Proceedings of

10th International Workshop on Forest Watershed Environment Research in Cambodia,

24, September 2014
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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ISBN: 978-4-905304-49-4

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Proceedings of 10th International Workshop on Forest Watershed Environment Research in Cambodia
Published and printed in Cambodia and Japan, February 2015.

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. The tropical seasonal forests in flat lands are now very precious in the Indochinese Peninsula, because there are hardly remaining forests except for this region. Firstly, we have gained many kinds of information about vegetation composition, soil characteristic, water balance, evapotranspiration, forest climate, etc. in Cambodian evergreen forests. In addition, we have also studied the deciduous forest and compared the observed results at two forest watersheds in Cambodia for comprehensive understandings of energy, water, and carbon dioxide cycling in forests of Mekong River Basin.

This is the 10th workshop holdings once a year. In these more ten years research periods, the situation of surrounding forests in this region has been changing a lot, and we need to deal with various problems, such as natural disasters, the influence of global warming, maldistribution of water resources in connection with climate change, human impacts in forest utilization, etc. In particular, many meteorological disasters have occurred frequently over the past several years in the Asia monsoon zone. We had the severe flood disaster in the south part of Indochina Peninsula, especially in Thailand and Cambodia in 2011. The severe typhoon attacked Philippines in 2013. This year, flood disaster and induced large-scale landslide occurred in Afghanistan in April. And, in August, flood damage occurred in Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Nepal. Furthermore, in September, the large area from South Asia to China was hit by the heavy rain, severe and serious damage was caused by the large-scale flood in Pakistan or India and also China.

The global warming might be the important factor concerning to the flood, and the disorderly deforestation might be set to one of the causes of the flood. What is significant in these arguments is that we must interpret on the basis of the exact integrated continuous observation data using the stable experimental watershed. Since these extreme meteorological disasters have higher possibility of happens hereafter owing to influence of global warming, accumulation of high-precision hydro-meteorological observation data with forest information is indispensable. Accordingly, the significance of accumulated data over more than 10 years until now is increasing much more, and they are expected to be effectively utilized for flood disaster prediction and global warming adaptation in the future. 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.

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