

Wangari Maathai Institute holds a seminar on, “Community-Level Capacity Assessment for Sustainable Development in Rural Africa: Exploring the Applicability in the context of Kenya by Dr. Yasuko Kusakari - December 20, 2017



Dr. Yasuko Kusakari delivering a seminar at the Wangari Maathai Institute

“Despite Africa’s enormous potential, as well as the large amount of funding and various development interventions it has received in recent decades, extreme poverty is still a key challenge in rural Africa and it has not been significantly abated. To tackle multi-dimensional challenges in rural Africa, past development programs led by central governments or external organizations alone have clearly shown their limitations. Consequently, local capacity development, as a means of reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development, deserves more attention than ever. However, the meaning and critical aspects of capacity, in addition to how capacity should be measured, often remain vague, despite frequent references to the term “capacity”. Furthermore, there are no frameworks or practical tools for assessing local capacity, particularly at the community level in the context of rural Africa,” Dr. Kusakari.

It is against this backdrop; that Dr. Kusakari undertook the research on “community-level capacity assessment for sustainable development in rural Africa” as part of her doctoral research in Sustainability Science. She was hosted by the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies on December 20, 2017 where she delivered a seminar which explored the the applicability of the assessment tools in the context of rural communities in Kenya by sharing key findings and facilitating discussions. It is hoped that the feedback will reincorporated into a guidance note for “community-level capacity assessment for sustainable development in rural Africa”, which will be finalized and shared with researchers and practitioners who work for capacity development and sustainable development in rural Africa.

Dr. Kusakari is currently the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Research Fellow at Graduate Program in Sustainability Science -Global Leadership Initiative (GPSS-GLI), The University of Tokyo.

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