

WELCOME MESSAGE

On behalf of the local organizing committee of the 3rd meeting of IUFRO Unit 7.03.12 “Alien invasive species and international trade” in Tokyo, I would like to give my hearty welcome to all of you.

This meeting in Tokyo was first planned to be held in October of 2011, however, a huge earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011, which were followed by the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster, made us postpone this meeting. During the excursion from 14th to 16th, you can see how tsunami destroyed coastal pine forests of eastern Tohoku area and how beauty of pine forests in Matsushima (pine islands) still remained.

After the unprecedented disaster, although still many people are being suffered from uncomfortable life as evacuees in wide areas, we are coming back to ordinary life.

We express deep appreciation for kind support from all over the world at the most difficult time we have ever experienced. We realized how the people in the world feeling close to each other and how sympathetic you are at a disaster in other part of the world in our case of last year.

This meeting deals with another side of the world unity and mutual dependence between countries. As you know, Japanese forests has been suffered from severe epidemic of pine wilt disease, which was introduced from North America a century ago, while Eurasian pathogens and pests such as Chestnut blight, White pine blister rust, Japanese beetle, etc. have made a great impacts on the ecosystem there.

As the world become smaller, such problems caused by invasive aliens will be more and more critical issue in the forest health and human welfare.

I believe we can overcome this dark side of international exchange only by exchanging knowledge and experiences on biology, ecology, technology and culture surrounding forest and forest products all over the world. I wish this meeting is fruitful experience for all of you.

I express sincere thanks to many supports from Hugh, Eric, Kerry as coordinators of the Unit, Sandy and Ecki of Div. 7, and all members of local organizing committee. I also thank to FFPRI, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences and Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, the University of Tokyo as co-hosts, and supports from Forestry Agency and Yokohama Plant Protection Office, and financial supports from IUFRO-J, Kajima Foundation, National Land Afforestation Promotion Foundation.

Kenji Fukuda