

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies

Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi appointed as the 2nd Distinguished Chair Wangari Maathai Institute



University of Nairobi

NEWSLETTER

2017: A Year in Review



"One aspect of a love of nature that we need to foster is experiential. Nature – and in particular, the wild – feeds our spirit and a direct encounter with it is vital in helping us appreciate and care for it. For unless we see it, smell it, or touch it, we tend to forget it, and our souls wither." - Professor Wangari Maathai, Replenishing the Earth

On November 3, 2017, the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies was honoured to welcome the newly appointed Distinguished Chair, Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi in an iconic inauguration ceremony held at the University of Nairobi's Chandaria Auditorium. Prof. Takeuchi delivered a thrilling acceptance speech through which he stated that he looks forth to advancing the elevation of the Institute's international standing as a research and education centre of excellence that, in the spirit of its founder, strives for holistic environmental practices and peace building drawing fully on the international networks that he has developed in the fields of sustainability and peace, on both an organizational and an individual level. Prof. Takeuchi desires to champion within the international community the tremendous importance of the Wangari Maathai Institute in terms of its academic and social contributions.

Prof. Takeuchi is a renowned scholar who engages in research and outreach activities via which eco-friendly environment for harmonious co-existence of people and nature are cre-

ated particularly in Africa and Asia. He is the Director and Project Professor, Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science, University of Tokyo and the President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies. He continues to work towards creation of a global foundation for developing the field of sustainability science that aims at building a sustainable society.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by the University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi who officially welcomed Prof. Takeuchi. In his speech, he indicated that, the Wangari Maathai Institute was established to honour, recognize, celebrate, advance, and immortalize the ideals and works of one of its alumnus, the 2004 Peace Nobel Laureate Prof. Wangari Muta Maathai. He called upon interested stakeholders, both local and international, to support WMI while acknowledging that with the stakeholders support, the University will be better placed to do all it can to develop the Institute into a global centre of excellence that will contribute enormously in championing good governance through teaching and research in peace and environmental management.



Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi signing his letter of appointment as the 2nd Distinguished Chair, WMI in the UoN VC's office. On looking, on his left is Prof. Peter M. F. Mbithi, VC, UoN, Prof. Enos H.N. Njeru, Principal, CHSS, Dr. Emmanuel Mutisya, WMI, on his right and Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, WMI

Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi appointed as the 2nd Distinguished Chair Wangari Maathai Institute



Prof. Takeuchi signing the visitor's book after paying a courtesy call on Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal CAVS With him From left Prof. Muthama, Prof. Mutembei and Dr. Emmanuel Mutisya

On behalf of the University, he thanked Prof. Takeuchi for volunteering to serve as the 2nd Distinguished Chair, WMI acknowledging that it's an important milestone for the University and Kenya.

Prof. Mutembei, the Director, WMI on behalf of WMI family congratulated Prof. Takeuchi for his appointment as the 2nd Distinguished Chair and welcomed him to WMI family. "We at WMI wish him all the best as he endeavours to fit into the shoes of the Founding Distinguished Chair, the late Prof. Wangari Maathai," he said. Other congratulatory and welcoming remarks were made by Prof. N. Maingi, Dean FVM on behalf of Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences and Ms. Wanjira Maathai on behalf of the Green Belt Movement family. It was also an honour to have the representative of the Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. G. Labbate give a brief on the potential role of the partnership of UNEP and WMI on Environmental Sustainability. The event was witnessed in conjunction with the UoN Senate, faculty, students and various stakeholders.



Prof. Takeuch with Prof. Peter Mbithi. Vice Chancellor, WMI

Message from the Distinguished Chair, WMI – Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi

I am thrilled and deeply honoured to have been appointed Distinguished Chair of the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, following in the footsteps of the late Professor and Nobel Peace Laureate Wangari Muta Maathai. I had the privilege of speaking with Professor Maathai, and also receiving her manuscript submission for an editorial in the *Sustainability Science* journal, for which I serve as editor-in-chief.

As Distinguished Chair, I hope to elevate the institute’s international standing as a research and education centre so as to strive for world peace and environmental restoration. To name a few, I would like to promote the institute as a centre of excellence on sustainable development and to facilitate exchanges between researchers, students and other stakeholders in Kenya and Japan. Further I hope to take an approach to provide synergy to the institute with my activities as President of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Vice-President of the Science Council of Japan.

