

## Inauguration Address

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The distinguished Delegates and Guests,

It is a great honor and privilege to extend my cordial welcome to all of the attendants here at the opening of the Symposium on Maize. In particular, I am heartily grateful to those who have participated in this Symposium all the way from abroad.

I would like to take this opportunity of briefing the circumstances under which this Symposium has come to be held.

Last May when an Organizing Committee was established to translate into practice the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's decision on the holding of this Symposium, I was appointed Chairman. Since then, I and the Committee have, to the best of our ability, devoted our strenuous efforts to paving the way for this Symposium.

Some of the countries that were at first expected to participate in this Symposium have failed to be represented here due to some circumstances of their own. However, it is a great pleasure to the host organization to have so many countries represented here.

As an international symposium sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Government of Japan, this is the second event following the Symposium on Rice Diseases and Their Control that was held last year. Needless to say, the rice is very important. However, the maize crop is also very important in the regions where or in the seasons when the rice farming is infeasible. Thus, the maize farming has recently become the most noteworthy as a rapidly growing sector in the countries as the Southeast Asian Region. Also in Japan, among others, the rapid expansion of the livestock industry has led to an increasing interest in maize.

However, many problems are inevitably involved in that crop due to the various conditions around it. In this way, each country, as you know, is concentrating its energies on production, marketing, experiments or researches.

In the meantime, it is true that several international conferences on maize have so far permitted an international tie-up to be realized to some extent. On this occasion, however, necessary is that efforts should be made to ensure a mutual understanding of the present status of each country and an exchange of information concerning its maize problems by using materials under the same titles and prepared at the same time as a prerequisite for our future programs of production, marketing or researches. Besides, any discussion on the present status of research activities or the problems of maize cropping and marketing, etc., would be highly helpful for solution of our future problems. This is the reason why you were respectfully requested to submit a report entitled "The Present Status and Future Problems of Maize Production in each Country". In addition, some countries with particularly high production of maize were invited to publish the technical problems of their own.

Our maize production is insignificant in quantity comparing with our rice production, and our country is not in the Tropics. So, we are not sure as to what extent our techniques or research findings concerning maize farming could be a reference to technical researches in the Tropics. Nevertheless, it is our sincerest desire to publish

research results on the belief that the circumstances in the temperate zone might be useful to you usually engaging in research or other related activities in Tropics.

Meanwhile, our country is an importer of the considerable quantity of maize. Therefore, we do hope that your understanding of the demand or utilization methods on the part of Japan as a client country would offer any exporting country a good reference. We should be very happy if we could cooperate with each other in the future in our mutual interests through exchange of our opinions in this connection.

Many problems will be on the agenda for several days as from today. English is not a mother tongue for the majority of the attendants at this Symposium, which may cause, more or less, difficulties in reaching better mutual understanding among us. Thus, it is respectfully requested that you understand and cooperate with each other in this regard to ensure smooth developments of discussion at this Symposium.

I thank you.