

Closing Remarks

Hajime Kato
Director
Department of Plant Protection
National Agriculture Research Center

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests and Participants,

In closing the 22nd Symposium of the Tropical Agriculture Research Center, I wish to thank all the chairpersons, speakers and other participants for their fruitful contribution.

The goals of this symposium were threefold. First to provide a forum for the exchange of information. Second, to provide an opportunity to establish and renew personal relationships between participants. Finally to stimulate the interest and ambition of the participants to collaborate.

The Tropical Agriculture Research Center is presently sending 40 researchers to various countries to achieve cooperative research. We cannot hope to sustain this relationship without a mutual exchange of knowledge and a reliance on each other. We are glad that this symposium has made it possible to share ideas and enhanced the opportunity for cooperation.

Just after World War II, the Japanese people of my age experienced starvation. There was no rice on the table and we ate the weeds along the roadside. I can tell you which weed is better to eat. I also know that such conditions still occur in many areas of the world. At that time I did not expect that there would be a surplus of rice production. Indeed, forty years has passed, technology has changed and is still making progress. At the end I would like to cite the message which Armstrong, one of the famous astronauts sent from the moon: "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind".

On behalf of all the members of the organizing committee, I now have the duty and honor to declare the symposium closed.

Thank you