

Opening Remarks

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Thank you very much for coming to our international seminar, in spite of a very busy season in the beginning of the year. I am very grateful for your participation. As you know, climate change issues have called much attention around the world. Since last year, we have seen large-scale and long-standing forest fires in the Amazon in Brazil, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa, in Indonesia, and in Australia. We have also seen droughts and floods of increasing frequency and intensity threatening the livelihoods of people in many other parts of the world. In developing countries, we are trying to reduce emissions caused by deforestation and degradation by increasing carbon stock, enhancing forest conservation, and implementing sustainable forest management through REDD+, as promoted by Article 5 of the Paris Agreement². In addition to climate change actions, REDD+ is expected to contribute to ecosystems, biodiversity, and poverty alleviation in communities. There is also an expectation for developing countries to move from a preparatory stage to actual implementation.

The Paris Agreement is now being negotiated to agree on rules for possible implementation in 2020. Substantial financing is required for the promotion of the forest-based solutions needed, however as you can expect, official development assistance (ODA) and public financing have limitations. Therefore, the market mechanism implementation guidelines need to be agreed upon as quickly as possible for the full-fledged implementation of REDD+, together with the private sector.

FFPRI set up the REDD Research and Development Center³ in 2010, with the support of the Forestry Agency⁴, to promote public sector participation in the area of REDD and develop methods to efficiently measure carbon stock in forests. In addition to conducting analysis on economic and social impacts related REDD+, it functions as a hub to connect researchers and engineers related to REDD+ efforts. The private sector, private companies, government organizations, research institutes, and all ministries and organizations are asked to join forces for the development of REDD+ activities, for which, together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency⁵ (JICA), the Japan Public-Private Platform for REDD+⁶ was set up to promote educational activities.

This year's REDD+ international seminar is focusing on technological tools and guidance, as well as market approaches and bilateral and multilateral cooperation. We would like to report on the achievements we have been able to accomplish in the past 10 years at the REDD Research and Development Center. At the same time, we would also like to invite the experts to report on possible directions for more specific actions.

In the keynote presentations, we are going to have Ms. Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs, Programme Officer of

¹ <https://www.ffpri.affrc.go.jp/en/>

² https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_pari_agreement.pdf

³ http://redd.ffpri.affrc.go.jp/index_en.html

⁴ <https://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/e/>

⁵ <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/>

⁶ https://reddplus-platform.jp/index_en.html

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FAO⁷/UN-REDD⁸, give a talk about the overview and prospect of REDD+. Next, we are going to have Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, the Director General of the Forest Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation⁹ of Myanmar, give a talk about REDD+ for results-based payment and supporting sustainable development in Myanmar. In Session 1, we will hear about REDD+ tools, guidelines, and technologies. In Session 2, we will hear about REDD+ voluntary cooperative approaches and results-based finances. Before we conclude, I hope our discussions here can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals¹⁰ (SDGs) concerning global forest conservation and the betterment of social welfare, as well as promote climate actions coming from the Paris Agreement.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the co-organizers, the International Tropical Timber Organization¹¹ (ITTO), JICA, and the Japan Public-Private Platform for REDD+, for organizing this seminar. I would also like to thank the Forestry Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs¹², the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry¹³ (METI), the Ministry of the Environment¹⁴, the Japanese Forest Society¹⁵, the Remote Sensing Society of Japan¹⁶, the Japan Society of Tropical Ecology¹⁷, the Japan Society of Forest Planning¹⁸, and all the participants in the audience. With that, I would like to end my opening remarks. Thank you very much.

⁷ <http://www.fao.org/home/en/>

⁸ <https://www.un-redd.org/>

⁹ <http://www.monrec.gov.mm/>

¹⁰ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

¹¹ <https://www.itto.int/>

¹² <https://www.mofa.go.jp/>

¹³ <https://www.meti.go.jp/english/>

¹⁴ <https://www.env.go.jp/en/index.html>

¹⁵ <https://www.forestry.jp/english/>

¹⁶ <https://www.rssi.or.jp/eng/>

¹⁷ <https://www.jaste.website/>

¹⁸ <https://www.forestplanning.jp/>