

Welcome Address

Dr. Nopadol Thongsopit

The President of Khon Kaen University Khon Kaen, Thailand

Your Excellency Chairman

The Governor

The President of Sekai Kyusei Kyo Kyokai

Overseas Participants and Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of the staff and the organizing committee, I wish to extend our cordial welcome and appreciation of your participation in this First International Conference on Kyusei Nature Farming.

As you well know, there is increasing concern over the health and environmental problems associated with the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agricultural production. The main objective of this conference is to encourage and stimulate interest and study of the Kyusei Nature Farming system and its use of effective microorganisms that can degrade toxic chemicals and pesticides in agricultural ecosystems, enhance the growth and yield of crops, and provide safe, high quality food. The high priority areas which demand immediate attention are the conservation of energy in agriculture, efficient use of natural resources and protection of the environment. I hope that this conference will provide alternative practices and options that both our Thai farmers and farmers worldwide can use to sustain the productivity of their lands and their profitability in the years ahead.

It is a great honor for the Faculty of Agriculture of Khon Kaen University, and Khon Kaen University itself, to host this conference since one of the major purposes of this university is to promote the development of the rural agricultural sector. I am sure that this conference will contribute towards this end by increasing our knowledge and understanding of the principles of Kyusei Nature Farming and the effective utilization of beneficial microorganisms in agricultural practices. The organizing committee will do their best to help you enjoy your stay in Khon Kaen. If you need help with anything, please do not hesitate to ask them.

Lastly, I wish to thank everyone again and welcome you to the First International Conference on Kyusei Nature Farming.