

## Closing Remarks

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now we have completed two day's lively sessions with great success. As a representative of the three coorganizing institutes, I appreciate the cooperation of the participants and organizing committee. The only program remaining is the excursion to the beer brewery tomorrow morning where you can taste genuine fresh beer.

It is a great challenge to summarize this meeting covering diverse topics. Fortunately, the chairpersons of each session have done a good job. I will not waste your precious time.

Instead, I would like to close this symposium in feeling that the contributions were significant and the level of the discussions was very high.

As pointed out in the keynote speech by Dr. Rothschild of IRRI, a striking fact is the large population increase in Asia where remarkable improvement in agricultural productivity took place as represented by the Green Revolution.

This was achieved mainly by technological innovation and socio-economic changes. It may appear that we have overcome food shortage and poverty in these areas.

However, the situation is not so simple. Economic growth which stimulated population increase and human activities has generated another serious problem.

The problem is how to secure sustainability of agricultural production considering environmental issues.

Environmental issues in agriculture have been discussed primarily on a technological basis. However, there are social, economic and even political aspects as well, as seen in the world trade liberalization discussions in OECD.

I would like to stress that interdisciplinary collaboration of scientists in both social sciences and natural sciences is essential for addressing environmental issues.

In this symposium, technical reports were presented from these two different groups of researchers and animated discussions took place between these two groups.

I do hope that this symposium will draw people's attention to food, population and environment problems for the future generations.

Most of the people are busy and happy everyday but the future may not be bright.

Finally we would like to thank the organizing committee and the staff who shared their time for supporting this meeting.

Thank you once again for your cooperation.