
Profile

Prof. Hans van GINKEL, Rector, United Nations University

Prof. Dr. Hans van Ginkel is the Rector of the United Nations University, Tokyo, since September 1997. From 1968 to 1985, he worked at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, in the Faculty of Geographical Sciences, and later as the University's Rector from 1986 to 1997. He also serves as a member and officer in several professional associations and organizations such as vice-chair of the Board of Trustees, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT, Bangkok) and member of the Academia Europaea. He holds a Ph.D. cum laude in Social Sciences from Utrecht University. He has published on geography and other wide variety of areas.

Mr. Juan SOMAVIA, Director-General, ILO

Mr. Somavia, a national of Chile, has been Director-General of the International Labour Office since March 1999. He held senior Government posts between 1968-1973 and has had a distinguished diplomatic career. In March 1990 he was appointed Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations where he served as president/chairperson of a number of UN bodies including ECOSOC and the Security Council. His experience also spans the private sector and the academic world and he has been active in various non governmental organizations. The hallmark of his career has been a strong concern for social development, peace and democracy. He continues to pursue these goals through his vision of decent work for all in the global economy. His work has earned him several citations and awards.

Mr. Taizo NISHIMURO, Member, World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization; Chairman of the Board, Toshiba Corporation

Mr. Taizo Nishimuro was born in 1935. After graduating from Keio University (Faculty of Economics), he joined Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co., Ltd. (today's Toshiba Corporation) in 1961. After serving as the general manager of the International Operations-Electronic Components, the Semiconductor Marketing Division, and the Overseas Operations Promotion Division, he successively assumed the posts of Vice Chairman of Toshiba America, Inc. (concurrently Director of Toshiba Corporation) and Senior Vice President and Executive Vice President of Toshiba Corporation. He took over as President and Chief Executive Officer in 1996 and as Chairman of the Board in 2000, the post he currently holds. He is also active as a member and a trustee of various organizations outside Toshiba.

Ms. Halimah YACOB, Assistant Secretary-General, National Trades Union Congress, Singapore

Mdm. Halimah Yacob earned a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) degree from the University of Singapore in 1978. She has been an Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court since 1981 and obtained a Master of Laws degree from the National University of Singapore in 2001. She was elected as a Member of the Parliament of Singapore during the General Elections in November 2001. She is a Deputy Member of the Workers' Group of the ILO Governing Body and serves as a member of the Feedback Unit Supervisory Panel, the Housing and Development Board, the Nanyang Polytechnic Board of Governors, the Economic Development Board, the National Environment Agency, the Tribunal for the Maintenance of Parents, and the Inter Ministerial Committee on Aging. She is a trustee of several labour unions.

Dr. Young-vaе KIM, Vice-Chairman, Korean Employers Federation

Dr. KIM Young-vaе obtained a bachelor's degree in economics from Chung-Ang University in Seoul, South Korea, in 1979 and doctor's degrees in economics from the University of Georgia in the U.S. in 1986. He joined the Korea Employers Federation in 1987 as a director of the Research Department. He served as the managing director from 1996 and as the senior managing director from 2001. He is currently serving as the vice-chairman & CEO at KEF. He currently holds an additional post as a professor at Chung-Ang University in Seoul. He is also an executive director of the National Pension Corporation and a member of the Tripartite Committee, the Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Council, and the Vocational Training Council.

Prof. Yoshio HIGUCHI, Keio University, Department of Business and Commerce

Professor Yoshio Higuchi was born in 1952. He graduated from Keio University (Faculty of Business and Commerce) in 1975 and completed the doctoral program of Keio University Graduate School of Business and Commerce in 1980. He was a visiting researcher at Columbia University (Department of Economics) before assuming the current post in 1991. In the same year, he was awarded a doctorate in commercial science. Later, he served as a visiting professor at Hitotsubashi University's Institute of Economic Research, a visiting researcher at Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, and a visiting professor at The Ohio State University. He currently serves as a member of the MHLW's Labour Policy Council and as chairperson of the council's discussion group on labor demand and supply systems.

