

# **International Workshop on Asian Air Pollution and Biodiversity Conservation**

The Eighth Tripartite Presidents Meeting among NIES, NIER and CRAES

## **Opening Speech**

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Good Morning ladies and gentlemen. I hope you are enjoying your stay in Okinawa.

Yesterday we began the Eighth Tripartite Presidents Meeting among NIES, NIER and CRAES (TPM8). We have conducted sincere and frank discussions about many environmental issues, especially Asian regional problems. Today I am very honored to welcome and host this International Workshop on Asian Air Pollution and Biodiversity Conservation. Both themes are of course among the priority research areas of TPM.

As you know, the environment of our three countries is not separate and the environment is one unit. Actually, we have all experienced severe environmental problems, including large-scale disasters in our respective areas, meaning that we have to do our utmost to conserve the natural environment and also contribute to the building of a healthy environment and a healthy society. For these purposes, we need to cooperate, especially in the field of environmental science. I believe that the topics covered at this workshop - Asian Air Pollution in the morning session and Biodiversity Conservation in the afternoon session - are both extremely important for a healthy environment and a healthy society.

At this international workshop, researchers and officials from not only NIES, NIER and CRAES but also Okinawa Prefectural Institute of Health and Environment, the Naha Regional Office for Nature Conservation of the Ministry of the Environment Japan, and University of the Ryukyus, will present their own activities which relate to specific environmental problems. Furthermore, we are opening this international workshop to participants from Okinawa Prefecture, Nago City and any other parties interested in the environmental issues which are due to be discussed. I hope that you all enjoy this workshop and I believe that we will have very useful outcomes.

Let's start our workshop. Thank you!