Maastricht Visit by UNU Vice Rector Professor Kazuhiko Takeuchi

UNU-Merit was honoured by the stopover of UNU Vice Rector Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi on Monday. Prof. Takeuchi is in Europe on a familiarization trip at the head of a four year post as Vice Rector. While in Europe his agenda includes visits to some of the UNU training centers and coming to Maastricht for the day from Geneva he was keen to see UNU-Merit and understand the capacity of the PhD programmes and research. Several key issues discussed including the aim of facilitating a twinning program with other UNU Institutes particularly in developing countries. Prof. Takeuchi has experience with UNU-INRA (Institute for Natural Resources) Ghana and he is keen to build on and strengthen this relationship and to facilitate an expansion on this paradigm to other institutes in Africa. UNU-MERIT and UNU-INRA are already developing a joint programme in innovations in natural resource management. He also stressed the need to enhance the exchange of themes between UNU institutes. He spoke with a number of UNU-Merit researchers and PhD fellows on their work and he commented on how well the PhD program is progressing. Prof. Takeuchi even managed to fit in a fine sushi lunch with Prof. Luc Soete and Dr. Michiko Iizuka before heading back to Geneva in the afternoon. UNU-Merit wishes Prof. Takeuchi the very best during his post as Vice Rector.