

Welcome Address

Ogura, T., Chairman, Agriculture, Forestry
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Agriculture and Forestry

The Chairman and Distinguished Delegates and Guests,

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry it is great pleasure and honor to extend to you my most cordial welcome to Japan. May I also present my deep gratitude to you for complying with my request to attend this Symposium, and to the related agencies of each country for their understanding cooperation.

Everybody, living in the latter half of the 20th century, deeply feels that our world is becoming rapidly narrower day by day. To meet the challenges of such an age, it seems to me that every individual should not act separately but cooperate with each other. And specialization would be more efficient in any field if the circumstances permit it. Among others, it is more important in the fields of science and technology now in rapid progress.

And in my opinion, to overcome any food problems arising from the increase of population, it is incumbent on those concerned with such problems to examine them, from a wider point of view, on a regional or world-wide basis. Also, our country has been engaging in a full-scale promotion of researches into the tropical agriculture beginning 1966 with a view to meet the world necessity in this connection. It is expected that we will do our best as research workers in such field. In fact, we are all ready to devote our efforts to international cooperation in such field in the future. In this way, it is our hearty desire to have your helps and cooperation in this regard.

In recent years, we have witnessed that different types of international conference have been convened, of which this Symposium seems to be the most inconspicuous ones. Needless to say, all of you keenly feel that, I do hope, what is most needed is to start from the seemingly conservative but steady stage.

Last year, an International Symposium on Rice Diseases and Their Control was held in Japan. It is a great pleasure to me to hear that from then many scientists of individual countries have initiated cooperation with one other for the solution of such diseases problems on a steady basis.

Also in the present Symposium, it is my sincerest desire to see that it may become a starting point for our closer cooperation for the future, and that our country also may be more serviceable to such cooperation.

Indeed, there may be not a few cases where a way has been hitherto further paved for solution of food problems through various types of international cooperation. However, let's cooperate with one other to ensure that the present Symposium also will be among the categories of such symposium in the future.

Now it is not always the fittest season for convention of an meeting since we are still in the severe heat of late summer. Nevertheless, it is my whole-hearted desire to see that your enthusiasm and cooperation will lead to fruitful publication and discussion of your study results and to a successful study tour in our local districts.

Thank you.