



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



**International Civil Society Workshop on
Environmental Norms and Military Activities
Okinawa, Japan, 27 and 28 November 2009
Announcement**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in cooperation with Okinawa International University (OIU) and Okinawa Environmental Network (OEN), will convene an international civil society workshop on environmental norms and military activities at the campus of Okinawa International University in Okinawa, Japan on 27 and 28 November 2009. The workshop will open at 9 a.m. on Friday, 27 November 2009, and its working language will be English.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide civil society organizations and relevant stakeholders from major groups with an opportunity to exchange information and share experiences concerning the application of environmental norms by military establishments. In accordance with chapter 20 of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and in follow-up to relevant decisions of the Governing Council of UNEP, the workshop will address in particular the following issues:

- (a) A national environmental policy for the military sector, and national activities, including the application of national laws, standards and procedures to ascertain that military establishments in the country conform to national environmental norms;
- (b) The contribution of the military sector to the achievement of national environmental policies, goals and objectives aiming at sustainable development;
- (c) Assessments of the damage to the environment, including all sources of pollution that could affect the environment and human health, and the need for and feasibility of the clean-up and restoration of such areas.

The workshop will consist of a series of presentations and discussions. Documents for the workshop and relevant background material will be available from the following websites: <http://www.unep.org/law> and <http://unepcsows.oki-kan.net>.

The outcome of the workshop will be submitted to an international meeting on environmental norms and military activities to be convened by UNEP in Geneva on 10 and 11 December 2009, where government officials from the environment and military sectors from countries worldwide and representatives from relevant organizations will consider the same subjects, and whose outcome will become a preliminary report on the status of the application of environmental norms, standards and procedures to military activities and will form the basis for a future survey under the fourth Montevideo Programme which begins in 2010 in accordance with decision 25/11 of the Governing Council of UNEP.

The civil society organizations and relevant stakeholders from major groups that are competent or have expertise in the areas to be discussed at the workshop are invited to be represented at the workshop.

The Civil Society (CS) Workshop Secretariat at OIU invites all concerned parties, including Civil Society Organizations and stakeholders who may or may not attend this workshop, to send 1-3 page summary reports to Mr. Weston Watts, CS Workshop Secretariat at OIU (email: wwatts@oki-kan.net). The Secretariat at OIU will incorporate reports it receives into a final workshop report to be submitted to the international meeting on environmental norms and military activities to be convened by the UNEP in Geneva on 10 and 11 December 2009, and will post these with additional supporting documents or links submitted at <http://unepcsows.oki-kan.net>.

The name, title and contact details of the representative(s) (including postal address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address) and a summary report should be communicated in writing to the following contact persons at Okinawa International University by 20 November 2009: Ms. Kaori Sunagawa, Assistant Professor (email: ksunagawa@okiu.ac.jp) and Mr. Weston Watts, CS Workshop Secretariat (email: wwatts@oki-kan.net), and Fax: 81-98-893-7166.

In addition to the workshop, OIU and OEN will also provide an informal, optional field trip on 26 November 2009. Those who wish to participate in the field trip should contact the CS Workshop Secretariat at OIU.

The contact person within UNEP concerning the workshop is Mr. Masa Nagai, Senior Legal Officer, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (e-mail: Masa.Nagai@unep.org).

Division of Environmental Law and Conventions
30 October 2009