Drawing fully on the international networks that I have developed in the fields of peace and sustainability, on both an organisational and an individual level, it is my desire to champion within the international community the tremendous importance of the Wangari Maathai Institute in terms of its academic and social contributions.

In addition, leveraging more than 40 years of experience in research and education at the University of Tokyo, the United Nations University, and other institutions, I hope to advise the Wangari Maathai Institute on ways to advance its research and education, while also creating lecture and other opportunities for both faculty and students. Based on my experience of securing large-scale competitive funding on numerous occasions, I also hope to advise the Wangari Maathai Institute on effective ways of securing outside funds from international donors and other entities in future.

Since my days as a young researcher in my 20s and 30s, I have worked to address environmental issues in Kenya and other parts of Africa. I deeply treasure the friendships and trust that I have cultivated with the many researchers and local residents with whom I have worked in Africa. Now, in the final years of my career in research and education, I regard Distinguished Chair as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to give back to Africa. As Distinguished Chair, I will seize every opportunity to spend time at the institute and help it to flourish.



Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, the newly appointed Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) Distinguished Chair, makes his acceptance speech.



From the left: Prof. Peter Mbithi Vice Chancellor UoN. Ms Wanjira Maathai, Mrs. Marion Kamau, GBM Chair Elect, Dr. Emmanuel Mutisya and a section of the audience listening to Prof. Takeuchi as he gave his acceptance speech.

María Teresa Fernández de la Vega-Women for Africa's Foundation President presides over the Launch and Grow workshop and graduation ceremony at WMI

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi in collaboration with Babson College held a successful workshop and Cohort I's graduation ceremony. These events were held on November 11, 2017 at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) Clinical Studies Seminar room.

Launch and Grow is women's entrepreneurship program that consists of a mentorship process for the women entrepreneurs' beneficiaries of the project. The phase I of the program is implemented by Babson College while phase II is implemented by WMI in conjunction with Babson and Fundacion Mujeres Por Africa (FMxA).

The project's goal is to build the capacity of the entrepreneurs particularly on finance, growth and corporate governance, coaching and community building. The first cohort consist of 14 women entrepreneurs among whom 11 successfully completed their training and mentorship process. The second cohort consists of 14 entrepreneurs who have already undertaken the one week intensive training in Babson College.



María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, Women for Africa's Foundation President next to her, is Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS and other participants group

The events were presided over by **María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, Women for Africa's Foundation President** and Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS. In her remarks, Maria Teresa indicated that, *"Entrepreneurship means an opportunity for personal empowerment and greater autonomy for women. It enables them to take up the reins of their life, even in very difficult social and family contexts. You are helping to change the existing social stereotypes about women. That is a great responsibility that should always guide your decisions. I know that you are aware that one must lead by example. In my opinion, we would make a mistake if we limit ourselves to replicating the role that has been played by men and their companies. I think that it would be wiser if we make an effort to "feminise" the economy, introducing women's experience. In this sense, your experience is extremely valuable."*

She added that, *"It would be very satisfying for me if you are able to build an economic model focusing more on people than on those abstract entities known as "markets". It would be a model that stresses people's real needs, linked to human development, and where the extent to which those needs are satisfied is sufficiently valued. By focusing the economy on the new times, women can take on the role of leaders. This especially applies to women who are motivated, aware and who after centuries of mediating, organizing, pacifying and innovating in the private sphere, now feel ready to demonstrate that we can also do so in the sphere of entrepreneurship and in the economic sphere."*

On his part, Prof. S. G. Kiama described the Launch and Grow to have built a community of business women who can counter the effect of fear to innovation thus, result to social transformation. He reiterated the words of Prof. Wangari Maathai who tried to describe the role of WMI in regard to transformation stating that she saw the Institute as a "tube," through which mentees enter and come out as transformed citizens.

María Teresa Fernández de la Vega-Women for Africa's Foundation President presides over the Launch and Grow workshop and graduation ceremony at WMI



Patricia Okelo receiving her certificate from María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, on looking is Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS (left) and Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, WMI (right).

