

FORWARD

The IGES Forest Conservation (FC) Project was established in 1998 for the purpose of developing forest conservation strategies based on experiences in the Asia-Pacific region. To achieve this purpose, the FC Project has been conducting research activities in target countries in the Asia-Pacific region under a research plan scheduled to last three years. Because the causes of deforestation and forest degradation are complex and the impacts of them may affect all parts of society, the FC Project has been designed with four sub themes: Structural Analysis, Timber Trade, Participatory Management, and Legal and Administrative supporting measures. Since the staff of IGES staff are rather limited in number, the role of collaborative researchers is very important. It is hoped that IGES and collaborative researchers working together can contribute to the development of strategies for forest conservation.

The first year of the FC Project activities was intended to clarify the current situation in target countries. Based on the first year's results, forest conservation strategies are to be developed in the second and third years. Accordingly, it was necessary to share the early results of work on the four sub-themes and to clarify directions for the development of strategies. For these purposes, the FC Project organized the 3rd International Workshop on Forest Conservation in Asia and the Pacific Region, inviting the foreign research collaborators of the FC Project and distinguished people in various fields. Held at Tokyo University from 7 to 9 September 1999, in all about seventy persons participated, including specialists from Australia, China, Indonesia, Lao P.D.R, Russia, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam. The participants held fruitful discussions on the reports presented in four sessions based on the various backgrounds and experiences of the participants. These discussions provided constructive ideas for strategies and bases for future research activities.

This is the report of those profound discussions. It would have been impossible to complete the report without the informative presentations from the research collaborators and the distinguished researchers who participated in this workshop. In closing, we express our deep appreciation to all participants for joining this workshop and contributing to the discussions.