

UoN welcomes Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi as WMI's Distinguished Chair

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The University of Nairobi (UoN) has officially received and welcomed the newly appointed Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) Distinguished Chair, Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi.

Upon accepting the offer, Prof. Takeuchi gave an acceptance lecture on November 3, 2017, at the University of Nairobi. In his speech, Prof. Takeuchi, said that strategic global outreach will propel WMI towards realizing its objectives.

“A key objective is to transform the Wangari Maathai Institute into a regionally leading, internationally recognized center for holistic environmental practices and peace building,” he said. “As a centre of excellence, I will work towards developing this institute further and ultimately, realize its vision. The impact that WMI can have in the global front are enormous.”

A distinguished scholar, Prof. Takeuchi engages in research and outreach activities on creating ecofriendly environments for a harmonious coexistence of people and nature, especially focusing on Asia and Africa. He has been working toward establishing a global foundation for developing the field of

sustainability science aiming to build a sustainable society. He is the Director and Project Professor,

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Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S) in the University of Tokyo and the President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).

While welcoming Prof. Takeuchi, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, called on various stakeholders, both local and international, to support WMI. "Wangari Maathai Institute was established to honor, recognize, celebrate, advance, and immortalize the ideals and works of one of its alumnus, the 2004 Peace Nobel Laureate Prof. Wangari Muta Maathai," he said. "We are therefore calling on interested organizations to join us in this noble cause.

With your support, we shall do all we can to develop WMI into a global center of excellence that will contribute enormously in championing good governance through teaching and research in peace and environmental management."

This is an important milestone for the University and Kenya as it is the first step in establishing global partnerships and networks that will give the Wangari Maathai Institute the much needed exposure for resource mobilization and technical support.

"As a University, we thank Prof. Takeuchi for volunteering to serve Kenya as the first Distinguished Chair for the Wangari Maathai Institute," said the Vice-Chancellor.

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