Inauguration Address

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Respected Participants,

As the convenor, I have the great pleasure and honor to welcome you at this symposium. I very much appreciate the participation of ten distinguished scientists from abroad to this symposium.

The aim of this symposium is such in the welcome address by Dr.Ogura, Chairman of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Japan is trying to contribute to the development of research on agricultural technique in the Southeast Asian region and keenly feels the necessity that the researchers in these countries of this region tackle their common problems in researches and also take up the common problems among the concerned countries to resolve them.

In the past years, the exchange of imformation and mutual visiting of researchers among some countries have often been done. However, there is no need to say how important and significant it is for the researchers to meet together in a hall to exchange their information and discuss subjects of common interest.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Japan took up the fertilization for rice culture as the subject of this symposium and appointed me to organize the sympsium. After many discussions at the committee formed immediately after my appointment, it was decided to have the symposium on the subject of "Optimization of Fertilizer Effect in Rice cultivation"

Needles to state, rice is so far the most important crop of the Southeast Asian region and each country is doing her utmost to ensure the rice production increase. In these countries the application of chemical fertilizer is a very important issue and each country is promoting fertilizer of rice production.

In view of such a situation, the proposed symposium has selected three major topics : 1) Fertilizer response in connection with varietal characters and growth stages, 2) Environment and fertilizer practices, and 3) Nutritional disorder and its improvement by the fertilizer practices, and intends to bring to light as a whole the present situation and problems of fertilized rice cultivation in Southeast Asia.

All of the varieties of rice grown in Japan belong to japonica type, whereas they are mostly of indica type in Southeast Asia. The difference in the characters between these two is very large, and consequently there have been great differences in rice culture practices between Japan and other countries. In other words, it may be said that although the same crop, is grown, fairly different aspects have been observed in the technique of rice culture between Japan and Southeast Asian countries.

Recently the indica varieties have greatly been improved and various highly productive varieties have appeared. These new varieries show their characteristics only when large quantity of fertilizer is applied. As you may know, the rice culture in Japan is characterized by high yield in combination with large amount of fertilizer. From a consideration of such point as this change in fertilization it may be said that the common basis has been established in rice culture between Japan and other countries.

It is true that new highly productive varieties respond well to fertilizers, but mere application of large amount of fertilizer does not always bring a high yield. To obtain a

good response to fertilizer, it is most important to devise a method of fertilizer application suitable for the characteristics of each variety under each climatic and soil conditions. This symposium is expected to give a good chance for the participants to exchange experiences among each other.

The extension of rice culture with fertilization will inevitably increase the fertilizer consumption and the production, and supply of fertilizer will become important. The increase of fertilizer effect is also an important problem for effective use of fertilizer resources. The system of rice culture in each country must differ depending upon the variety of rice, the kind of soil, climate, and the situation of fertilizer supply.

But if the participants in this symposium taking this opportunity will exchang information and discuss the problems with each other, it will undoubtedly contribute to the development of their researches on fertilizer effect. I wish that this symposium will be the guiding star for the development of research on fertlization for rice culture.

Although there are supposedly some difficulties in language, I believe they are not so hard to be overcome, if we would proceed with this symposium in mutual understanding.

I want to say my sincere gratitute to the appreciation and co-operation which every participant has shown for this symposium and I sincerely hope this symposium will result in success by our joint efforts.

Thank you.