

Greetings at the Opening Ceremony of the SUIJI Seminar

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the host of this year's seminar, let me extend you a hearty welcome. Thank you very much for attending the Third SUIJI Seminar.

I am also very grateful and intensely inspired by the presence of the people from the Department of National Education of Indonesia and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.

Since Kochi is located in one of the hottest regions in Japan, and due to the high humidity peculiar to this area, I am afraid that even people from Indonesia might feel it is extremely hot and humid here.

Last year we attended the Seminar at Bogor Agricultural University in Indonesia which produced many significant outcomes. I would like to express our sincerest gratitude once again to all the people concerned, especially our honorable guests from Indonesia.

This year's Seminar hosted by Kochi University also consists of three discussion assemblies: the Researchers' Forum, the Students' Forum and the Presidents' Forum. I am confident that we will have vigorous participation in the discussions and produce highly significant results.

For the past year, Nineteen Indonesian students came to Japan, of whom six studied at Kochi University. Thirteen students were sent from Japan to Indonesia and I believe their SUIJI collaborations are proceeding with greatest smoothness.

Many Japanese universities are facing a big wave of restructuring and Kochi University no less is reinvigorating our education structuring. The Faculty of Agriculture, which is involved in SUIJI, is no exception. We plan to establish an educational structure that deals with the ocean's resources, ranging from its surface to the sea bed.

When this plan of reinvigoration of the Faculty of Agriculture is fulfilled, it will

be reborn as a comprehensive research and education organization that can deal with natural resources, ranging from forests, rivers, and farmlands to the ocean.

We will also be able to cooperate with one another in very numerous ways in order to achieve our main objective of SUIJI, which is to further develop subtropical agriculture and produce closer links, so that Kochi University's contribution will be further perfected.

The graduation ceremony of Bogor Agricultural University that I attended last year was very dignified and impressive. Since this SUIJI Seminar does not coincide with our graduation ceremonies, there will be no opportunities for any of you to observe these graduation ceremonies during the Seminar. However, we shall provide an excursion for you to visit the main places of interest in Kochi City.

Kochi is the city where a large number of the heroes of 1868 Meiji Restoration were born, and even after the Restoration, many further heroes were produced from this region.

It is also important to remember that this region has benefited from the contributions of many heroic women.

You will certainly be able to experience the enlightened and liberal cultural atmosphere of the city on the excursion, so if you are interested and have time to do so, please avail yourself of the opportunity.

Once again, I look forward confidently to a greatly successful outcome from this two-day SUIJI Seminar. In conclusion, may I offer you the heartiest welcome on behalf of your host Kochi University? Thank you very much.

President of Kochi University
Hiroshi Wakiguchi