

Closing Remarks

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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the organizing committee, it is indeed my pleasure to make a few closing remarks at the opening ceremony of this Fifth International Conference on Kyusei Nature Farming, as a member of the staff of the major sponsor of this event, the International Kyusei Nature Farming Research Center of Atami, Japan.

The foundation for the Fifth International Conference was laid in France in 1995 - at the Fourth International Conference. The venue was to be China. The progress of arranging this conference was slow - in the first 16 months and with the stationing of our staff in Beijing, things got moving. Visits were made by us to Beijing and the building of the conference was almost complete. The planning of the program was always a process of discussion, negotiation and consensus and we were confident of a very good conference in Beijing.

In Japan we are experienced in weathering natural disasters - such as earthquakes and typhoons. However, life has to go on, with greater strength and courage - to overcome these setbacks. One gets experience and determination by these calamities.

A similar disaster struck the planning of the Fifth International Conference, that was being completed by a dedicated team of small staff. It happened just two weeks ago to date. This was totally unexpected, just like an earthquake or a sudden typhoon. Although the staff were devastated for just one day, a small ray of sunshine was seen through the debris and mayhem.

The ray of sunshine developed within two days into a bright light - and today we see the result - again due to the diligence of a team of staff working overtime like a hive of bees. The conference venue was changed, programs reassigned and all of the work completed to begin the conference as scheduled.

On behalf of all of us at the International Nature Farming Research Center, it is indeed with humility that I thank all those who made this event a possibility. However, I would fail in my duty if I do not express my deepest gratitude to three organizations, that work, very closely with us -

The Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Thailand and Kyusei Nature Farming Center of Thailand, led by the dynamic President, Rev. Kazuo Wakugami, along with Rev. Daiho Kasahara who did all they could to hold this conference and to our staff at the Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network, led by the Takashi Kyan, who did the spade work.

On behalf of the President and members of the Board of Directors of the International Nature Farming Research Center at Atami, I do express our deepest thanks to Professor Teruo Higa for his guidance in preparing this conference and to all those who are associated with it. We also express our deepest thanks to Mrs. Puengpit Dulyapach, the Director, Agricultural Administrative Development Division of the Ministry of Agriculture for being here with us as a guest of honour. Although the invitation was extended to her at the last moment to grace this occasion, she obliged amidst her busy schedule. We all know of her interest in EM and nature farming - which makes her presence very important to us. Thank you Madam Director for your interest and support.

We also express our thanks to all of you here today, for changing flight schedules and coming to be with us. This is indeed an encouragement to see that important persons from over 25 countries are interested in the technology offered - to make this world a better place for humankind. Your participation is the culmination of the conference, and we thank you. We also appreciate the support extended by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, led by our dear friend, Mr. Herve la Prairie and to EM Research Organization, who are associated with this conference.

Kyusei Nature Farming is a method that is fast gaining popularity as it has a very scientific base. The papers that will be presented at this conference will bear testimony to this fact.

Thank you very much - all of you who made this conference a success in spite of the small setback. While we do miss our friends from China, we do offer our continued support to them in using EM

and adopting Kyusei Nature Farming - as this methodology is a holistic approach to make this world a better place for humankind.

Do enjoy the conference, please contribute actively to make it a success and most importantly, please adopt the technology that is being presented at this conference. It will certainly protect our planet for the future generations.