

Opening Address

Shiro OKABE
Director
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Distinguished Delegates and Participants.

On behalf of the Symposium Organizing Committee and of the Tropical Agriculture Research Center sponsoring the Symposium, I have the honor to open the International Symposium on Silvicultural Technologies.

First of all, I should like to extend our cordial welcome to all the distinguished delegates and participants, in particular to those who have come over to Japan from abroad.

The Tropical Agriculture Research Center was established in 1970 with the objective of contributing to the development of agricultural technology in the tropical areas by undertaking research programs, including forestry research work, in a spirit of international collaboration. The basic principle of our research activities is to work together with overseas scientists on a partnership basis to solve technical obstacles which hamper the agricultural development of the tropical countries. The activities of the Center cover a fairly wide range of research fields; crop production, plant protection, soil science, forestry, livestock and veterinary sciences, agricultural engineering, farm mechanization and farm management in the Tropics.

One of the major activities of the Center is to send research scientists from Japan to overseas research institutions located in the tropical countries to conduct cooperative research work in agricultural fields. About 35 staff members of the Center with long-term assignments are presently engaged in such cooperative activities in many parts of the world, mainly in the Asian countries and partly in the Latin American countries. When the effective cooperation requires any additional basic research work with the use of sophisticated equipment, which is presently not available in the cooperating institutions, our Center invites to Japan the research partners involved so as to enable them to carry out the necessary work.

Another important activity of the Center is to hold international symposia to offer a forum for exchanging information and views among different countries and among scientists concerned. Since 1967, the symposia have been held every year, covering such subjects as crop diseases, insects and their control, maize production, food legume production, optimization of fertilizer effect, animal production, water management in paddy fields, crop breeding technology and so forth. The present Symposium is the twelfth, but the first one to be held here in Tsukuba Science City and to be directly related to the forestry research program of the Center. We recognize that there are many problems to solve in the field of research to improve silvicultural technologies in the tropics. I believe that the discussions in the present symposium could further contribute to the development of methods of silviculture.

I sincerely hope that this Symposium will be successful and that, through our joint effort, friendship and cooperation will be strengthened.

Thank you,