Prof. Kazuo TAKAHASHI, International Christian University; Visiting Professor, United Nations University

Professor Kazuo Takahashi graduated from International Christian University (Division of International Studies and Division of Public Administration) and completed a doctoral program at Columbia University. He worked for the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development before assuming the current post in 2001. He also serves as a visiting professor at the United Nations University and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. He is President of the Society of Researchers of International Development, a member of the Governing Board of the Society for International Development, and a member of the Board of the International Development Center of Japan.

Ms. Jane STEWART, Officer-in-Charge of the Employment Sector / Director of the Skills and Employability Department, ILO

Joined the ILO in May of 2004 as Director of the Skills and Employability Department, having participated in elected politics in Canada for a decade. She was a member of Cabinet for eight years and led three ministries including Revenue, Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Human Resources Development. The Department of Labour was part of the Ministry of Human Resources Development. Ms. Stewart co-chaired Canada's Innovation Strategy with the Minister of Industry and was Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Policy. She also has the responsibility for coordinating youth employment work of the Employment Sector, and has been Officer-in-Charge of the Employment Sector since 1 October 2004.

Mr. Nobuaki KOGA, President, Japanese Electrical, Electronic and Information Union; Vice President, JTUC-RENGO

Mr. Nobuaki Koga was born in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan in 1952. After graduating from the University of Miyagi (Faculty of Engineering) in 1975, he joined Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. and became a member of Matsushita Electric Industrial Workers Union (MEU). After assuming the post of chairman of MEU's central executive committee in 1996, he became chairman of the central executive committee of the Japanese Electrical, Electronic and Information Union in 2002. Since September 2004, he has been concurrently serving as President of the Executive Board of the Japan Council of Metalworkers' Union (IMF-JC). He holds other external posts including those of Vice President of JTUC-RENGO and Director of Zenrosai Kyokai. He is a member of the MHLW's Labour Policy Council.

Mr. Takeo KATO, Adviser, Fuji Electric Holdings Co., Ltd.

Mr. Takeo Kato was born in Tokyo in 1938. After graduating from the University of Tokyo (Faculty of Law) in 1961, he joined Fuji Electric Co., Ltd. (today's Fuji Electric Holdings Co., Ltd.). After serving as the general manager of the Corporate Planning Department and the Personnel Department, he was appointed Director in 1988, Executive Vice President and Representative Director in 1998, and Chairman and Director in 2000 before assuming the current post of Adviser in June this year. He is also the Co-Chairman of Nippon Keidanren's Committee on Labor-Management Relations, a member of Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Chairperson, Committee for Promotion on Interaction Between School and Corporate Executives), and Chairman of the Board and Principal of Kaisei Academy.

Prof. Yuji GENDA, Associate Professor, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo

Professor Yuji Genda was born in 1964. He graduated from the University of Tokyo (Faculty of Economics) in 1988. He was a Full-Time Lecturer, Associate Professor, and Professor at Gakushuin University (Faculty of Economics) before assuming the current post in 2002. He has a doctorate in economics. He has authored numerous publications including *Shigoto no Nakano Aimaina Fuan* (Vague Anxiety in Work) and *Job Creation*. *Shigoto no Nakano Aimaina Fuan* was awarded the Suntory Prize for Social Sciences and Humanities and the Nikkei Economic Book Prize. *Job Creation* won the Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training's prize for outstanding labor-related books.

Prof. Koichiro IMANO, Faculty of Economics, Gakushuin University

Professor Koichiro Imano graduated from Tokyo Institute of Technology (Faculty of Science and Engineering) in 1971 and earned a master's degree from Tokyo Institute of Technology Graduate School of Science and Engineering in 1973. He was assistant at Kanagawa University (Department of Industrial Engineering and Management) and lecturer and then associate professor at Tokyo Gakugei University (Faculty of Education) before taking up his current post in April 1992. He also works actively as chairman of Smaller Enterprise Retirement Allowance Mutual Aid Council, research fellow at the University of Sussex, member of the Central Vocational Ability Council, and researcher at Tokyo Metropolitan Research Institute of Labor. He is member of the Central Minimum Wages Council.

