

Welcome Speech

by

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Prof. Dr. Dedi Nursyamsi, Director of ICALRD
Dear Colleagues from FAO, IRD, and IAARD
Distinguished Participants
Ladies and Gentleman

Good Morning Everyone

On behalf of the President of Asian Soil Partnership, I would like to convey his regret not being able to join in this meeting due to unexpected circumstance.

It is indeed my utmost privilege and honor to be here in a charming city of Bogor and to give a welcome speech for the First Lab Managers' Meeting of the South-East Asia Laboratory NETWORK (SEALNET 2.0) Quality Improvement in Asian Soil Laboratories: Towards Standardization and Harmonization of Soil Analyses and Their Interpretation. It is also an honor for me to welcome representatives as well as experts from Asian countries to discuss and contribute guideline for the soil analysis standards for the Asian region network and to play a pivotal role in leading sustainable land resource development and management.

I would like to thank Ms. Lucrezia Caon, FAO Representative and Prof. Dr. Dedi Nursyamsi, Director of ICALRD for holding this important meeting, and for giving our Members a window of opportunity to attend.

Ladies and gentlemen

It is imperative that soils are crucial to life on Earth. They served as a medium for supporting plant growth. They are the factor controlling the fate of water in the hydrological system and also function as nature's recycling system. Moreover, soils provide habitats for myriad of living organisms as well as human. However, without proper and pragmatic soil management, its property and fertility will eventually deteriorate. The potential of soil production will be reduced and might cause the ensuing problems for present and the next generation. Our task is to collaboratively prevent that undesirable consequences. In doing so, data of soil and plant analysis are the key. I am certain that data gathering and synthesis will unveil the properties of soils and plants in Asian region.

How do we insure that information? The answer has been and will be analytical standards as well as quality assurance of analysis. In general, for most soil types and properties, a variety of analytical methods is available. The increasing need for soil data covering large areas is hampered by inconsistent and incomparable methods, based on non-matching or diverging concepts – despite broadly available ISO standards. Soil analytical data derived from different methods cannot easily be compared, given the great variety of analytical procedures and equipment used.

Existing improved and new standards for soil analysis and quality control, and its routine application in any laboratory play a fundamental role in the Pillar 5 concept. Thus, its implementations building upon regional initiatives are already in place and can be extended through the coordination of SEALNET. In this juncture, I believe the cooperation between South-East Asia Laboratory NETWORK, intertwined with initiated concrete projects, will inevitably create a tremendous impact to enhance soil quality in Asian in the very near future.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Global Soil Partnership who encourages Asian regional cooperation. Now, all countries can share resources and recognize the value of preserving limited resources for our children. Also, thanks to SEALNET Steering Committee who work tirelessly to run this meeting. After this meeting, I anticipate to see a strong Network of South-East Asia Laboratory, working together to achieve international standard laboratory and also accomplishes guideline for soil analysis standards for the Asian region.

Lastly, I would like to thank Secretary General of the Soil Association, participants, and distinguished guests for devoting your time to come here. Hope everyone has a great time and opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience in this meeting. I wish the meeting success.

Thank you very much.