
Closing Remarks

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On behalf of the organizers, it is a great pleasure for me to make a few closing remarks at the end of this symposium.

The JIRCAS International Symposium is held annually to provide a forum for discussion and exchange of experiences on agriculture, forestry, and fisheries in developing regions. In the past symposia, we have addressed themes such as the United Nations-designated international years, national and international issues, international research cooperation, and so on. This year, we focused on tropical forests and the forest industry. In the keynote speeches, Prof. KITAJIMA Kaoru of Kyoto University and Dr. Sonya Dewi of CIFOR-ICRAF provided us with profound insights into the resilience and sustainability of tropical forests and related industries. In addition, prominent researchers shared their latest research findings in these areas.

As we collectively acknowledge that the world population is projected to approach 10 billion by 2050, the imperative to develop technologies for a sustainable food system becomes more urgent. Looking at the global system as a whole, however, there is no doubt that the survival of human society will be threatened without systems and technologies to properly and sustainably manage the tropical forest resources that cover most of the Earth's land area. In order to achieve this, we must be aware of the issues related to the compatibility of tropical forests and forest industry, and use the systems and technologies appropriately. It is my sincere hope that our symposium has not only facilitated dialogue but also provided a valuable opportunity for sharing essential information and knowledge in this regard.

Finally, I would like to extend special thanks to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute for their unwavering support in organizing this event. I would also like to express my appreciation to all symposium participants, both on-site and online, as well as everyone involved in the planning and execution of this event. We are truly grateful for your valuable contributions and participation.