

Opening Remarks

Dr. Kazuo Suzuki (President, FFPRI¹)

Distinguished guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen, on behalf of the organizing committee of REDD+ seminar, I would like to extend sincere welcome to all of you, especially, those who have traveled all the way to join this seminar. It's my honor to make opening remarks at the beginning of this seminar today.

REDD+ has become one of the hottest issues in the international discussions and negotiations on climate change. Deforestation and forest degradation are the second largest source of greenhouse gases emissions after the use of fossil fuel. As one of the measures to address this issue, REDD+ has a big potential to reduce such emissions. At the same time, REDD+ could contribute to biodiversity, local economy, and local people's livelihood.

REDD+ was born as an idea of avoiding deforestation proposed by Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica at COP² 11³ in 2005. The framework of REDD+ was agreed at COP 16⁴ held in Cancún, 2012. At COP 19⁵ in Warsaw, seven decisions that cover technical guidance, finance, and institutional arrangement were agreed. This framework is called the "Warsaw framework for REDD+". To this end, countries started developing REDD+ slowly but steadily.

FFPRI has studied tropical forests ecology, forest monitoring technologies, and relating socio-economics for long time. With these experiences, we established the REDD Research and Development Center⁶ four years ago to help facilitate international discussions on REDD+. Currently, we are carrying out researches in Cambodia, Malaysia and Paraguay. In these countries, we are working on the development of methodologies suitable for a national REDD+ monitoring system. The results obtained in these countries are shared with host countries to contribute their data management and capability development. To disseminate these acquired results, we compiled these results as a technical guidebook called the REDD+ Cookbook⁷. In addition, we organize an international seminar once a year.

For this year, we invited Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO⁸), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA⁹), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO¹⁰),

¹ Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute: <http://www.ffpri.affrc.go.jp/en/>

² Conference of the Parties: <https://www.cbd.int/cop/>

³ <http://www.cbd.int/cop11/>

⁴ <http://www.cc2010.mx/en/>

⁵ http://unfccc.int/meetings/warsaw_nov_2013/session/7767.php

⁶ <http://www.ffpri.affrc.go.jp/redd-rdc/en/>

⁷ <http://www.ffpri.affrc.go.jp/redd-rdc/en/reference/cookbook.html>

⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: <http://www.fao.org>

⁹ Japan International Cooperation Agency: <http://www.jica.go.jp/english/>

¹⁰ International Tropical Timber Organization: <http://www.itto.int/>

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES¹¹), and United Nations University (UNU¹²) to serve as co-organizers. I appreciate their cooperation and hard-working efforts. Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude to The Government of Japan including Forestry Agency¹³, Ministry of Foreign Affairs¹⁴, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry¹⁵, Ministry of Environment¹⁶ for their strong support for this seminar.

This seminar will focus on the relationship and linkage between REDD+ and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM¹⁷). As you know, the concept of sustainable forest management was proposed at the Earth Summit¹⁸ held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 as “a dynamic and evolving concept aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental value of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations”. We should recall this concept for implementing REDD+. While REDD+ is a tool for implementing sustainable forest management in some cases, experiences acquired from its activities will contribute to REDD+ activities in the other cases.

For this seminar, we invited world-leading experts on REDD+ and sustainable forest management. Today’s discussion will focus on technical aspects of REDD+ and sustainable forest management, and discussions for tomorrow will focus on institutional and political aspects. After these sessions, panel discussion will be held tomorrow afternoon. I encourage all participants to actively join in this panel discussion.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all speakers and participants. I hope that this seminar will produce fruitful results and contribute to the future REDD+ and sustainable forest management.

¹¹ Institute for Global Environmental Strategies: <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/>

¹² United Nations University: <http://unu.edu/>

¹³ <http://www.maff.go.jp/e/>

¹⁴ <http://www.mofa.go.jp/>

¹⁵ <http://www.meti.go.jp/english/>

¹⁶ <https://www.env.go.jp/en/>

¹⁷ Sustainable Forest Management

¹⁸ <http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/enviro.html>