

## Opening Address by the Dean

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## Opening Address by the Dean

Distinguished soil scientists from overseas countries, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great pleasure to make an opening address of the 2nd International Workshop on Integrated Field Science on behalf of the Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Tohoku University.

Field science is basically a major part of agricultural science and we started a new Integrated Field Science Center in 2003 re-organizing the previous University Farm located at Kawatabi and Education and Research Center of Marine Bio-Resources at Onagawa. The major aim of the re-organization is to develop an environmentally friendly food production system covering wide range of forests, grasslands, paddy fields and sea that are closely connected with water flow, atmosphere and human activities. The re-established Field Science Center is made up with five scientific cores; Forest Andisols Core, Ruminant Production Core, Rice Production Core, Marine Bio production Core and Integrated Field Control Core.

In our Graduate School of Agricultural Science, keeping step with the rapid pace of scientific development, we have started to perform 21<sup>st</sup> century-oriented agricultural science by acknowledging agricultural science's relation to the bio-industry and the need to deal with problems of food production, health and environment that form the basis of human existence.

One of the characteristics of the integrated field science, as a major part of agricultural science, is collaboration among researchers from different disciplines and different areas. Accordingly, each research core, in our Field Science Center, holds an international workshop alternately every year. And this is workshop organized by Forest-Andosols core's.

The topic for workshop today is New Perspectives of Volcanic Ash Soils in the Integrated Ecosystems -the Circum Pacific Volcanic Zone-. The circum-pacific zone is also called as the ring of fire. It is a huge global-scale ring and the most active volcanic area in the world. The volcanic ash soils distributed along the ring of fire is under various climates and various cultures or human activities.

Today, we have distinguished guest speakers from 6 countries along the ring of fire. Each of you has your own interesting volcanic ash soils in your country and I am sure it is very fruitful for us to exchange knowledge and experiences on these interesting soils. Finally, I sincerely hope all of you will enjoy this workshop in our Graduate School of Agricultural Science.

August 6th, 2004

Dean Professor Dr. Yukio Akiba,

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