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For immediate release:

Combating Environmental Threats

Launch of an Expert Security Handbook at the 7th Open Meeting of International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP) on Global Environmental Change.

More than a hundred experts from 50 countries present new ideas on how to face environmental threats in a newly published book titled *Facing Global Environmental Change*. Eight specialists will present their results during an event at the 7th Open Meeting 2009, a large international and interdisciplinary UN science conference in Bonn where this publication will be officially launched.

The presentation of this new book will be open to the public. Using an innovative approach, the book is described as a “global and multidisciplinary security handbook”. It includes essays by more than 130 renowned experts in the field. Distributed in 100 chapters, they examine how climate change, desertification, population growth, urbanization and other security dangers threaten us all. The authors suggest cooperative policies for peace, and proactive solutions to global problems.

The event will take place at 2:00pm on 29 April 2009 at the World Conference Centre, 53113 Bonn, Görresstr. 15, Room “Süßmuth”, as a side event of the 7th Science Conference on the International Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IHDP Open Meeting 2009), a major international gathering of experts in Bonn, between 26-30 April 2009.

Two of the eight co-editors from eight countries, PD Dr. Hans Gunter Brauch and Prof. Úrsula Oswald Spring, and contributors from Germany, Mexico, Hungary, and India will present their work and will also be available to answer journalists’ questions. A third co-editor, Dr. Heinz Krummenacher, of Swisspeace (Berne) will also attend. The panellists include the organizer of the Open Meeting 2009, Dr. Andreas Rechkemmer, Executive Director of UNU-IHDP, as well as Prof. Bogardi, Director of UNU-EHS and UNU Vice Rector in Europe. The whole will be moderated by Ms. Nina Haase from Deutsche Welle. The complete programme can be found below. Prof. Eckart Ehlers, University of Bonn, will offer his scientific comments and Mr. Montoiro from the perspective of the UN Secretariat to Combat Desertification.

Facing Global Environmental Change, edited by Hans Günter Brauch, Úrsula Oswald Spring, John Grin, Czeslaw Mesjasz, Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Navnita Chadha Behera, Béchir Chourou and Heinz Krummenacher, is the 4th volume of the Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace published by Springer-Verlag, Berlin/ Heidelberg/ New York (2009), the second largest scientific publisher globally. This major reference book offers a high-quality assessment of the environmental dimension of international, national and human security and it discusses the new concepts of energy, food, health and water security.

Read more about the book at: http://www.afes-press-books.de/html/hexagon_04.htm

A press folder on this book may be downloaded at:

http://www.afes-press-books.de/pdf/Hexagon_4/Hexagon_4_Pressemappe.pdf

To register, please send an e-mail with your full name and organization to tejada@ehs.unu.edu

Book Launch Programme

Introduction and Moderation: Ms. Nina Haase, former host of the Environmental Magazine: Living Planet, Deutsche Welle Radio, Bonn

Presentation of the volume from the perspective of editors and authors

- **PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch**, FU Berlin, UNU-EHS, Bonn and AFES-PRESS, Mosbach/Baden
- **Prof. Dr. Ursula Oswald Spring**, UNAM-CRIM, Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, UNU-EHS, Bonn
- **Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Janos J. Bogardi**, Vice Rector, UNU Europe, Director, UNU-EHS, Bonn
- **Prof. Dr. P. S. Ramakrishnan**, INSA Honorary Senior Scientist, School of Environmental Sciences Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- **Dr. Andreas Rechkemmer**, Executive Director, IHDP, Bonn

Comments from the perspective of science and international organizations

- **Prof. (em.) Dr. Eckart Ehlers**, Geographic Institute, Univ. of Bonn; Asia Centre, ZEF, Bonn
- **Mr. Marcos Montoiro**, Awareness Raising, Communication and Education Unit, UNCCD, Bonn

The biographies of the moderator, speakers and commentators are for download at:

http://www.afes-press-books.de/pdf/Hexagon_4/Bonn_%20Biographies_%2029.4%2008.pdf

About:

Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace

This peer reviewed book series includes monographs and edited volumes that cross scientific disciplines and develop common ground among scientists from the natural and social sciences, as well as from North and South, addressing common challenges and risks for humankind in the 21st century. The 'hexagon' represents six key factors contributing to global environmental change – three nature-induced supply factors: soil, water and air (climate), and three human-induced demand factors: population change, urban (habitat, pollution) and rural systems (agriculture, food).

UNU-EHS

The United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security spearheads research, capacity building and policy-relevant advisory activities relating to the broad interdisciplinary field of 'risk and vulnerability'. In addition to natural calamities, the Institute focuses on 'creeping' environmental hazards – including climate change, land degradation, degradation of the social environment, population displacement, and changing resource availability and quality – which imperil communities in a more gradual but equally detrimental and multifaceted way.

UNU-IHDP

The International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) is an international, interdisciplinary science programme, dedicated to promoting, catalysing and coordinating research, capacity-development and networking on the human dimensions of global environmental change. It takes a social science perspective on global change and works on the interface between science and practice. IHDP is a joint programme of the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the United Nations University (UNU).

AFES-PRESS

Peace Research and European Security Studies (AFES-PRESS) was established in 1987 as an international non-profit scientific society that focuses on multidisciplinary scientific research and dialogue.

More information at:

<http://www.springer.com/series/8090>

http://afes-press.de/html/home_en.html

<http://afes-press-books.de/index.html>

<http://www.openmeeting2009.org/>

<http://www.ehs.unu.edu/>

<http://www.ihdp.unu.edu/>