

Guest Speech

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Today I am very delighted to see that FFPRI's REDD Research Center's open international seminar on REDD+ and funding mechanism and its use is held with so many participants from overseas and Japan. I would like to welcome experts attending from many countries around the world. I would also like to express my gratitude to understanding and cooperation for the promotion of forests and forestry administration in Japan.

According to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, which was announced last year, greenhouse effect gas emissions from deforestation and land use accounts for one-fourth of the world emissions. The countermeasure against it is such an important agenda for climate change mitigation. Under COP and UNFCCC¹, REDD+ has been considered since 2005 to give economic incentives to the developing countries the control deforestation. In 2013, COP19 was held in Warsaw, Poland. The Warsaw Framework for REDD+² and seven resolutions under the framework were agreed upon. REDD+ technical discussion made much progress.

Last year in December, the COP20 was held in Lima, Peru. Based on the Warsaw framework for REDD+, reference emission levels were reported from different countries. Also, the platform to open the necessary information for receiving the payment every month, plus an information hub was open on the website of the convention secretariat.

With regard to Green Climate Fund³ to the board of GCF⁴ under a series of REDD+ resolutions there was REDD+ framework. The decision was made to consider the REDD+ and this resolution. Under the fund, Japan expressed that they would contribute \$1.5 billion under the approval from the Diet. Also, up to last year, a total of \$10.2 billion was expressed to be contributed. In COP21⁵, which will be held in end of this year, it was announced that we will implement the contribution to the first project.

Today in this seminar from the experts from overseas and Japan I hear that there will be a lot of presentations and discussions on various funding mechanisms and effective institutional designs and use. I hear there will be many specific case studies as well as discussions and trend presentations. I hope that you share insight and experience and to take this as an opportunity to deepen your insight. The Forestry Agency will work together with other ministries and agencies in charge of funding. We would like to contribute to the realization of REDD+.

To conclude my remarks, I hope that the people who attended the seminar will able to get an accomplishment for REDD+, forest conservation, and sustainable forest management. Congratulations.

¹ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: <https://unfccc.int/>

² http://unfccc.int/land_use_and_climate_change/redd/items/8180.php

³ <http://news.gcfund.org/>

⁴ Green Climate Fund

⁵ <http://www.cop21paris.org/>

DAY1
Opening Session