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Akira Shimizu, Sophal Chann, Haruo Sawada,

Yasuhiro Ohnuki, Koji Tamai (Eds.)

Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Japan

Forestry Administration, Cambodia

Scientific Committee

DR. AKIRA SHIMIZU
CWCM Project Coordinator
Regional Research Coordinator
Kyushu Research Center
Forestry & Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)
4-11-16 Kurokami, Kumamoto, Kumamoto, 860-0862 JAPAN

MR. SOPHAL CHANN
CWCM Project Coordinator
Forest and Wildlife Research and Development Institute (IRD)
Hanoi Street, Phoum Rongchak, Sankat Phnom Penh Thmei,
Klan Sen Sok, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

DR. HARUO SAWADA
Professor, Institute of Industrial Science
The University of Tokyo
4-6-1 Komaba, Meguro, Tokyo, 153-8505 JAPAN

DR. YASUHIRO OHNUKI
Chief of Soil Geochemistry Laboratory
Forestry & Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)
Matsumoto 1, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8687 JAPAN

DR. KOJI TAMAI
Chief of Forest Hydrology Laboratory
Forestry & Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)
Matsumoto 1, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8687 JAPAN

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Forestry & Forest Products Research Institute
Matsumoto 1, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8687 JAPAN

Forestry Administration
40 Preah Norodom Blvd., Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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Preface

The Workshop started in 2004 aiming to release the results of research to society widely from the beginning of the collaborative 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 joint project named Changes of Water Cycle in Mekong River basin (CWCM) at the beginning, water cycle researches were centered. On the other hand, we have been studying many kinds of subjects for the large evergreen forests in central flat-lowland area. Such evergreen forests in flat lands are now very precious in the Indochinese Peninsula, because there are hardly remaining forests except for this region. In these evergreen forests, we have gained many kinds of information about vegetation composition, soil characteristic, water balance, evapotranspiration, forest climate, etc. Consequently, we have realized the importance of the forest from multilateral viewpoints on environment, timber and wildlife resource, water resources, etc.

In these research periods, the situation of surrounding forests in this region is changing a lot, and we need to deal with various problems, such as the several types of forest environment change by global warming, maldistribution of water resources in connection with climate change, evaluation of role of the forest in these situations. Therefore, we added deciduous forests which have occupied about 40 % of total forest area, being maximum forest type in Cambodia, and advance researches for two main forest types in this region. Accordingly, we have installed the new experimental watershed in deciduous forests, in addition to the evergreen experimental watershed. The 30m-high observation tower was set in deciduous forests experimental watershed in Kratie Province corresponding to the existing 60m-high observation tower in evergreen forests experimental watershed. Consequently, we have studied many subjects in deciduous forests that are as important as evergreen forests in the CWCM project.

This is the 8th workshop holdings once a year. Last year, there were the severe flood disasters in the south part of Indochina Peninsula. Some persons pointed out the disorderly deforestation as one of the reasons of these flood and others mentioned that the global warming might be an important factor. What is significant in this argument is that we should interpret on the basis of the exact integrated continuous observation data using the stable experimental watershed. Investigating the cause of the disaster by analyzing this kind of data contributes to suitable and sustainable forestry management and sustainable development greatly.

There would be no greater pleasure than if, better forest management or an improvement of a life environment were promoted by profound understanding about forest through this workshop. I deeply appreciate many efforts of Cambodian Forest Administration staff.

SHIMIZU Akira: Conference Secretariat
Regional Research Coordinator in Kyushu Research Centre
Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Japan

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