

## Closing Session

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Thank you all for staying on for many hours throughout the day today for this international seminar, “REDD-plus Start-up Year 2020: Roadmap to Result-based and Transferable Outcomes for Sustainable Development.” We have had a very intensive and hot discussion, and good information sharing. The reason why we used “Start-up Year” for the name of this international seminar is, in 2007, when COP13 was held, we began the discussion on that for the first time. Deforestation and degradation of forests can be tackled to contain CO2 emission. Since 13 years ago, we have continued on with our discussion and finally, we are ready to act. FFPRI sent experts to COP13. For the past 13 years for this specific topic from a research, science, and technology perspective, we have done substantial contribution.

As was mentioned several times today, this Research and Development Center marks the 10th anniversary. We have done longstanding research and development. For the past 10 years, there had been side events of UNFCCC, as well as technical seminars and workshops. We have had 42 of these events on REDD alone, which means that we have had so many challenges for us to discuss. Dr. Buszko-Briggs mentioned today that that task is complicated and challenging, but as we try to work on this, we need to solve challenges one at a time. There has been a stockpiling challenges that we had to solve one by one.

The past 13 years have been long, and the year we began the discussion, in Brazil, there had been great commitment issued by the government to carry out monitoring to try to reduce deforestation. After 13 years, last summer, because of development activities, there has been deforestation. Also you may have seen the wildfires and forest fires on TV in Brazil, but it was the development as well that caused deforestation. It is not easy to strive for a major goal like this.

As was discussed today, we have to have local participants in REDD+ projects. That importance has been emphasized once again. Nonetheless, REDD+ can mitigate climate change, but this is a global challenge. You will not be able to see the direct impact on a personal level. On a specific project level, it takes a long time for project proponents to feel that impact. That makes it difficult for local community members to participate in REDD projects.

Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw said that they are actually promoting both mitigation and adaptation at the same time. Adaptation is usually tackling local scale issues, like harvesting mangroves could cause a larger disaster due to hurricanes. It is a pain that the local citizens directly feel and it is easy to persuade them to participate. Of course, you have to make sure there is sufficient financing, but you need to combine mitigation and adaptation, especially in development. It will be very difficult to separate them. In developing countries, it is very important.

Dr. Takamura of the University of Tokyo said that REDD+ is a good way to achieve SDGs. There are 13 targets related to climate change and there are 15 goals related to ecology. There is also one target related to poverty. It is also related to the SDG related to water. Promoting REDD+ can contribute greatly towards achieving the SDGs. The limited resources need to be used as efficiently as possible for forest conservation

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activities so that we can actually control and reduce deforestation and forest degradation, but we think it is fully possible to achieve this initial goal. We, at the REDD Research and Development Center, are working to achieve the goals of REDD+, and working on issues contributing to mitigation and adaptation through research. We have consolidated this knowhow into various technical documents, which are also available on our website, as well as in a printed format. We hope you will make good use of these materials that we have prepared.

I would like to express our regards to the speakers who came today. Many of you came from far away and might be quite exhausted from your long travel. We are also very grateful to the participants, who took time out of their busy schedules to come here. With that word of gratitude, I would like to declare that this seminar is finished.