The events were concluded by the award of the certificates of completion to 11 fellows who had successfully participated in the training at Babson College and mentorship process at WMI and a tree planting ceremony at the Wangari Maathai Institute campus.

Alicia Cebada, Project Manager, Women for Africa Foundation, Marta Villa, the Director General, Women for Africa Foundation, Mrs. M. Kamau, Chair Elect, Green Belt Movement, the local program’s facilitators Dr. Kinoti, Dr. Iraya and Dr. Muindi, Dr. Nyamute, Launch and Grow Fellows Cohort I, II and potential fellows, WMI faculty and some members of the College Management Board were among the many that graced the events.

Prof. Mutembei, Director, WMI and the WMI family wish to thank Babson College and FMxA for their support in implementation of this important program, Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, CAVs and the College management for the continued support and all that participates and contribute to the success of the program. The Launch and Grow project is also highly grateful for the generous support of Banco Santander, through Santander Universidades, and in particular, to the leadership and inspiration of its President, Ana Botín.



María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, Women for Africa's Foundation President plants a tree at the WMI Campus

Learning by Doing at the Institute (SLUSE 2017)



Salad Tuatana, MSc. student, Wangari Maathai Institute and his group presenting their preliminary findings on crop farming technologies, crop processing and value addition

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi continues to bridge the gap between theory and practice just as Prof. Wangari Maathai hoped. The institute in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen and University of Roskilde, Denmark successfully implemented the 2017 experiential field exercise. This prolific experiential field learning course dubbed, “Sustainable land use management system – (SLUSE),” is the 5th in series after the SLUSE 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016. It was held in Embu County, Kibugu Location from March 2-13, 2017. It is founded on the fact that land and other natural resource management issues cannot be adequately addressed by any one discipline. The program incorporated students from a variety of disciplines that included agriculture, sociology, anthropology, economics, forestry and livestock production and law. The course was attended by a total of thirty four (34) students, twenty two (22) international students from both University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University and twelve (12) from the University of Nairobi-Wangari Maathai Institute.

These students were hosted by the local communities for the entire period (12 days). The SLUSE research areas were clustered into five (5) thematic areas that included, crop farming technologies, crop processing and value addition, gender and agribusiness dynamics, pest and disease management practices and livestock production. The students were supervised by the faculty from the Wangari Maathai Institute, including Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Dr. Thuita Thenya, Dr. Karatu Kiemo, Dr. Jane Mutune, Dr. Cecilia Onyango, Dr. Catherine Kunyanga, Dr. Maina Muiro and Mr. Abdimajid Nunow Abdi. The supervisors from the University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University included Prof. Christian Pilegaard Hansen and Prof. Ebbe Prag. The field exercise was concluded with a community feedback meeting during which students presented their preliminary findings and recommendations. The feedback meeting involved the host families, government officers, pupils from Kibugu primary school and the general public. The community appreciated and highly rated the program. The research outputs from the program will help the community to improve in their land use management. The program impacted lives of about 12,000 people in the area of study in Embu.

The institute appreciates **Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal, College of Agriculture and veterinary Sciences** who graced the community feedback meeting and who also continues to give to his support to the Institute and all that made this year’s experiential learning program a success!

Learning by Doing at the Institute (GFE 2017)



Wangari Maathai Institute and University of Tokyo GFE team at the Police Post in Kiandutu slum

The Institute and the GPSS-GLI held a one day symposium at the Clinical Studies Department Seminar Room on December 11, 2017. The purpose of the symposium was to exchange research ideas and discuss how to further research and education collaboration between the University of Nairobi and the University of Tokyo under the theme “Development of climate change adaptation strategies for human health impacts in urban areas of East Africa. The symposium was attended by eminent faculty from the University of Tokyo and several graduate students led by Prof. Takashi Mino who coordinates the Graduate Programme in Sustainability Science - Global Leadership Programme. Participants from Kenya included faculty and students from the Institute, as well as faculty from the Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection, the Department of Agricultural Economics, Clinical Studies Department, Department of Sociology and School of Public Health.

A Research Associate from Stanford School of Public Policy at Duke University in the US and an Intern at WMI from Humboldt University of Berlin also participated in the symposium. A total of seven papers were presented. In addition, the two universities made presentations about their experiences in education collaboration. The concept and collaboration of the Global Field Exercise (GFE) which followed the symposium the following day was presented by the GPSS-GLI students while the WMI students made a presentation on the research area of the GFE. The final session of the symposium was a reflection of the presentations of the day and a discussion of the way forward.

