

Welcome Address

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Chairman

Agriculture, Forestry and

Fisheries Research Council

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Distinguished Guests, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, it is my great pleasure to extend sincere greetings to all the participants in the International Symposium on GIS Application for Agro-Environmental Issues in Developing Regions, which is organized by the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS).

The Research Council has been continuing, among other activities, to promote international research collaboration with both developing and developed countries as well as international research organizations.

This year, the symposium will discuss various aspects related to the use of Geographic Information Systems to study environmental issues in developing regions, which are quite important to promote research activities to ensure sustainability in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Indeed, the application of GIS should contribute to sustainable use of agricultural land and fisheries resources as well as to proper management of forestry resources. In this context, I wish to express my cordial welcome to all the guests and participants who have gathered to discuss this challenging but important issue here in Tsukuba Science City. I do hope that the Symposium will benefit all of us with your active participation and cooperation.

Thank you.