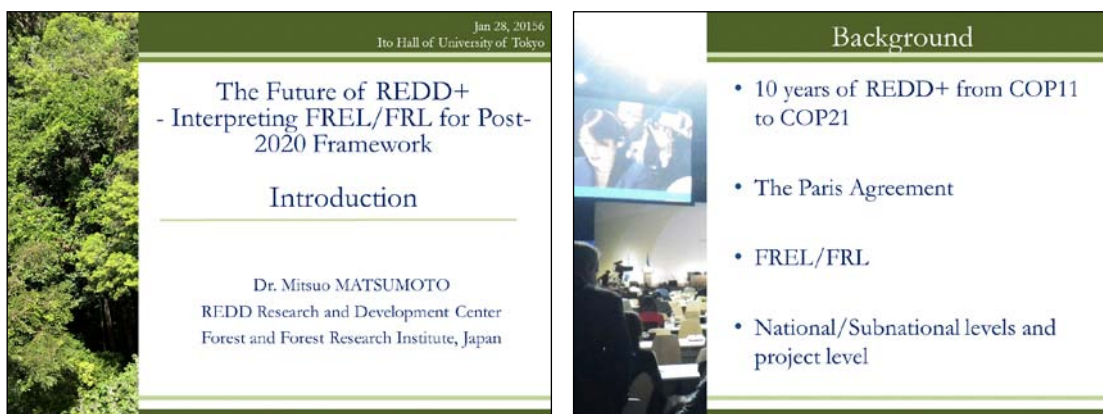


## Introduction

### Mitsuo Matsumoto (FFPRI)

I hope that today's program is very meaningful and productive, and that discussions are future-oriented. I would like to take a few moments to explain the program's background and objectives.



To begin, the REDD concepts began with Avoided Deforestation as presented at the 2005 COP11. The Paris Agreement of COP21 took place 10 years later. During that time, Avoided Deforestation became known as REDD, which then became known as REDD+. This was followed by the Cancun Agreement<sup>1</sup> and the Warsaw Framework for REDD+<sup>2</sup>. These small steps to gain worldwide agreement formed the background for the Paris Agreement. This agreement was epoch-making. Although I had hoped 10 years ago that such a worldwide agreement would occur, I was doubtful of the possibility. REDD+ was clearly established in Paris Agreement. The importance of forests and their roles as carbon sinks and reservoirs was recognized and included in the preamble of the Paris Agreement. This was very heartening news for us.

The establishment of forest reference emission levels/forest reference levels<sup>3</sup> (FREL/FRL) has progressed in each country for one year. These benchmarks are necessary for assessing each country's REDD+ activities. However the preparedness, monitoring systems, future activities, and policies are also reflected in the reference level concept. By analyzing the reference levels, we can see each country's respective government's future intentions and visions. Through analysis of each country's reference level, we can infer the country's thought process, as well as the intent to create policies aimed at advancing the goals of REDD+.

In addition, project-level activities are underway in Japan and the rest of the world. In Japan, two JCM mechanisms are already officially underway. The Paris Agreement once again recognized that voluntary activities are important for countries to reach their objectives. We have also reached an

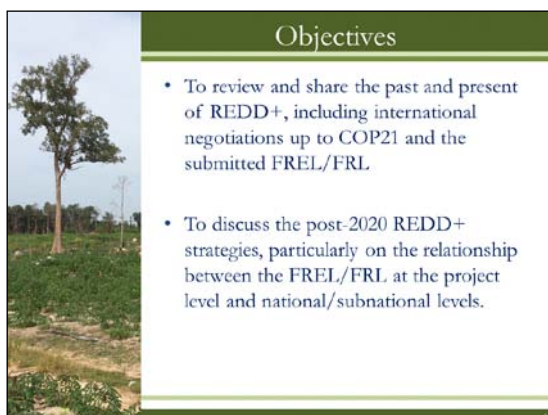
<sup>1</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/10a01.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>

[https://unfccc.int/files/land\\_use\\_and\\_climate\\_change/redd\\_web\\_platform/application/pdf/redd\\_20141113\\_unredd\\_frel.pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/land_use_and_climate_change/redd_web_platform/application/pdf/redd_20141113_unredd_frel.pdf)

agreement on a framework to determine how credits earned using the JCM may be used. However, in principle, REDD+ requires activities at the national or sub-national levels. We still face the challenge of determining how this will be specifically translated into the specific projects at the national and sub-national level. We would like to proceed with this background in mind.



As to the objective of today's program, the REDD+'s past and present will be reviewed and shared. Of course, this includes sharing the international negotiations that took place up to COP21, as well as the reference levels. Post-2020 REDD+ strategies will be the basis for today's discussion. I would like to discuss the future direction of REDD+. Honestly speaking, today's discussions will be very technical and future-oriented, and they will require considerable expertise. We will certainly discuss issues that have yet to be shaped for further development. Therefore, today's discussions will be very stimulating.



Based on these objectives, we have prepared today's program. First we will review REDD+'s past and present. The first keynote speaker will be Dr. Sanz-Sanchez, who has been active for the past 10 years with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>4</sup> (UNFCCC), as well as with the Food and Agriculture Organization<sup>5</sup> (FAO). Indeed, she is the most appropriate person to discuss

<sup>4</sup> <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.fao.or.jp/index.html>

these issues.

In session one, experts from various countries will share their latest REDD+ reference levels situations. I would like to hear about each country's thought process and strategies for creating reference levels.

In session two, we will learn about scaling projects up to the national level, along with the current challenges. I am sure that gaining knowledge on these projects will provide us with important insights into the future.

We are also very pleased to have Dr. Ma Hwan-Ok of ITTO as the moderator for the panel discussion session: "The Future of REDD+ under the Paris Agreement." We have prepared a list of questions related to this theme and we welcome participation from those in the audience.



I hope you will all enjoy today's program. Thank you very much.