



環境省
Ministry of the Environment
Government of Japan



Convention on
Biological Diversity



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HPLF Satoyama Initiative Societies in Harmony with Nature: An inclusive approach for communities, landscapes and seascapes

Speaker Bios

Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme



Achim Steiner became UNDP Administrator on 19 June 2017 and will serve for a term of four years. The United Nations General Assembly confirmed his nomination on 19 April 2017, following his nomination by Secretary-General António Guterres.

Mr. Steiner is also the Vice-Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group, which unites 40 entities of the UN system that work to support sustainable development. Over nearly three decades, Achim Steiner has been a global leader on sustainable development, climate resilience and international cooperation. He has worked tirelessly to champion sustainability, economic growth and equality for the vulnerable, and has been a vocal advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prior to joining UNDP, he was Director of the Oxford Martin School and Professorial Fellow of Balliol College, University of Oxford. Mr Steiner has served across the United Nations system, looking at global challenges from both a humanitarian and a development perspective. He led the United Nations Environment Programme (2006-2016), helping governments invest in clean technologies and renewable energy. He was also Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Achim Steiner previously held other notable positions including Director General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and Secretary General of the World Commission on Dams. Achim Steiner has lived and worked in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the United States. He graduated in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (MA) from Worcester College, Oxford University and holds an MA from the University of London/School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).



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Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies & Visiting Professor at UNU-IAS



Prof. Takeuchi was born in 1951 in Wakayama, Japan. He graduated from the Department of Geography, the University of Tokyo in 1974. He obtained M.Agr. and PhD from the Graduate School of Agriculture, the University of Tokyo. He served as a Lecturer at the Faculty of Science, Tokyo Metropolitan University, an Associate Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, a Professor, Asian Natural Environmental Science Center, a Professor, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Science at the University of Tokyo and as Director and Professor, Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S) at the University of Tokyo. He also served as a Vice-Rector and Senior Vice-Rector at United Nations University from 2008 to 2016 and as an Assistant Secretary-General at the

United Nations from 2013 to 2016. From 2016, he has served as a Senior Visiting Professor at United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS). He was Director and a Project Professor of IR3S at the University of Tokyo from 2017 to 2019. He has served as President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) since July 2017. He took up the position as Project Professor of the Institute for Future Initiatives (IFI) at the University of Tokyo in April 2019. He has served, inter alia, as a Vice-President of the Science Council of Japan, Chair of the Central Environmental Council, Government of Japan, Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Sustainability Science* (Springer Nature), and Distinguished Chair, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi.

He received the Ichimura Prize in Science against Global Warming for Distinguished Achievement in 2019, Otto Soemarwoto Award (Indonesia) in 2018, Japan Prize of Agricultural Science in 2017, Ishikawa Award of the City Planning Institute of Japan in 1994, Award of the Association of Rural Planning, Japan in 1994, and Award of the Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture in 1980. He specializes in landscape ecology, environmental studies, and sustainability science. He 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. Recently, he has been working toward establishing a global foundation for developing the field of sustainability science aiming to build a sustainable society. He is deeply involved in the SATOYAMA initiative, aiming at the restoration and revitalization of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes around the world, and Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) initiated by FAO. The following is a list of his recently edited books — *Biofuels and Sustainability: Holistic Perspective for Policy-making*, Springer Japan, 265pp, 2018; *Resilient Asia: Fusion of Traditional and Modern Systems for Sustainable Future*, Springer Japan, 196pp., 2018; *Strategies for Building Resilience against Climate and Ecosystem Changes in Sub-Saharan Africa*, Springer Japan, 343pp., 2017.



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H.E. Shinjirō Koizumi, Minister, Ministry of the Environment of Japan



Mr. Koizumi Shinjiro has been the member of the House of Representatives in Japan since 2009, having represented Yokosuka and Miura City in Kanagawa Prefecture. Since September 2019, he has served as the Minister of the Environment.

He belongs to the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and holds various senior positions at LDP such as the Director of the Youth Division, the Director of the Agriculture and Forestry Division, Chief Deputy Secretary-General and the Director of the Health, Labor and Welfare Division.

He also served as Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office and Parliamentary Vice- Minister for Reconstruction. He earned Bachelor's Degrees in Economics, Kanto Gakuin University, in Japan in 2004 and master degree in Master of Arts in Political Science, Columbia University, in the United States in 2006.



H.E. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Minister, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica



Carlos Manuel Rodriguez is currently serving his third term as the Minister of Environment and Energy. Over his three terms as Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica doubled the size of its forests, made its power sector 100 percent renewable, and made the country a top ecotourism destination. Rodriguez, who also worked for 12 years at Conservation International and held the position of Vice President for Conservation Policy. He has been a pioneer in the development of payment for ecosystem services, ocean conservation, and de-carbonization strategies, and is a world-renowned expert on environmental policies, multilateral negotiations, and financing for nature conservation. Rodriguez, describes himself as a “lawyer by profession, politician by choice, and conservationist at heart.”

Prior to becoming the Minister of Environment and Energy, Rodriguez held various political posts in Costa Rica, including Director of the National Parks Service. He is also founder and Board member of many environmental NGOs in Costa Rica, in addition to several tropical research institutes.

