

Welcome Address

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Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests and participants.

It is a great pleasure to have the opportunity, on behalf of the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, to express our heartfelt welcome to all the participants and scientists, especially to the delegates from abroad.

International symposia have been held every year under the auspices of the Tropical Agriculture Research Center. This time, we are extremely pleased and feel greatly honored to have the twelfth Symposium held here in the newly constructed building of our Institute to discuss subjects pertaining to silvicultural technologies.

As well known, remarkable progress has been made in the field of silviculture during the past years. However, we know that new technologies should be developed to improve the productivity of forests and of their by-products so as to maximize the potential of these forests, while ensuring that such precious natural resources do not become depleted. It should also be emphasized that sound silvicultural practices are crucial if the beneficial role of forests on soil conservation, water supply and climate stability as well as the wealth of genetic resources they contain is to be preserved. This is particularly the case with the forests in the tropics.

In view of the importance of the improvement of silvicultural technologies in the tropical areas, joint efforts by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center and the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute have been made since 1975. Research programs on natural and artificial regeneration methods have been undertaken in collaboration with overseas scientists in Malaysia and the Philippines. We are very happy to be able to present at this Symposium some achievements of the cooperative research work undertaken during the last three years. On this occasion, I would like to express our sincere thanks to our friends of the cooperating institutions in Malaysia and the Philippines for their great support extended to us.

We are very pleased to see so many foresters and researchers from the South-east Asian countries and the FAO, as well as from various parts of Japan gathered here to exchange ideas, information and technologies relating to silviculture. I am quite sure that we will all greatly benefit from the present Symposium.

I do hope that the Symposium will be successful. Again, I would like to express my hearty welcome to all the distinguished delegates and participants.

Thank you.