The two universities also held the second joint Global Field Exercise/Experiential Learning in the Kiandutu slum, Thika West Sub-County between 12th and 15th December. It involved sixteen graduate students and five faculty members from the University of Tokyo and the University of Nairobi (Prof. David Mungai, Prof. Hirotaka Matsuda, Dr. Jane Mutune, Dr. Yasuko Kusakari and Mr. A. Abdi). The study was carried out in partnership with local stakeholders including community members and their leaders. There were three research themes for the GFE Kenya 2017 which included: (a) household food access and consumption patterns for the urban poor in a changing climate, (b) assessing urban farmers’ perception on climate change, and (c) the food system of Kiandutu informal settlement. Although the period for the studies was short, the teams worked exceptionally hard and collected sufficient data which they are now jointly analyzing with a view to have a better understanding of the climate change-nutrition and human health and to publish at least three co-authored papers in peer reviewed journals. A feedback session with the stakeholders in the study area was given on the last day which was well received by both the local administration and the Kiandutu residents who attended the session.

Wangari Maathai Institute Participated in the University of Nairobi's 58th Graduation Ceremony- December 22, 2017



From the left, Ms. Gichure, Dr. Lewa, Dr. Mukaria, Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute and Dr. Ngatia after the UoN's 58th graduation ceremony

Wangari Maathai Institute was happy to have participated in the 58th Graduation Ceremony. It's never easy but when successfully completed, it's well celebrated! This can be confirmed by the three Doctoral students; Mukaria S. Murangiri, Ngatia J. Mathenge and Lewa S. Kiti and two Masters students; Opondo G. Keyah and Gichure R. Wanjiku from the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies who have been conferred and awarded with degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Governance and Management and Master of Science in Environmental Governance respectively during the 58th graduation ceremony of the University of Nairobi. This colourful ceremony was held on December 22, 2017 and was presided over by the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi.

The graduands' studies were diverse including analysis of traffic police awareness, attitude and practices on motor vehicle air pollution in the Nairobi Central Business District and Environs by Dr. Mukaria, participatory forest management: a case study of equity analysis in plantation establishment and livelihood improvement scheme in Gathiuru and Hombe forests of Central Kenya by Dr. Ngatia and the impact of alternative dispute resolution methods in managing human-wildlife conflict, the case of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Kenya by Dr. Lewa. Mr. Opondo and Ms. Gichure on the other hand focused on the analysis of the governance framework for vehicular air pollution abatement in Kenya: a case study of Nairobi city and effects of drought on food production: a case of Makueni County respectively.

The Institute is honoured to have contributed to the 61 PhD and 1,979 Masters Graduands of the University of Nairobi's 58th ceremony.

Congratulations to the graduands!

Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama appointed as the Deputy Director, Wangari Maathai Institute



On the left, Prof. H. M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute, right, Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences congratulating Prof. N. J. Muthama on his appointment as the Deputy Director, WMI.

Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama was appointed as the 2nd Deputy Director, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies with effect from February, 2017. Prof. Muthama's operational, teaching (of both undergraduate and postgraduate students) and research experience in spans about 26 years. His research experience is, among others, in the area of Air quality, Climate and climate change. His current focus is specifically aimed at providing scientifically founded quantitative answers to the basis for predictions of regional climatic variations and of changes in the frequency and severity of extreme events, especially over Africa, and their impacts on the Environment. This touches on aspects of environmental monitoring; Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Education, especially through experiential, Open, Distant and E-learning.

He has authored, together with other researchers, over fifty papers (https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nzioka_Muthama/stats). He has several years of experience in administration, his previous administrative post being Chairman, Department of Meteorology, for nine years. In addition, he has been the Chairman of the Kenya Meteorological Society for six years.

Prof. Mutembei, Director, WMI and Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS extended their congratulatory messages to the new Deputy Director and welcomed him to institute where he brings in lots of experience that is well in line with the mission and vision of the institute. Prof. Muthama holds a BSc., MSc. (UoN) and PhD, from the University of Rome 'La Sapienza', Italy.

