

Closing Session

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In this seminar, we tried to discuss how far REDD+ has come. REDD+ seems relatively new but deforestation and forest degradation was a topic at the Earth Summit¹ held in Brazil in 1992. At that time, deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries were already known as a very serious issue that impacting climate change. However, when the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1996, the framework focused just on the economically developed countries. Therefore, the issue of deforestation and forest degradation in the developing countries was left behind. In the discussions about the Kyoto Protocol, we discussed the need to reduce emissions in developing countries and that lead to the REDD+ discussion. At COP11 in 2005, REDD+ was proposed, and in 2007, at COP13 in Bali, REDD+ became an official agenda item. Since then, the debate on REDD+ has deepened.

There has been more than ten years of time that passed discussing REDD+ since those days. FFPRI has considered this a very important topic, so we launched the REDD R&D Center in July 2010. Our R&D Center will soon be celebrating its 10th anniversary. As a milestone, we wanted to reflect upon our efforts on deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. We also need to think about the Paris Agreement and activities within that framework starting from 2020. We were hoping that this meeting would be a good starting point for this debate. Even after decision of the Paris agreement, deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries has not stopped. In fact, it is accelerating in some countries. We reflected upon what we can do in this situation and we held three sessions relevant to this topic.

Firstly, in the keynote speeches, Ms. Seymour explained about where we are at the present. Ms. Seymour actually gave a keynote speech ten years ago when we started this series of seminars. It has been ten years since then. We wanted to reflect on the framework that led up to REDD+. She sorted out that situation based upon updated information. The COP13 was held in Bali, Indonesia, and forest was taken up in the roadmap. Though it was no easy path in the last ten years, Indonesia made solid progress on addressing deforestation and forest degradation. Dr. Rhuandha talked about the efforts in Indonesia and current situation. In session one, the technical aspects, especially remote sensing and monitoring and safeguard issues were discussed. We wanted to understand how far technology had advanced. In session two, there were discussions on policies and measures to promote REDD+ as well as financial aspects. The existing mechanisms were explained in that session. In the final panel discussion, we thought based on the results so far what direction we can pursue. The participants raised their views on the future steps.

The Paris Agreement in 2015 corresponded with the decision of the SDGs at the UN. There are 169 targets under the 17 SDGs. Target 15.2 in SDG is to prevent deforestation by 2020, next year. It actually mentions 2020 as the date to achieve no deforestation. Achievement of this goal is quite challenging, but we were hoping this seminar would be an opportunity to think about this. Target 15.b for SDGs talks

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/milestones/unced>

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about incentives for developing countries. REDD+ in SDGs, it is a target of Goal 13, poverty reduction and climate change and it is also described as concrete target in 15.b.

Based on this seminar, we need to continue with our research activities and we got a lot of food for thought for thinking about the future direction of research. Those of you who are interested in participating in REDD+ or those of you involved in climate negotiations, hopefully have benefitted from this seminar. I would like to give another round of applause to express our gratitude to all of the speakers who contributed today. With this, I would like to conclude my wrap up and conclude the session.