

Dr Kazuhiko Takeuchi – University of Tokyo



Dr. Kazuhiko Takeuchi is the Professor of Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Tokyo (Todai). Educated and trained as a geographer at Todai, his research focuses on creating eco-friendly environments for a harmonious coexistence of man and nature, both on local and global scales.

He is keenly interested in the restoration of ecosystem and effective utilization of environmental resources in Japan. Revitalization of traditional rural landscapes locally called Satoyama is one of his major concerns. He also conducts extensive field research on desertification for developing early warning systems in China and Mongolia, on sustainable bioresources management system in Indonesia, and landscape planning in the Asian mega-cities in Thailand and the Philippines. He has also initiated the research project on reconstruction of historic gardens and historic landscape planning in Italy. His most recent research interest lies in the integration of future scenarios for the three societies which constitute a solid base for global sustainability: low carbon society; resource-circulating society; and the society coexisting harmoniously with nature.

At Todai, he is the Deputy Executive Director of the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S), which was launched in 2005 as a research alliance, comprising of eleven Japanese universities/institutes, for establishment of the newly emerging discipline, sustainability science. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the journal Sustainability Science.

Other recent professional activities include membership on the several councils of Japanese Government, such as Central Environment Council and National Land Council. He also served as a member of the Group of Experts, Committee on Science and Technology, United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD). Prof. Takeuchi has taken his new post as Vice-Rector of the United Nations University since 1 July 2008.