The Institute is pleased to have Prof. Muthama on board and warmly welcomes him!

Guest Lecturers share their experiential knowledge with WMI students



Dr. Yasuko Kusakari was hosted by the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies on December 20, 2017 where she delivered a seminar which explored 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 be 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.



Dr. Grace Mwaura delivering the Seminar

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies hosted a seminar by Dr. Grace Mwaura. She delivered an insightful seminar to WMI's postgraduate students on, “Governing the Youth-Environment-Development Nexus in Kenya: Findings from Youth Livelihoods Study.” The seminar was held on September 27, 2017 at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, in the Small Pathology Lecture Theatre.



Mr. Peter Ambeje, Director, Kenya Meteorological Department delivers a seminar and engages WMI students on Kabete Weather Station and Environmental Sustainability. This forum was held in conjunction with Faculty of Agriculture on October 11, 2017 at the Upper Kabete Campus. The weather station is housed in College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences and operated by the Kenya Meteorological Department and has been in operation for the last several decades. The station which is an automatic weather station is an upgraded version of the traditional station and is equipped with sensors capable of measuring wind speed and direction, humidity, radiation and rainfall amount. It provides valuable data for all involved in research.

Guest Lecturers share their experiential knowledge with WMI students



Claudia Ituarte-Lima delivering a seminar to the students

Claudia Ituarte-Lima, a researcher on international environmental law at Stockholm Resilience Centre delivered a seminar on **'Connecting peace and ecosystems: a legal and governance perspective'** while giving an insight on why the ecosystems and peace are intertwined. It is undeniable that environmental degradation results to poverty while most conflicts arise as a result of scarce resources. Well conserved and governed resources play critical role in reducing conflicts. This thrilling seminar was held on May 24, 2017 at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Upper Kabete Campus



C. Mwangi delivering a seminar to WMI postgraduate students

The Institute held an insightful seminar on Global Learning & Observations to Benefit the Environment (Globe) Program – Introduction & Current Initiatives held at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, in the Small Pathology Lecture Theatre. The seminar was delivered by Charles Mwangi, the Deputy Country Coordinator for the GLOBE Program in Kenya and a member of the GLOBE Program Technology Working Group representing the Africa region. GLOBE Program is an international science and education program which supports students, teachers, and scientists in research collaborations using inquiry-based investigations of the environment and the earth system.

Wangari Maathai Institute participated in tree planting for 44 tribes



Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director WMI, Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal CAVS, Mrs. Marion Kamau, Chair Elect GBM planting tree at the WMI site

Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies led the WMI team in tree planting activity for the forty four (44) tribes. This event was organized by the Green Belt Movement Kenya and held on August 31, 2017 at the WMI site. In his speech, Prof. Mutembei noted that, “This is a great day for me to witness a noble activity of planting trees that symbolize the 44 tribes of Kenya. These trees will not only symbolize peace but also remind us the importance of our strength in accommodating our diversified cultures. And this is actually the cultures of peace that our founding Mum “Prof. Wangari Maathai,” cherished a lot during her life with us. Some of us who had an opportunity to share experiences with the late Prof. Wangari Maathai will attest to the fact trees occupied a central part of her life and particularly in relation to peace.

As the Director of WMI I strive to uphold what I learnt from Prof. Wangari Maathai and promise to protect her legacy. This is the reason why when Mrs. Kamau, the Chairlady elect of GBM shared with me the need to provide space for the 44 trees symbolizing the 44 tribes of Kenya, I immediately saw an opportunity to advance the legacy of our founding Mum Prof. Wangari Maathai.

In consultation with the Principal of College of Agriculture Veterinary Sciences (CAVS), Prof. S.G. Kiama, we embraced this idea as a part of the learning platforms within the institute. We decided to plant the trees along the walk pathway, each separated with a distance so that as the future generations or the visitors walk through, they can also find time to appreciate to learn about the diversity of Kenya tribes.

Personally I will be thrilled whenever I visit in future and find the generations to come looking through the trees and saying, *wow! look at the beautiful diversity of Kenya*. I have looked at the list of the trees and I am very happy that each of them has a significant role for each of the tribes. This means the trees themselves represent a diversity of the kind of students and staff the Institute endeavors to accommodate.”

