

Welcome Address

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Director General
Secretariat of Agriculture
Forestry and Fisheries
Research Council

Distinguished Guests and Participants,

On behalf of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council, it is my great pleasure to extend the most sincere greetings and best wishes to all the participants in the "International Symposium on Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Lands in the Tropics" which is being organized and sponsored by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center in collaboration with the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The first symposium which was held under the auspices of the Tropical Agriculture Research Program of the Council took place in 1967. Since that time, the Council has devoted its efforts to promote international collaboration with the tropical countries in agricultural and forestry research fields.

I am very much pleased to learn that the present symposium is the twenty-sixth of its kind and that for the last twenty-five years a large number of research scientists from abroad and Japan have enjoyed their participation in the symposia which have been convened by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center.

The present symposium has been organized in view of the importance of the various kinds of environmental changes associated with the deterioration of forests and the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands which confront the countries located in the tropical and sub-tropical regions.

The symposium, in this context, is very important and I am convinced that valuable information will be exchanged throughout the discussions during the symposium so as to further promote research and investigations to rehabilitate degraded forest lands, with emphasis placed on sustainable utilization of tropical and subtropical forests.

I do hope that the symposium will be fruitful and successful.

I again wish to express my cordial welcome to all the distinguished guests and participants.

Thank you.