

**FFTC's International Symposium on
“Recent Progress in Swine Breeding and Raising Technologies”**



Welcome Remarks

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Dr. Akio Tekanaka, Director, Division of Animal Sciences, National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences in Japan, our distinguished scientists and officers from NARO, Japan, Dr. Takashi Nagai, the Deputy Director of FFTC, our friends from the Livestock Research Institute, Animal Health Research Institute, Rural Development Foundation of the Council of Agriculture, honorable speakers, guests, participants, ladies and gentlemen, good morning to all of you.

First of all, let me extend my warm welcome to all of you who have gathered here today to lend support to this Satellite Symposium entitled “Cutting Edge Reproductive Technologies and Perspectives for their Usage in Pigs.”

Before me, I see believers and advocates of the swine industry, scientific great minds with noble intentions of sharing experiences, technologies, strategies, and even problems pertaining to the reproductive technologies in pigs.

We used the term “cutting edge” to describe reproductive technologies in pigs because that was what we envisioned when we were brainstorming the overall concept of this satellite symposium. Cutting edge means the latest or the more advanced stage in the development of something. It is modern, innovative and pioneering—and as far as pig reproduction and swine health management are

concerned we envisioned a gathering of experts talking about cutting edge technologies and perspectives.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, pork is the most consumed meat in the world. Demand for pork has been rising in recent decades. Together with poultry, the pig sector is the fastest growing livestock subsector and animal numbers will reach 1 billion—by 2015. This is twice the number in the 1970s. World population expansion contributed to increasing pork consumption, and it is continuously being preferred as a major animal protein source in many countries. It provides income, high quality food, fuel and contributes to food security and nutrition, meeting growing consumer demand.

Cutting edge technologies in pig reproduction is becoming a growing challenge to pig scientists and researchers because it all point to the need to achieve improved efficiency in swine production. Every nation must be ready with scientific and technological advances to cope with changes in global trends as an array of technological developments will accompany the projected increase in pork consumption and the need to maximize the capacity of existing production and distribution system.

We are very pleased and honored that we have convened in this activity reproductive pig experts from various countries who can share and exchange technologies and information on artificial insemination, cryopreservation of boar spermatozoa, in vitro growing, embryo transfer and porcine bio and genetic diversity.

On behalf of FFTC, I would like again to thank our partners and friends from NARO who sponsored this event and our other partners from LRI, AHI and RDF for helping us in organizing this special activity. To all of you present here today, thank you very much for taking your time to be with us.

It is indeed a great privilege for me to welcome all of you to this important event and I hope that your short stay in Taiwan will be rewarding, memorable and fruitful. Thank you, and a pleasant day to all!