The Director concluded by extending his gratitude to the GBM for helping dream for WMI to create such a learning platform, which contributes to its vision, “Excellency in experiential learning, transformational community outreach and research for sustainable environment and cultures of peace,” and to Principal, CAVS for finding time to participate in this noble activity.

Wangari Maathai Institute participated in tree planting event, CAVS



Dr. Jane M. Mutune, Lecturer, Wangari Maathai Institute and a KDF staff planting a fruit tree at CAVS field station.

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) continues to walk the works and legacy of Prof. Wangari Maathai of enhancing environmental sustainability. On May 26, 2017, WMI participated in the fruit tree planting event that was held at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) Field Station. Through this “little-thing,” a total of 580 fruit tree species including tree tomatoes, apple, avocado and macadamia trees were planted in line with the event’s theme dubbed, “Fruits for a healthy nation.” And besides catering for a healthy and happy nation, the fruit trees will also contribute to environmental conservation.

This event was attendant by different stakeholders including the University of Nairobi students and Faculty led by Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS, Loresho primary and Secondary Schools’ pupils, students and teachers, representatives from the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Kenya Defense Force (Moi Air Base), National Environment Management Authority, *Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis* and Kenya Forest Service among others.



Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS addressing faculty, stakeholders, UoN students, Loresho primary and secondary pupils and students

Wangari Maathai Institute hosted ESDA-SUD Sustainability Workshop



Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS (centre), Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, Deputy Director, WMI & Coordinator ESDA-SUD, UoN-KU ESDA – SUD faculty and students after the Sustainability Workshop.

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies was honoured to host the Education for Sustainable Development in Africa-Sustainable Urban Development (ESDA-SUD) sustainability workshop and students' debate. The workshop brought together the Kenyatta University and University of Nairobi ESDA-SUD Community and Stakeholders to deliberate on salient sustainability issues at National, Regional and International Level. This workshop was held on Monday September 25, 2017 at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS), Upper Kabete Campus at the 8.4.4 Boardroom. It was opened by the Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal CAVS, on behalf of the University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the understanding and importance of the ESDA-SUD Masters program in order to attain the aim of ESDA which is to train leaders on sustainable development in Africa. This is done through training of students at the post graduate level who may serve as policy makers for sustainable development in Africa.

The morning plenary session involved oral presentation of case studies and emerging issues on sustainable development by key note speakers. The topics discussed included Sustainable Urban Metabolism and air quality, Sustainable Urban Water Supply and Sanitation and Youth and Women in Sustainable Urban Governance. During the afternoon session, students from Kenyatta University and University of Nairobi engaged in a first of its kind debate on sustainability challenges in urban areas. The debate focused on three areas including, Sustainable Urban Water Supply and Sanitation, Sustainable Urban Energy Resources and Utilization and Urban Food and Nutrition Security.

ESDA was initiated in 2008; it is prepared in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU) and leading African Universities. The program provides a platform of continuous engagement with ESDA-SUD faculty members, students and relevant stakeholders, community members and policy makers and also enhances intra and inter university collaboration. It focuses on three thematic areas namely:

1. Sustainable Rural Development (SRD), which is implemented by universities in West Africa.
2. Mining and Mineral resources (MMR), which is implemented by universities in Southern Africa and;
- Sustainable Urban Development (SUD), Which is implemented by Universities in East Africa such as the University of Nairobi (UON) and Kenyatta University (KU).

The programme is coordinated by Prof. Nzioka J. Muthama, Deputy Director, Wangari Maathai Institute alongside Dr. B. Wambua, Chairman, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies as the Alternate Coordinator.

Wangari Maathai Institute held the introduction session for the Launch and Grow: the Kenyan Women's Entrepreneurial



3rd, 1st row from the left Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS, 5th, Prof. H. M. Mutembei, Director, WMI, 1st on 2nd row, Dr. J. M. Mutune, WMI, 4th back row, Ms. Wanjira Mathai and participants of the program after the introductory session meeting

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies held the introduction meeting for implementation of the first phase of the Launch and Grow: the Kenyan Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership Program at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Upper Kabete Campus on January 9, 2017.

The launch and grow program consists of a mentoring process for fourteen women entrepreneurs beneficiaries. Its goals include capacity building for the entrepreneurs through training in Boston at Babson College, e-learning through the webinars particularly on finance, growth and corporate governance, coaching and community building.

