

Greeting

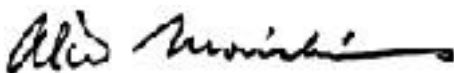
I would like to express my gratitude to you for your participation in the IGES International Workshop on Forest Conservation Strategies for the Asia and Pacific region.

Forest conservation is a key issue which the international community now faces. The present situation needs to be improved in view of the strong correlation between deforestation, decreasing bio-diversity and global warming. Forest conservation is given great importance in Agenda 21 and documents that followed. IFF(Intergovernmental Forum on Forest) is engaged in an effort to reach international consensus on forest conservation under CSD. In response to this trend, IGES has set-up a forest conservation project as its 1st phase project.

This research project aims to prepare international strategies for conservation and sustainable management of forests in Asia and the Pacific region. It intends to propose necessary supporting legal measures and policies, and determine basic elements to be included in world forest strategies based on analysis and examination of various forests including boreal forests.

The research activities begun in April. During the prior preparatory phase before April, we already became aware of the importance of exchanging information and experiences with other researchers and NGOs in Asia. Therefore, we decided to hold this workshop to clarify the role of IGES in forest conservation, through finding out underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and through investigation of actual situations and problems that the countries under study now confront.

We, the members of the IGES Forest Conservation project, are determined to present various forest conservation strategies for the Asia and Pacific region. We earnestly ask for your assistance and support of the project.



Prof. Akio Morishima
Chair of the Board of Directors
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)