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Preface

The Workshop started in 2004 aiming to release the result of research to society widely from the beginning of the joint research project between Cambodia and Japan, and considering it as a part of solutions of all kinds of problems through the friendship with people of different fields. Since forest hydrology was emphasized in the cooperation research project named Changes of Water Cycle in Mekong River basin (CWCM) at the beginning, water cycle researches were centered. On the other hand, we noticed that there are great amazing evergreen forests in central flat-lowland area. In these evergreen forests, we have gained many kinds of information about vegetation composition, soil characteristic, water balance, evapotranspiration, etc. Consequently, we have realized the importance of the forest from multilateral viewpoints on environment, natural resource, etc.,

This is the 7th workshop holdings once a year. Many research results have been produced and released officially in many academic journals and books. Currently, the second phase project "CWCM-Phase II" has been progressing since 2008 following the first phase project started in 2002. In these periods, the situation surrounding forests in this region is changing a lot, and we need to deal with various problems, such as the forest environment change by global warming, mal distribution of water resources in connection with climate change, and evaluation of roles of the forest in these situations. Therefore, in the second phase of the project, we have enclosed the two main forest types in this region installing the new experimental watershed in deciduous forests, in addition to the present evergreen experimental watershed. The deciduous forests in Cambodia cover about 40 % of total forest area, occupying the largest area and they are very important for forestry government and local residents. Consequently, we emphasized our study on deciduous forests which are as important as evergreen forests in this stage of CWCM project, "CWCM-Phase II".

This year, there were the severe flood disasters in this area, south part of Indochina Peninsula. Some persons point out the disorderly deforestation as one of the reasons of these flood and others mentioned that the global warming is an important factor. To solve such a situation, we should now utilize the integrated continuous observation data based on the stable experimental watershed. We will analyze these dataset and advance searching those causes of the disaster. And also, it is strongly emphasized that we should obtain good scientific research results for suitable and sustainable forest management.

I would like to give my sincere gratitude to all the members of organizing committee who have made this conference successful. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to all supporters, Forest Wildlife Research and Development Institute, Forestry Administration, local government and residents in Cambodia, and Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute in Japan.

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