

Welcome Address

Ryoichi KAWASHIMA
Director-General
Secretariat of Agriculture, Forestry
and Fisheries Research Council

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests and Participants,

On behalf of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, it is with great pleasure that I extend my most sincere greetings and best wishes to all the participants in the International Symposium on Distribution, Characteristics and Utilization of Problem Soils, particularly to the delegates from overseas.

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 meeting 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 in the tropical and subtropical countries. I am very much pleased to learn that the present symposium is the fifteenth one and that for the last fourteen years a large number of research scientists from Japan 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 as the proper recognition and management of problem soils are assuming an increasing importance worldwide.

I am convinced that fruitful ideas and information on techniques 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 cordial welcome to all the distinguished delegates and participants.

Thank you.