

**2013 Tongji University
Sino-African Summer School Visit to UNEP**

August 7, Wednesday

Conference Room 10

UNEP HQs, Nairobi



- **Brian Waswala**, Environmental Education and Training Specialist (EETU – UNEP), welcomed participants and highlighted the importance of universities in promoting sustainable development through education, research and innovation; and environmental education for sustainable development;
- **Prof. Yang Changming**, College of Environmental Engineering, Tongji University (TU), China gave a brief introduction of Tongji University and noted that the objective of their summer school visit is to gain knowledge of Africa Environment and Ecology;
- **Akpezi Ogbuigwe**, Coordinator, Ecosystems Management Sub-programme, emphasized UNEP’s enhanced engagement with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and need to utilize the ecosystem approach to enhance human well-being in Chongming Eco-Island Project. The pioneer project on sustainable urban development, will embrace both ecosystem management and green economy principles in an integrated manner to harmonize the three dimensions of sustainable development for their sustainability;
- **Richard Kagumba**, Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit (UNEP), provided an overview of the Mau forest ecosystem importance, challenges and opportunities. He also highlighted the need for capacity development in natural forest resource use, equity sharing and management through informed policy deliberations and awareness creation;
- **Aruwa Bendsen**, Freshwater Ecosystems Unit, presented UNEP’s Freshwater Operational Strategy that seeks to ensure well managed, healthy freshwater systems for sustainable development and human well-being through sustainable watershed management;
- **Lily Shi**, (TU student), gave an overview on the current environment situation in China and green campus program strategies employed by TU. The green initiatives strive to promote resource efficiency (water and energy) and ecosystem management (artificial marshes and green buildings) within the campus; and
- **Mariam Osman**, Environmental Education and Training Specialist (EETU – UNEP), served as moderator and provided the closing remarks.

Feedback from invited panellists and the floor included the following key points:

- Transformative innovations and education partnerships will ensure sustainable development;
- Tongji- UNEP collaboration in the water quality guidelines and Global water assessment; and
- Need to expand ecosystem research capacity in Africa through partnerships and collaborations.

The Sino-African Summer School Visit was attended by nearly 50 participants from College of Environmental Science and Engineering, Tongji University and UNEP-DEPI Guest Speakers.