

Guest Speech

Hiroshi Orita (Director General, Private Forest Department, Forestry Agency)

I would like to thank all speakers and everyone participating in today's international seminar. Since the opening of the REDD Research and Development Center in 2010, FFPRI has worked actively with relevant agencies, private sectors, and governments of developing countries to conduct studies and research, to improve capacity, to strengthen the cooperation among stakeholders, for implementing REDD+ effectively. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your efforts in hosting this seminar.

Greenhouse gas emissions, due to deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, are said to account for 10% of all global emissions. *The Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C*¹, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change² (IPCC) last October, pointed out the important role of forests and REDD+ in the mitigation of global warming to 1.5°C or less.

Furthermore, at COP24 held at the end of last year in Katowice, Poland, the Paris Agreement rulebook was adopted and the 'Forests for Climate' Katowice Ministerial Declaration³ was announced. Our nation has endorsed the declaration, and wishes to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement. We hope to do so through making effective use of forest resources, appropriate forest management, and other international schemes to counteract global warming by supporting REDD+.

It has been nearly 14 years since the REDD+ concept was first proposed internationally. Various initiatives have been carried out in many countries since then. Our country has tried to consolidate the necessary data and provide technical assistance in the preparation and implementation of REDD+ with stakeholders. Last year, for the first time, we reached an agreement on JCM⁴-REDD+ guidelines with a country. This is an example of how tailor-made initiatives that Japan is good at have begun to bear fruit. Meanwhile, through such assistance activities, we have sensed some of the difficulties characteristic of REDD+ implementation, and have become aware of the future challenge of mobilizing more private-sector finance at the international level.

I understand that the progress on the technical, policy, and financial aspects of REDD+ will be reviewed and latest trends will be discussed at this seminar. I believe the sharing of views of stakeholders from different sectors will provide a significant opportunity in creating an environment conducive to REDD+ in the future. The Forestry Agency also hopes to learn from the outcomes of today's debates, to actively participate in the support of REDD+, and to make a contribution to technical aspects.

I would like to conclude my remarks, by expressing my wishes that this seminar will be beneficial to all

¹

<https://unfccc.int/topics/science/workstreams/cooperation-with-the-ipcc/ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-15-degc>

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

³

<https://cop24.gov.pl/news/news-details/news/the-forests-for-climate-katowice-ministerial-declaration-has-been-accepted/>

⁴ <http://gec.jp/jcm/>

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participants, and that REDD+ can be further promoted through public-private partnership.