

Closing Remarks

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On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the International Symposium marking the Tenth Anniversary of JIRCAS, I would like to thank all of you for participating in these two-day proceedings, and to be with us for celebrating this special occasion. In particular, I wish to thank Dr. Francisco Reifschneider, Director of the CGIAR, and Professor Yonosuke Hara of Tokyo University, for their informative keynote lectures. I also thank Dr. Keiji Kainuma for providing an excellent overview and summary of the Symposium. And, of course, I express our appreciation to all of the invited speakers, session chairs, and commentators, who contributed so significantly to the success of the Symposium.

Yesterday and today have been very long days, and we thank you for being with us until the end. The reports which were presented during the Symposium focused on the theme "Prospects for Food Security and Agricultural Sustainability in Developing Regions", and in which the technologies and approaches already adopted or proposed to achieve these objectives, along with the main constraints, were outlined, gave the opportunity of exchanging views and opinions from a variety of perspectives. We believe that the topic "New Roles of International Collaborative Research" is particularly timely and very important. In this regard, this Symposium has given JIRCAS the opportunity to obtain significant new information and develop new ideas on how to continue to contribute to the international research community and promote international agricultural research and development. Most importantly, we have come to the understanding that Japan as a whole must make more extensive efforts than ever before.

Against this background, a vision of JIRCAS's role for the next decade will be presented during the Symposium's follow-up workshop to be held tomorrow in Tsukuba. Along the lines of the discussions conducted in the closing session, JIRCAS plans to propose the establishment of a "Research Forum for International Development in Japan" to serve as a platform for all the institutions engaged in agricultural research development (ARD) to come together and exchange ideas and information on the issues concerned. The purpose of this Forum will be to foster dialogue among member organizations on how Japan should contribute to the international community through ARD. The general framework of the proposed Forum will be discussed tomorrow at JIRCAS. As we endeavor to achieve the goals of this Forum, we will keep in mind the key words that are very important for all of us: "Partnership" and "Global Public Goods".

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge with deepest gratitude the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), the United Nations University, and the various Incorporated Administrative Agencies under the umbrella of MAFF, whose cooperation has been essential in making this Symposium possible.

Once again, the Organizing Committee of the JIRCAS Tenth Anniversary Symposium expresses its deepest thanks to all the individuals and organizations which have contributed to making this occasion a success.

Thank you for your efforts, patience, and time. We have enjoyed hosting you, and hope that you will have the opportunity to visit us at JIRCAS.

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