

開会挨拶

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Good morning distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen. On behalf of the organizing committee of the REDD+ seminar it is my pleasure and honor to welcome all of the participants. 2015 was a milestone year for the global challenges of REDD+, as the Paris Agreement² was adopted at COP21³. The agreement includes a specific provision on forests and REDD+. At COP21, the post-2020 framework of global climate action that will replace the Kyoto Protocol⁴ was the high-priority item.

The Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe attended the COP21 Summit Meeting hosted by French President Mr. François Hollande with leaders from across the world to share the significance of measures for global climate change mitigation. Following the summit meeting, delegates from across the world worked hard to mastermind a new consensus. The adopted Paris Agreement will become an effective framework and applicable to all parties beyond 2020. The Paris Agreement aims to keep global warming to well below two degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels, and to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees centigrade to avoid the worst climate impacts.

The agreement set out the need to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions and removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere in the second half of this century, for example by increasing afforestation to sequester more carbon dioxide in the vegetation. To achieve this goal, the provision of REDD+ were included in the text, which means reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forest, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, . 10 years have passed since 2005 when the concept of REDD+ was first proposed by Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica at COP11⁵. Discussion and efforts over 10 years by concerned countries and people have finally paid off. I deeply appreciate those efforts and the dedication that they exerted.

Under the Paris Agreement on the global long-term goal, all member countries are obligated to submit their quantifiable intended nationally determined contributions. Each country needs to take domestic measures to achieve those contributions and review them. For this purpose, financial support by developed countries and voluntary contributions are essential, and the use of market mechanisms such as the Joint Crediting Mechanism⁶ (JCM) will be vital. Regarding the JCM, Japan has already signed with 16 countries. The outcome of the COP21 heralds the beginning of a worldwide effort to address global climate change. All countries of the world must hold hands towards this purpose.

I understand that the COP21 logo represents this concept. In the Paris Agreement, the importance of innovative climate change action was explicitly recognized. Therefore, we do want to

¹ Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute: <http://www.ffpri.affrc.go.jp/en/>

² <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf>

³ Conference of the Parties: <http://www.cop21paris.org/>

⁴ http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php

⁵ http://unfccc.int/meetings/montreal_nov_2005/session/6269.php

⁶ <http://gec.jp/jcm/about/index.html>

strengthen scientific research for supporting the action. Six years have passed since our institute, the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI), established the REDD Research and Development Center⁷. During this period, the center has focused on scientific research and has served as a technological hub to link REDD+ research institutes and organizations around the world, as well as a number of Japanese institutions and technical experts. In addition, we launched Japan Public-Private Platform for REDD+⁸ in November 2014 to facilitate REDD+ incorporation with industry and consumers. FFPRI serves as a secretariat with the Japan International Cooperation Agency⁹ (JICA) and provides scientific knowledge related to REDD+.

In this seminar, topics regarding the reference level and the reference emission level will be presented from various perspectives with the post-2020 framework in mind. These topics are important in measuring the effectiveness of REDD+ policies and measures. I believe that discussions in this seminar will contribute to the facilitation of the global forest conservation and climate change mitigation measures.

In concluding, I would like to express my gratitude to the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Japan Public-Private Platform for REDD+, the International Tropical Timber Organization¹⁰ (ITTO), and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies¹¹ (IGES) for their support to lead this seminar successfully. In addition, I would like to express my gratitude to the Forestry Agency¹², the Ministry of Foreign Affairs¹³, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry¹⁴, the Ministry of the Environment¹⁵, the Japanese Forest Society¹⁶, the Japan Society of Tropical Ecology¹⁷, the Remote Sensing Society of Japan¹⁸, and the Japan Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing¹⁹ for their support and cooperation. Again, I would like to thank all of you here for your help and support for this seminar and appreciate your successive cooperation. Thank you and please enjoy staying in Japan in midwinter. Thank you.

⁷ <https://www.ffpri.affrc.go.jp/redd-rc/en/>

⁸ http://www.reddplus-platform.jp/platform/index_en.html

⁹ <http://www.jica.go.jp/english/>

¹⁰ <http://www.itto.int/>

¹¹ <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/>

¹² <http://www.forestry.jp/english/>

¹³ <http://www.mofa.go.jp/>

¹⁴ <http://www.meti.go.jp/english/>

¹⁵ <http://www.env.go.jp/en/>

¹⁶ <http://www.forestry.jp/english/>

¹⁷ <http://www.gakkai.ac/jaste/oshirase/>

¹⁸ <http://www.rssj.or.jp/eng/>

¹⁹ <http://www.jsprs.jp/english.html>