

Welcome Address

Hiroaki Shishido
Director General
National Institute of Animal Industry

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests and Participants,

On behalf of the National Institute of Animal Industry, it is my great pleasure to express our cordial welcome to all the guests and the participants, in particular, the delegates from abroad.

This is the Second International Symposium on animal science, sponsored by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center. The first one, which was held in 1973, dealt with "Animal Research" with a view to outlining research strategies. This time, the theme of the symposium which was selected is "Utilization of Feed Resources in Relation to Nutrition and Physiology of Ruminants in the Tropics".

Due to the increase of the ruminant population and limitation in the areas that could be used for grazing, the development and utilization of feed resources, especially fibrous feed-stuffs, as well as the improvement of natural grasslands is currently becoming more important to enhance the production of ruminants worldwide, in particular, in the tropical and sub-tropical countries, which have a potential to produce and utilize various kinds of fibrous feed resources. However, many countries are currently faced with technical problems to promote the efficient use of these resources.

In Japan, emphasis is being placed on the development of methods of treatment of fibrous resources to increase their digestibility and also on the analysis of the process of rumen digestion to enhance the utilization of fibrous resources.

We are very pleased that the current symposium will give the opportunity to present some of the results achieved by the Japanese researchers in these particular fields.

We are very pleased to see that many researchers from Asian countries, Australia, Mexico, Brazil and International Organizations as well as from various institutions of Japan are gathered here to exchange information on these fields.

I sincerely hope that the symposium will be successful and contribute to the promotion of research for the improvement of the utilization of feed resources to enhance ruminant production in the tropics and sub-tropics.

Again I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome to all the distinguished guests and participants.

Thank you.