

Welcome Address

Kinya KUSHIBUCHI
Director General
Secretariat of Agriculture, Forestry
and Fisheries Research Council

Distinguished Guests and Participants,

On behalf of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council, it is with great pleasure that I extend my most sincere greetings and best wishes to all the participants in the International Symposium on Pastures in the Tropics and Subtropics, which is being sponsored by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

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.

I am very much pleased to learn that the present symposium is the eighteenth of its kind and that for the last seventeen years a large number of research scientists from abroad and Japan have enjoyed their participation in the symposia which have been convened by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center.

As the demand for livestock products rich in protein is increasing every year especially in the tropical countries, it is important to promote animal husbandry by means of the improvement of the quality of forage crops in the region.

The present symposium, in this context, is very timely and I am convinced that various and valuable ideas or information on technologies developed in each country will be exchanged throughout the discussions 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.