

UNU's communications efforts are steered by the Office of Communications in Tokyo in cooperation with the communications staff of each institute. The overall goals of UNU's communications and dissemination activities are to:

- **expand visibility** — develop and implement media strategies that showcase UNU's research findings via major initiatives and campaigns
- **increase impact** — ensure that UNU research and knowledge outputs reflect target audience needs, and that these audiences can quickly and easily access them
- **promote UNU's expertise** — raise the profile of UNU personnel as global experts and opinion leaders (within relevant academic and policymaking communities, and in the media)
- **present a consistent brand** — ensure that UNU is recognised for its development focus, policy relevance, objectivity, scientific integrity, high quality, and global perspective

Dissemination

As a fundamental part of this effort, UNU strives to make its research findings available in a timely manner, and to package its research in an appropriate form: as in-depth, evidence-based reports for academics and practitioners; as tailored, policy-relevant advice in the context of social and political acceptability for decision-makers; and in "plain-language" articles for general audiences.

UNU disseminates information about its research and activities through both print and electronic media. In 2016, UNU researchers published, *inter alia*, 44 books and 128 chapters in edited volumes, 241 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 117 other articles, 10 special journal issues, 72 policy and research briefs, 299 working and discussion papers, and numerous proceedings and conference papers, website articles, and other publications.

More than 5,200 UNU documents, including 265 published in 2016, can be downloaded free of charge via “UNU Collections”, an online institutional repository that offers open access to UNU academic publications, reports, and other research outputs. Thousands of other documents are accessible via the websites of the individual UNU institutes.

Websites, Social Media and Traditional Media

The Internet is a vital communication and dissemination platform for UNU. In 2016:

- UNU’s **websites** received more than 6.90 million pageviews by more than 2.55 million users
- on **Facebook**, the UNU system had 72,000 followers (a 33% year-on-year increase), achieved an engagement of 29,400, and had a reach of 13.1 million
- on **Twitter**, the UNU system had 95,200 followers (a 32% year-on-year increase), achieved an engagement of 56,100, and had a reach of 462 million
- UNU’s **YouTube** channels surpassed 10,600 subscribers (a 23% increase from the previous year); new videos posted during the year were viewed more than 48,000 times

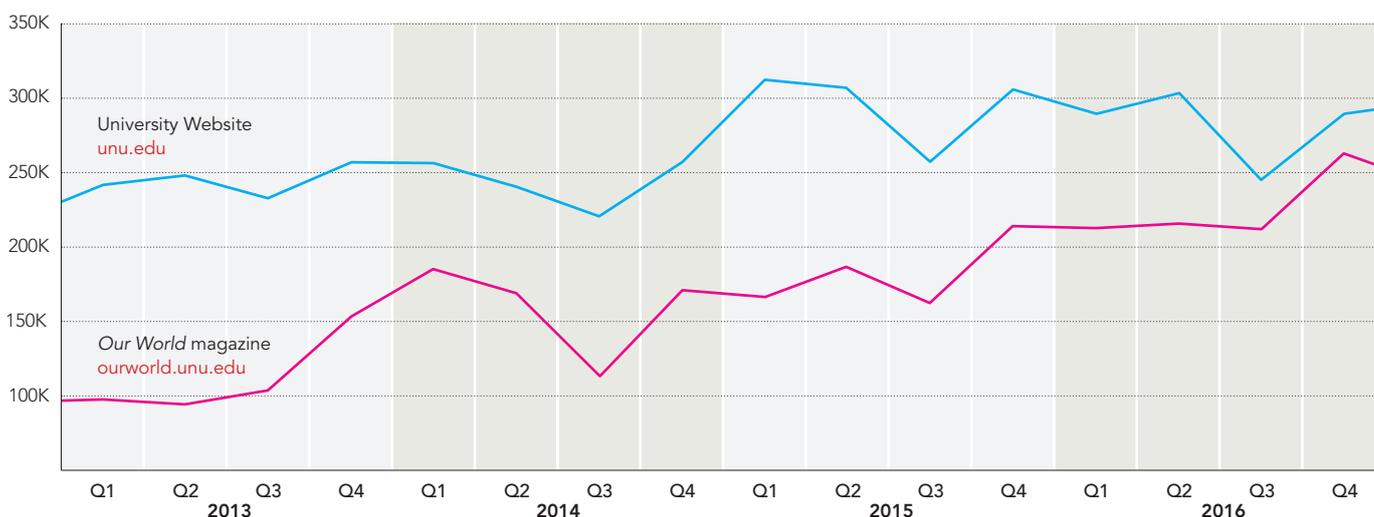
In terms of coverage by online “traditional media”, in 2016 UNU was mentioned in more than 12,800 stories, including 7,400 on online news sites, 2,650 on blogs, 840 on newspaper websites, and 540 on news agency websites.

- By country, UNU was covered most frequently by media sources based in the USA (41%), China (10%), Japan (10%), Germany (4%), and Spain (4%).
- By language, UNU was covered most often in English (60%), Chinese (12%), Japanese (9%), Spanish (6%), German (3%), and French (3%).

For a representative sample of news stories about UNU, see the Media Relations section of the UNU website: unu.edu/media-relations.

Quarterly Web Traffic – Visits

Source: Google Analytics



End of Report