

Guest Speech

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I am very pleased to see a large number of guests attending from overseas and Japan at this ‘The Future of REDD+: Interpreting FREL/FRL for Post-2020 Framework’ conference. It is being hosted by FFPRI, and today we have specialists and experts from all over the world speaking. We would like to welcome them. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the government agencies responsible for forests for the promotion of forest management and administration in Japan.

At the end of last year in Paris, France the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP21 was held. I was a participant and was engaged in the negotiation of a future framework for forestry. There were some confrontations based on differences in the positions of the participating nations, but Paris Accord was adopted in the end. It was clear that all countries realize the necessity of strengthening forest conservation, carbon sinks, and carbon storage for the promotion of the REDD+ initiative.

This will be an impetus for further active implementation of REDD+, but In order to implement REDD+ in developing countries more efficiently, there are some issues that need to be resolved.

Experts are here with us today from Japan as well as from overseas. We would like to reflect back on a decade discussion of REDD+, and we would like to recognize some of the issues to resolve before widespread implementation REDD+ after 2020. This is an excellent opportunity to establish a direction for the resolution of remaining issues. The Forestry Agency would like to work together with the other related agencies based on the discussion and presentations provided at this seminar. We would like to make further efforts towards the implementation of REDD+ as well as the development of necessary technology and human resources

Lastly, I hope that today’s seminar will be significant and meaningful for everyone here today. Thank you very much.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/>