In June 2020, Minister Carlos Manuel Rodriguez was selected as the next CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility, the largest multilateral trust fund supporting environmental action in developing countries and the main financing mechanism for multiple United Nations environmental conventions. He will be the first national from Latin America to lead the GEF when he takes office in August. “I feel thrilled and honored to be selected as the new CEO and Chairperson by the members of this great partnership,” Rodriguez said. “Under Naoko Ishii’s leadership the GEF grew in its vision, focus, and ambition. Her legacy needs to be continued and scaled further in this moment when the planet is at a crossroads between business-as-usual and green economic recovery plans centered in nature in the aftermath of COVID-19. I will work tirelessly with the membership and stakeholders to make the GEF a global agent of change.”



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Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Elizabeth Maruma Mrema was the Director of the Law Division and has worked with UNEP for over two decades. Prior to joining the Law Division in June 2014, she was the Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Division, in charge of coordination, operations and programme delivery from 2012 and for one year, also serviced as Acting Director to the same Division. In 2018, in addition to her role as the Law Division Director, she was also the Acting Director of the Corporate Services Division where she led the management of the human resources, financial operations and management and other administrative functions for the

entire Organization. In 2009 she had been appointed as the Executive Secretary of the UNEP/Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Acting Executive Secretary of the UNEP/ASCOBANS and Interim Executive Secretary of the UNEP/Gorilla Agreement, all based in Bonn, Germany and held that position until 2012 and thereafter she joined the Ecosystems Division in Nairobi, Kenya. In these portfolios, she over saw and ensure effective conservation of migratory animals globally as well as implementation of a number of specific species agreements covering geographical areas where animals or birds or marine species migrate during their lifetime.

Elizabeth's work at UNEP has focused on the development, implementation and enforcement environmental laws both at national, regional and international level. She has played different roles in UNEP over the years that have included being a coordinator of capacity building and compliance and enforcement projects related to environmental law and the multilateral environmental conventions. She was a Senior Legal Officer and Chief of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Support and Cooperation Branch in the then Division of Environmental Conventions (DEC), and later a Principal Legal Officer and Chief of the Biodiversity/Land Law and Governance Branch in the then Division of Environmental Law and Conventions.

Before joining UNEP, Elizabeth worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania and left as a Counsellor/Senior Legal Counsel. During her time with the ministry, she was also a lecturer in Public International Law and Conference Diplomacy at Tanzania's Centre for Foreign Relations and Diplomacy. She had also served as a pro bono visiting lecturer at the University of Nairobi Law School and in the past at the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Rome, Italy.

A lawyer and career diplomat with LLB (Hons) from the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, LLM from Dalhousie University, Canada and Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy (Summa Cum Laude) from the Centre of Foreign Relations and Diplomacy in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. She has published several articles related to international environmental law, compliance and enforcement of conventions and developed, among others, a number of multilateral environmental agreements negotiation tools, handbooks and guidelines currently used by UNEP in its capacity-building programmes.



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Dr. Shinobu Yume Yamaguchi, Director, United Nations, University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability



Dr. Yamaguchi assumed leadership of UNU-IAS in November 2019. Her fields of specialisation include international development and cooperation, ICT in education, reform and policy of education, science and technology policy, and the application of technology in world heritage site preservation. Prior to this post, Dr. Yamaguchi worked at Tokyo Institute of Technology as an Associate Professor (2002–2006) and then full Professor (from 2006). In 2005–2007, she concurrently served as Advisor to the President. Before joining Tokyo Institute of Technology, Dr. Yamaguchi worked for the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), first at the Paris headquarters, and then in the Beijing Office. While with UNESCO, she was involved primarily in the development of education systems in China, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Pakistan.

Dr. Yamaguchi is an Associate Member of the Science Council of Japan, and an active member of the Comparative and International Education Society, the Japan Society for International Development, Educational Research Association, and the World Council of Comparative Education Societies. She also has served on numerous committees focused on international activities and comparative educational studies, including those organised by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Dr. Yamaguchi holds a PhD in Economics of Education from Columbia University (New York). She has authored or co-authored more than 200 publications and conference/seminar presentations.



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Moderator- Ms. Yoko Watanabe, Global Manager, GEF Small Grants Programme, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Yoko Watanabe has over 25 years of professional experience working on biodiversity, natural resources management, and international development. She directs the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) at UN Development Programme (UNDP) as its Global Manager. SGP is one of the largest global funds dedicated to supporting innovative community actions that address global environmental issues with civil societies and communities-based organizations, including women, indigenous peoples, and youth groups. With a total budget of more than US\$1 billion, the program is currently operational in over 125 countries with more than 24000 projects.

Prior to joining the SGP, Yoko worked at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and held various key positions, including Heads of Asia Program and Gender/Social Inclusion Team. She also served as Program Manager on biodiversity, and passionate about saving endangered species and places with local communities. Yoko also worked at the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), as its Conservation Director at the Mongolia Country Office and later as a Senior Advisor on Multilateral Relations at the US Office. She started her development and environment career in 1995 at the Japan International Cooperation Agency and later at UNDP as Environment Program Officer at Nepal and Mongolia Offices.

Yoko is a Japanese citizen and holds a master's degree in International Development with a focus on Environment and Natural Resources Management. For her undergraduate, she studied Environmental Studies and Development Economics in Tokyo. She is married, with two children.