



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**Press release**

For immediate release

**UoN invites stakeholders to support Wangari Maathai Institute**

**Friday, November 3, 2017, Nairobi...**The University of Nairobi (UoN) is calling on various stakeholders, both local and international, to support the Wangari Maathai Institute (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,” said the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi. “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.”

Prof. Mbithi was speaking when he welcomed the newly appointed Wangari Maathai Institute Distinguished Chair, Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi to the University.

In his acceptance speech, Prof. Takeuchi, a distinguished scholar, said that 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.”

“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,” added Prof. Mbithi. “As a University, we thank Prof. Takeuchi for volunteering to serve Kenya as the first Distinguished Chair for the Wangari Maathai Institute.”

**John A. O. Orindi**  
**Director, Corporate Affairs**  
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***About Wangari Maathai Institute***

*The Wangari Maathai Institute for peace and Environmental studies (WMI), “Sustainable Campus,” is part of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) at the University of Nairobi. WMI was established to honor, recognize, celebrate, advance, and immortalize the ideals and works of one of its alumni, the 2004 Peace Nobel Laureate Prof. Wangari Muta Maathai. The institute promotes good environmental practices and cultivates cultures of peace by shaping values, ethics and attitudes of its graduates through experiential learning, mentoring and transformational leadership. The overall aim of the institute is to cultivate better environmental stewardship and management of resources and ultimately a reduction in related conflicts. WMI operates like a “finishing school” for university students, researchers, policy makers, the private sector, community leaders and groups interested in good practices in environmental management and peace building.*

***About Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi***

*Prof. Takeuchi engages in research and outreach activities on creating eco-friendly 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, Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S) in the University of Tokyo and the President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).*

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