

## **MEDIA NOTIFICATION**

February 23, 2009

### **Asia Pacific Regional Conference on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**

**26-27 February, Tokyo (Japan)**

The Asia Pacific Regional Conference on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) will be held on February 26 (Thu) and 27 (Fri) at the Keio Plaza Hotel in Tokyo. The conference will be co-hosted by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Oxfam, an international NGO.

The conference will be attended by government officials, NGO representatives, and intellectuals from Asia-Pacific countries. From Japan, Ms. Seiko Hashimoto, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, will deliver an opening address, and Mr. Nobuyasu Abe (former Japanese Ambassador to Switzerland), Director, Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, will chair the meeting.

Representatives of Oxfam Australia, Oxfam Japan and Oxfam GB and NGOs working on armed violence and development issues in the region will also participate. Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan, Former Foreign Affairs Minister for Argentina and Chair of the UN Group of Government Experts on an ATT and the Open-Ended Working Group on an ATT will also attend.

It is expected that the conference will promote the understanding in Asia Pacific countries of an Arms Trade Treaty initiative and reinvigorate the momentum for further discussions.

(END)

If you would like to attend the opening ceremony for the conference or arrange interviews with Oxfam International, Ambassador Moritan, a representative of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or one of the other participants please contact:

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