The Institute will implement the program in the next twelve months in close coordination with Babson College supported by Women for Africa Foundation (Murejes por Africa). The launch of the program was graced by Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute, Ms. Wanjira Mathai, Advisory Council Member, Mujeres Por Africa and Dr. Jane M. Mutune, Wangari Maathai Institute.

News In Brief

Wangari Maathai Institute in collaboration with Babson College hosts the Launch and Grow program's Business Model Webinar

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies is excited to implement the 2nd edition of the Launch and Grow Program in collaboration with Babson College and Fundacion Mujeres Por Africa (FMxA).

The Launch and Grow is women's entrepreneurs' mentorship program that involves a mentorship process on finance, growth and corporate governance for women entrepreneurs' beneficiaries of the project. The first webinar on business model was held on September 20, 2017 at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences.

This session was facilitated by Professor Angelo Santinelli, Babson College and was attended by some of the fellows drawn from both the 1st and 2nd cohorts.

WMI participates in the Celebration of 40 Years of Formal Collaboration between FAO and the GOK

Wangari Maathai Institute in conjunction with the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences' faculty and students joined Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in commemorating 40th anniversary of FAO's collaboration with the Government of Kenya. This important celebration was held on September 21, 2017 at the United Nations Complex, Gigiri Nairobi.

In its remarks, FAO acknowledged importance of strong support and partnership with all relevant stakeholders stating that it had contributed to its growth and effectiveness. FAO recognized the University of Nairobi, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences for positively transforming the country's workforce and contributing to improved livelihoods and urged it to keep up the noble work.



One aspect of a love of nature that we need to foster is experiential. Nature and in particular, the wild-feeds our spirit and a direct encounter with it is vital in helping us appreciate and care for it. For unless we see it, smell it, or touch it, we tend to forget it, and our souls wither".

From Replenishing the Earth, by Wangari Maathai

The Wangari Maathai Institute Co-hosted the Tribes Summit

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies in collaboration with the Tribes Summit Secretariat successfully holds the Tribes summit 2017. This forum was held at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Upper Kabete Campus on June 29, 2017. The Summit 2017, "All Kenyan Communities – One People," aim was to advocate for and promote peaceful coexistence and stimulate responsible actions among the youth towards, during and after the upcoming elections. This was followed by the ATAT (All Tribes Against Tribalism) – Peace Walk open for all on Saturday July 1, 2017 as part of the summit activities.

IProf. S.G. Kiama, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, represented the University, gave his remarks on the importance of peace. He urged all to be peace ambassadors and flagged off the Peace walk on July 1, 2017 at the Upper Kabete Campus. Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute represented the Institute in this important peace activity. Other participants included the students and the general public. Let's all do our little thing to advocate for and endorse the peace that we all need!

News In brief

Wangari Maathai Institute in collaboration with the Danish universities celebrates Wangari Maathai Day in Embu County

Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi leads the Institute in the celebration of Wangari Maathai Day on March 3, 2017 at Kibugu Primary School, Embu County.

The celebrations were held in collaboration with the Faculty and students from the University of Copenhagen and University of Roskilde, pupils and teachers of Kibugu primary school, St. Peters Kathaka secondary school, area chief and community members. The Wangari Maathai Day was endorsed to be celebrated concurrently with the African Environmental Day every March 3, during the 18th African Union Summit at the auspices of the New African Union headquarters complex in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

During the celebrations, Mrs. Muriuki, a teacher at Kibugu primary school narrated the story of the humming bird by Prof. Wangari Maathai to the pupils and students and urged all to do the little they can to conserve the environment and continue emulating the walks and works of Prof. Wangari Maathai.

Dr. Jane Mutune, Lecturer, Wangari Maathai Institute on the other hand quoted Prof. Wangari Maathai, “When you plant trees you plant the seeds of hope,” and indicated that planting of trees fosters peace and unity among communities. She encouraged all to plant trees and keep the environment clean environment so both the present and future generations can continue to enjoy the benefits of a healthy environment.

Experiential Learning at the Institute through Field Visits

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies continues to exposure its postgraduate students to experiential learning just as Prof. Wangari Maathai hoped.

