

Welcome Address

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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests and Participants,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my most sincere greetings and best wishes, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to all the participants in the International Symposium on Silvicultural Technologies, particularly the delegates from overseas and the representative from the FAO.

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 cooperation with the tropical countries in agricultural research fields. With a view to meet the world and national requirements in promoting technologies pertaining to tropical agriculture, the Japanese government established a new research institute in 1970, the "Tropical Agriculture Research Center", which is exclusively responsible for international cooperation dealing with agricultural research programs on a government basis in the tropical and semi-tropical countries. I am very much pleased to learn that the present Symposium is the twelfth one and that for the last eleven years a large number of research scientists from home and abroad have enjoyed their participation in the symposia which have been convened by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center.

The present Symposium has been organized by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center in collaboration with the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as problems pertaining to silvicultural technologies are assuming an increasing importance worldwide.

I am certain that fruitful ideas and information on technologies developed in each country will be exchanged throughout the discussions which will take place during the Symposium so as to further promote research and investigations.

I do hope that the Symposium will be successful.

I again wish to express my hearty welcome to all the distinguished delegates and participants.

Thank you.