

CLOSING REMARKS

Makoto Inoue*

It is indeed a great honor for me to address you today on the occasion of the closing ceremony of this workshop.

First of all, I would like to emphasize that our workshop was successful, because we now share more common understanding to help establish forest conservation strategies. Our work surely serves as a good example of joint efforts among Asian and Pacific countries in the spirit of cooperation.

Often nothing happens after conferences and workshops. Thick proceedings end up on shelves of libraries and offices, but I hope that something more will happen after this workshop. As follow-up work, core members of the IGES Forest Conservation project will discuss and develop research strategies for the next year. At the same time, the draft research plan for the 2nd phase of the Project will be prepared through meetings of the project leaders, the board of directors and trustees of IGES.

I am happy that we were able to share these three days together and have been able to come up with some very important recommendations. Our efforts will have been not only for ourselves, but also for each country, for humanity, and for the global environment. I am sure that the future of the forests in Asia and the Pacific region is in our generation's hands.

I would like to extend my deep appreciation to all of the participants at the workshop and staff of IGES for their great contributions to the success of this workshop.

May the light of our new friendship shine through the rest of our lives, and may the world's forests be managed sustainably.

Ladies and gentlemen. I hereby call this workshop to a close. Thank you for your kind attention.

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