On February 10, 2017, visited TakaTaka Solutions where they exposed to waste management issues. TakaTaka Solutions is a Nairobi-based waste collection and resource recycling business, whose mission is to provide affordable and environmentally friendly waste management services to all income areas.

The Institute also took its students to Alternative Energy Systems Limited (AESL) in Thika, Kiambu County on May 30, 2017. AESL is a pyrolysis plant in Kenya that converts waste plastic into usable forms of energy. Its positive social impacts include reducing plastic pollution, generating employment and producing a charcoal substitute from carbon black (a pyrolysis byproduct). Garbage is however often treated as a low value product and is not considered a priority. Yet we all complain about piles of garbage at the side of the road, the AESL is doing its little thing and looks forth to starting a waste segregation centre to convert organic waste into compost fertilizer.

The students also had a chance to visit Ecopost Ltd. Ecopost is a social enterprise that addresses the challenges of urban waste management (plastic pollution), chronic youth unemployment, deforestation and climate change. Ecopost recycles waste plastic to manufacture into Eco-friendly plastic lumber profiles with application in numerous industries from fencing to road signage to outdoor furniture.

The experiential field visits are quite an eye opener to our students for they expose the students to current environmental issues and the some of the students have been able to identify research topics from such field visits.

Message from the Director



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WMI was established in the year 2009 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. Our primary goal is to institutionalize and make available the WMI experience to students and practitioners, the University of Nairobi, through offering unique opportunity to create impact in the current and future generations through experiential learning and training, working directly with communities and creating a deliberate link between knowledge holding institutions and knowledge users at community level. Thus, WMI creates a home for the life, work and works of Nobel laureate Prof Wangari Muta Maathai that can inspire and build many more like her.

We at WMI have strived to achieve the above stated goal through our partnership with leading Universities, including University of Tokyo, United Nations University, University of Pretoria and University of Copenhagen. In 2017 we managed to fill the gap of our departed hero by recruiting the second distinguished chair, Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi who is a renowned scholar in Japan with global credentials. His entry into WMI has already started to put us into the global map, with benefits of funded projects.

The University of Tokyo (Graduate Program in Sustainability Science-Global Leadership Initiative) and the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi, have received a grant to implement a project entitled, "Formation of Social Design Research Hub for Tackling Sustainability Issues." This project aims at promoting trans-local learning approach to social design research at community level on the

basis of young researchers' network to be formed across Asian and African universities. The project is supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, the principal science research funding agency of the Japanese Government.

The year 2017 saw also a heightened activity of Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) project. Other valued projects that have impacted positively includes the Launch and Grow project, which in 2017 helped mentor 12 women entrepreneurs. We had a wonderful opportunity to also host the former Deputy Prime minister of Spain, Maria Teresa who has graciously supported this project at WMI.

WMI has remained student-centered and we were glad to graduate three PhD students and two Msc students. This was great success and I am confident that in 2018 we will graduate more students. The staff, though lean in nature has continued to work hard to build stronger bonds with the students and within themselves. This has improved the students' active participation in research and national development agenda. Our main challenge has been the space but thanks to the Government of Kenya (GoK) phase one of our green campus (app. 50 acres), is nearly finished. It is located within the serene environment of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (Upper Kabete Campus), off Kapenguria Road, 15 Kilometers West of Nairobi City Center. The site is accessible through Kapenguria Road from either Waiyaki Way or lower Kabete Road. It is worth noting that Kapenguria Road, which was in a dilapidated condition, is now being worked into a tarmac road by Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), courtesy of GoK initiative.

Looking to the future, WMI's strategy is to position itself to deliberately reinforce its contribution to sustainable management of the environment through partnerships, scholarships and networks. I take this opportunity to thank our existing partners, including the Denmark Government support for the SLUSE Program, The Spanish Government for Launch and Grow Program and the Japanese Government for ESDA Program. We hope to partner with others for scholarship support for our students. I wholeheartedly thank all our students and staff for their valued contributions in 2017.

VISION: Excellence in experiential learning, transformational community outreach and research for sustainable environment and cultures of peace

MISSION: To cultivate positive ethics, values and practices towards the environment by training stewards who foster peace, holistic sustainable development and link theory with practice