

Opening Remarks

Haruo Sawada (Director General, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute¹ (FFPRI))

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone here for coming to this seminar, in spite of the rain and your busy schedules. We would like to give our sincere thanks to our distinguished foreign guests, especially Ms. Frances Seymour and Dr. Ruandha Agung Sugardiman, for giving us keynote lectures.

As of now, there are global issues seriously affecting the international community. In 2015, 17 Sustainable Development Goals² (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations, including goals for stopping deforestation, restoring forest degradation, and establishing actions to combat climate change. The international community as a whole is committed to address these issues. In the same year, at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference³ (COP21); the Paris Agreement⁴, an international framework for climate change after 2020, following the Kyoto Protocol⁵, was adopted. The implementation guidelines were agreed on last year, at COP24⁶, held in Poland.

Article 5 of the Paris Agreement encourages the implementation of REDD+ and supporting REDD+. REDD+ tries to achieve reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable forest management, forest conservation, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks through reducing deforestation and forests degradation in developing countries. It is expected to act, not only as a measure against climate change, but also as an activity that focuses on the conservation of ecosystems, biodiversity, and the reduction of poverty in local people. Currently, it is scheduled to advance from preparatory stage to full-stage implementation.

FFPRI established the REDD Research and Development Center⁷ in 2010, with the purpose of developing effective methods to measure forest carbon stocks, and conducting socioeconomic analyses on deforestation and forest degradation. FFPRI has a function as a hub of researcher and engineer work for REDD+ to promote private sector engagements in REDD+. Furthermore, FFPRI and the Japan International Cooperation Agency⁸ (JICA) established the 'Japan Public-Private Platform for REDD+⁹' and have been exchanging scientific knowledge and raising awareness to enhance cooperation among the public sector, government agencies, research institutions, relevant ministries, and organizations. In addition to domestic operations, we believe international collaboration is necessary, so we have invited many

¹ <https://www.ffpri.affrc.go.jp/>

² <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

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<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/past-conferences/paris-climate-change-conference-november-2015/cop-21>

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf>

⁵ http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php

⁶ <https://unfccc.int/event/cop-24>

⁷ http://redd.ffpri.affrc.go.jp/index_en.html

⁸ <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/>

⁹ https://reddplus-platform.jp/index_en.html

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experts from overseas.

Considering these circumstances, this morning, we will have two keynote presentations. Ms. Frances Seymour, from the World Resources Institute¹⁰, will talk about ‘Why Forests? Why Now More Than Ever? An update on the science, economics, and politics of REDD+’ from her global perspective. Dr. Ruandha Agung Sugardiman, Director General of Climate Change, from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, will share an experience of a REDD+ country with his presentation, ‘REDD+ Indonesia: From long history to a great opportunity.’

In Session 1, we will talk about the technical aspects of REDD+ and review monitoring methods and safeguard systems for REDD+. In Session 2, we will review the progress of REDD+ from the viewpoint of policy and finance, followed by the conclusion. We hope that the forest conservation and promoting well-being targeted in SDGs and the climate change measures like Paris Agreement will benefit from these discussions.

To end, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the International Tropical Timber Organization¹¹, JICA, and Japan Public-Private Platform for REDD+. We would also like to thank 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 Remote Sensing Society of Japan¹⁷; the Japan Society of Tropical Ecology¹⁸; the Japan Society of Forest Planning¹⁹; and everyone that could come here today. We are looking forward to exchanging views with you in today’s seminar. Thank you very much.

¹⁰ <https://www.wri.org/>

¹¹ <https://www.itto.int/>

¹² <http://www.maff.go.jp/e/index.html>

¹³ <https://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.meti.go.jp/english/index.html>

¹⁵ <http://www.env.go.jp/en/index.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.forestry.jp/english/>

¹⁷ <http://www.rssj.or.jp/>

¹⁸ <https://gakkai.jst.go.jp/gakkai/detail/?id=G01330>

¹⁹ <http://www.forestplanning.jp/>