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UNU Announces Appointment of Two New Vice-Rectors

United Nations University Rector Konrad Osterwalder is pleased to announce the appointment of two UNU Vice-Rectors: Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi (Japan) and Prof. Govindan Parayil (India). The two appointees bring considerable expertise to their new positions and will help strengthen the strategic management and operation of UNU Centre – Tokyo, where they will be located, and the global UNU system.

Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi has had a distinguished three-decade academic career with Tokyo Metropolitan University (1977–1985) and the University of Tokyo (1985–2008), where he has been a full Professor in the Laboratory of Landscape Ecology and Planning, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, since 1997. Since 2005, he has served concurrently in the posts of Director of the Division for International Relations, Deputy Executive Director of the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science, and Special Adviser to the President. In April 2007, he was appointed the University of Tokyo's Vice President for International Relations.

Prof. Takeuchi holds Bachelor of Science (Geography), Master of Agriculture (Agrobiology) and Doctor of Agriculture degrees from the University of Tokyo. He has authored numerous books, including *A Vision for the Environmental Era* (2003, University of Tokyo Press) and, most recently, *A Guide to Global Sustainability* (2007, Iwanami Shoten).

Prof. Takeuchi will assume his new post as Vice-Rector of the United Nations University on 1 July 2008.

Prof. Govindan Parayil has been serving since 2004 as full Professor with the Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture, University of Oslo (Norway), where his research focus has been on science, technology, innovation and sustainability. He served concurrently (2005–2007) as Director of Research and Leader of the Innovation Group. Prior to that, he was Head and Associate Professor of the Information and Communications Management Programme at the National University of Singapore (2001–2004) and Assistant Professor in Science, Technology and Society at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (1994–2001). His previous academic affiliations include Cornell University, Illinois Institute of Technology and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (USA), and the University of Sulaimaniya (Iraq).

Prof. Parayil holds a Bachelor of Science degree (Electrical Engineering) from the University of Calicut (India), a Master of Science degree (Science, Technology and Values) from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (USA), a Master of Arts degree (Development Economics) from American University (USA), and a Ph.D. in Science and Technology Studies from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (USA). He authored *Conceptualizing Technological Change* (1999) and edited *Kerala: The Development Experience* (2000) and *Political Economy and Information Capitalism in India* (2006), and has written numerous book chapters and articles in international journals. His book (co-edited with A.P. D'Costa) on *The New Asian Innovation Dynamics: China and India in Perspective* will be published in November.

Prof. Parayil will join the United Nations University as Vice-Rector on 1 August 2008.

For further information on these appointments, or to request an interview, please contact Naoko Yano, UNU Office of Communications (tel.: 03-5467-1311; e-mail: media@unu.edu).

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