

Inauguration Address

Hideo KABURAKI
Chief Director
Institute of Agricultural Machinery

Distinguished Delegates and Guests,

As the convener, I would like to extend my hearty welcome to all of you. It is my great honor and privilege to have you as delegates from abroad to this symposium.

As you may know, every year since 1967, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council, the Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, holds a symposium on research concerning tropical agriculture, with attendance of several researchers from Asian countries and related international organizations.

This year, for the first event, such a symposium has come to be held in connection with agricultural mechanization, which, I believe, is and will be of our greatest mutual concern in agriculture.

Last year, I was appointed to the convener of this symposium. Since then, I and the committee concerned have made our every possible effort to pave the way to this symposium. In this process, we encountered some difficulties which we had never expected, for instance the contents of reports presented and discussion items and so forth. However, at this moment I feel quite satisfactory that these matters have been settled safely.

The object of agricultural mechanization is, needless to say, to release farmers from severe labor, which is based on humanity. I can say that this humanity is a philosophy common to the world in the field of agricultural mechanization. With the progress of agricultural mechanization, mechanization itself should tend to increase labor productivity in order to engage in efficient farming. Accordingly agricultural mechanization is not limited only to the technical problems, but is concerned with economic and social problems and further related with agricultural policy.

This symposium is intended to discuss mainly technical problems on agricultural mechanization. However, in case of need we can touch on economic and social problems or background which prevents mechanization.

Agricultural mechanization is easily subject to economic and social problems. Therefore, it goes without saying that agricultural mechanization should be practiced according to the state or conditions of affairs in a country. The policy of agricultural mechanization far from the state of affairs in a country brings out overinvestment, resulting in a burden on farmers.

I sincerely hope that we take this opportunity to deepen our friendship and exchange information on agricultural mechanization, and that this symposium will attain its original object.

Thank you.