

Closing Address

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Distinguished Scientists and Guests:

It is my great pleasure to present a few words at the end of the session of the Symposium on Water Management in Rice Fields, which has been held for the last four days. I would like to express here my sincere gratitude to all participants for your cooperation in presenting papers, in participating in the exciting discussions, and in achieving the overall objectives of this Symposium.

I have an impression that this Symposium has produced a common understanding in two important aspects. The first is; we all have recognized that on-farm development, including improvement of water management, is of primary importance for agricultural development in the rural areas, particularly for rice development. We know that a fairly large size of irrigation and drainage canals and structures has been established in many parts of the world for the last couple of decades, which has required a tremendous amount of investments and efforts of many people in various fields. We also know that in many cases it has not always been accompanied by full development of on-farm works, however. I would like to expect that the results of this Symposium could contribute to the further development of on-farm works in the Southeast Asian region.

The second is; we all have recognized that cooperative activities among a range of different research fields are essential for the on-farm development. The subjects which have been discussed in this Symposium have been so wide and inter-related each other. We have realized that any of them should not be neglected. I would like to expect, therefore, that this Symposium could contribute to promote better cooperative activities among the different research fields such as agronomy, soils, civil engineering, hydrology, farm management, and agricultural and socio-economy.

Finally, as the head of the sponsoring organization and of the secretariat of the Symposium, I should be much grateful, if this Symposium could serve as a valuable step towards the further promotion of an international cooperation in many research fields.

We are to start on a three-day field trip this afternoon. I do hope you will enjoy every minute of your study trip.

Upon closing this Symposium, may I again thank all participants and guests for your full cooperation. Thank you.