

Closing Session

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I am sure that you will concur that we had a very stimulating and very productive day. I used the word “stimulating” when I spoke this morning. At the beginning, Dr. Sanz-Sanchez shared with us an overview of REDD+’s past, present, and future. The COP11 is often cited as the beginning of REDD. However, CDM and Forest Management CDM (FMCDM) were discussed even when we formulated the Kyoto Protocol. In addition, no one REDD+ rulebook was ever decided upon. Instead, there was a long negotiations process that formed the rulebook’s background. We are now about to begin the implementation processes. REDD+ activities are not linear and the process is not straight. We have been moving in steps. I feel it is necessary to take forward steps, while sometimes we take steps backward depending on the experiences gained.

Mr. Lotsch from the World Bank explained the FCPF’s present status to us. We often hear about the FCPF’s plans and documentation. However, today we learned that we have reached the point of results-based payments. For the first time, we also heard concretely how emissions reductions are handled. It was very impressive. FCPF is pioneering the way for REDD+.

We discussed reference levels in session one. I was worried about having reference levels as an agenda item since it is an extremely technical issue. However, the reference level is only an approach to discuss how people organize and build their processes and programs while addressing their own difficulties. Honestly speaking, I am also surprised by the technical progress in each country. There has also been great headway in the process of creating mechanisms and institutions. Based on discussions with each country, it is noted that these countries have had decisions and created reference levels. I would like to pay my due respect to the countries represented here.

I had a feeling of déjà vu while listening to the presentations. This is because 10 years ago, the developed nations under the Kyoto Protocol had an obligation to assess and report on carbon emissions and removals by forests. In Japan, experts from developed countries gathered for discussions in Odaiba, Tokyo. I also reported on the Japanese reporting and calculating situation when I spoke in Europe 10 years ago. It was for the industrialized countries. However, with the top developing countries, there were already major developments. I was very much impressed by the levels in developing countries.

In today’s session two, we discussed a new topic, scaling. Ms. Swickard discussed the JNR effort and the VCS’s nesting option. This option reminded me of the JCM. We applied the same thinking to our mechanism, so I believe that we are struggling with the same issues.

Next, Mr. Suzuki has been supporting national level efforts in various countries. From the national level to sub-national level and then to the private sector, you have gained extensive experience in vertically sharing information. When I saw the diagrams that you displayed, it again reminded me of the role between the Japanese government and the prefectural governments with regard to reporting and calculations under the Kyoto Protocol.

Mr. Yazaki and Dr. Amano, we heard about your struggles in the field, as you shared with us your

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firsthand experience and information. For both projects, the approach was to scale up by expanding the project. I think that is probably the ideal form for scaling up.

The panel discussion included a discussion on finance. Dr. Sanz-Sanchez presented on the Paris Agreement and how it was able to supplement what was missing in REDD+, primarily financing. Other than financing, REDD+ is rather complete. We have made great efforts thus far. The only thing that is remaining is to attain a solid financing mechanism. This was my impression.

Today we were able to have access to the latest information. We were able to share what we are doing. In addition, we were able to learn from other experiences. I believe that those are very good practices from which we can learn. The REDD+ rules are there, but they are very flexible and very broad in scope. Therefore, specific case studies are very valuable. As Dr. Sanz-Sanchez noted, by sharing such information, this is not a linear approach, but a stepwise one. These opportunities and back and forth sharing of information are very valuable. I believe that offering this kind of opportunity is one of the FFPRI's missions and contributions. Again, I was able to reconfirm our role.

Next year I hope that we will meet again. This is our sixth seminar and now people expect that this will be held annually, which is a good thing. I am very glad that everyone agrees. We would like to hold this meeting again next year so that we may have an opportunity to hear about further progress in the coming year, which will then help us to advance our efforts.

Thank you very much for participating in the today's long discussion. It has been a very informative meeting. When you return to your own countries and to your own organizations, I hope that what you have learned today can be effectively utilized.