Ms. ZHANG Libin, Research fellow, Institute for Labor Studies, MOLSS, P.R.C.

Dr. Zhang Libin was awarded Ph.D. in Labor Economics in 1998. She has more than ten years' study and research experience in the field of labor economics and labor policies, and has implemented nearly 30 important national and international research programs either as a principal or key member. As a Chinese expert, she has participated in cooperative research projects with the World Bank and ILO. These researches cover the following issues: macro economy and employment, globalization and employment, vocational training effects, youth employment issues, industrial relations, etc. Many of her articles and papers have appeared in the Economic Daily and other newspapers.

Prof. Yasuo SUWA, Hosei School of Policy Sciences

Professor Yasuo Suwa was born in Tokyo in 1947. He graduated from Hitotsubashi University (Faculty of Law) in 1970. He studied at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Legal and Political Studies (Doctoral Program) and at the University of Bologna as the Italian Government scholarship student. He was a visiting researcher at the University of New South Wales, a visiting professor at the University of Bologna, and a professor at Hosei University (Faculty of Social Sciences) before assuming the current post this year. He is also a public member of the Labour Policy Council of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. He is the author of *Koyo to Ho* (Employment and Law), *Roshi Communication to Ho* (Labor-Management Communication and Law), among many others.

Ms. Hiromi HAYASHI (19), Formation Module 1, Paint and Resin Saitama Factory, Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

After graduating from high school in 2003, Ms. Hiromi Hayashi joined Honda Motor Co., Ltd. She is responsible for checking the body finish and managing the procedures for cleaning and intermediate coating. As a high school student, she liked the view of the rear of Honda cars, which she found out were assembled in the nearby Saitama Factory. When she took a tour of the factory, she was thrilled to see how cars were assembled from sheets of steel. This was the reason for her decision to join Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

Ms. Emi OMURA (22), Shinomiya Bamboo Craft Shop

While attending Kakegawa Higashi High School, Ms. Emi Omura visited an industrial fair in Shizuoka Prefecture where she was enchanted by the delicacy and grace of bamboo crafted products and decided she would pursue bamboo craft. Through career guidance, she was introduced to and became a pupil of the traditional Suruga Sensuji bamboo craftsman Mr. Yasuhiro Shinomiya, who is also a vice-chairman of the board of Shizuoka Bamboo Craft Cooperative Union. (She was supported by Shizuoka Prefecture's craftsman support program for training successors of local industries.) She joined Shinomiya Bamboo Craft Shop after graduating from the high school. She is now in her fourth year of apprenticeship.

Ms. Moto SESHITA (27), PR Section, President's Office, Watami Food Service Co., Ltd.

After graduating from Ochanomizu University (Division of Languages and Culture, Department of Japanese Literature), Ms. Moto Seshita joined Watami Food Service Co., Ltd. She chose Watami Food Service because it offered aspiring employees a chance to become a manager of its restaurants in a very short period of one and a half years. After serving as a restaurant manager, she is now responsible for public relations in the president's office. She prepares company newsletters and video letters from Watami Group whose mission is to "provide a better environment and an opportunity for uplifting humanity of all people in the world".

Mr. Ken TAKANARITA (30), Secretary General, East Kanko Headquarters, Japanese Worker's Co-Operative Union

After graduating from Aoyama Gakuin University (College of Economics) eight years ago, Mr. Ken Takanarita joined Japanese Workers' Co-Operative Union. As one of the managers of the union, he leads an organization of 4,000 workers nationwide.

While engaging in a variety of volunteer activities during his college days, he aspired to take on a job that allowed him to work in local regions and that gave him a sense of direct involvement. This was the reason for his entering into the current occupation.