

Opening Remarks by Dean of the Graduate School

Professor Hitoshi Onishi, Vice President of Tohoku University, distinguished participants overseas, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great pleasure this afternoon to make the opening address for 1st International Workshop on Integrated Field Science in Terrestrial–Marine Ecosystem.

Human health and welfare are dependent on bioindustrial products. A safe, readily accessible food and necessities of life are the fundamentals of existence and security for individuals, communities and nation. Keeping step with the rapid pace of scientific development, the Graduate School of Agricultural Science performs 21st 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.

Another aim of our agricultural science is to establish scientific basis for the sound promotion of the bioscience related to agriculture, animal husbandry and marine industry by integrating molecular biology, cell biology, physiology, bioorganic chemistry, ecology and social economics. For future development of Bioindustries, we are also conducting frontier researches directed to bioindustrial application on the basis of microbiology, food science, bioorganic chemistry, genomics and bioinformatics. In view of facilitating the development of environmentally friendly food production systems that consider the ecosystem, the new Field Science Center was established in 2003.

The new center has three educational and research stations : the Field Control Station (Sendai), the Terrestrial Field Station (Kawatabi), and the Marine Field Station (Onagawa), and the following research groups which we refer as Cores: the Forest–Andisols Core, the Ruminant Production Core, the Rice Production Core, the Marine Bio–production Core, and the Integrated Field Control Core.

This workshop on the Integrated Field Science will, I am sure, provide you, the participants with a valuable opportunity to meet each other and to share views and concepts on field science. I would like to express special appreciation to the organizers, and to all the others who have worked to convene this workshop.

Finally, I look forward to the discussions and exchanges that will take place here being an important step towards sustained and even closer cooperation among the participants and to create a new partnership for the future research collaboration.

Thank you very much.

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**Dean Professor Dr. Yukio Akiba,
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