CLOSING REMARKS

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Distinguished Guests, Fellow Scientists
Friends:

Almost every hour of this week has been of
ndous education, experience and excitement
ially for me and for my colleagues from
asetsart University and the Department
riculture, who are attending this Conference.

As you very well know, personally I am
nematologist. But as a Plant Pathologist,
urse, I share your concern for and interest
ie problem of root-knot nematodes. My
nematologist colleagues at the Kasetsart
versity also share my feelings.

Let me frankly tell you that I accepted this
burdon of making closing remarks on
ighly specialized meeting with considerable
ity. Now let me do my best to carry out
uty. I would utilize this opportunity also
r passing a vote of thanks toward the end of
emarks.

On tuesday in the Progress Report session,
r. Nishizawa told us about his interesting
rk on biological control of nematodes in
eneral, with a bacterial hyperparasite. Then Dr. Sivapalan provided an excellent oversight on root-knot problem in his country. That was followed by Dr. Inagaki's detailed deliberation together with excellent slides. on *Meloidogyne mali* on apple in Japan. Other eminent contributors Drs. Choi, Wang, Razak, Reyes, Ketudat, Chantanao and Chunram followed the suit and brought us up-to-date with outstanding work done in their respective countries.

At the close of the Progress Report session we heard Dr. Starr telling us about his novel enzymological work with *M. incognita*. There is little doubt that, in the future, biochemical methodology would find increasing application in root-knot nematode identification. Dr. Sasser projected detailed background of IMP activity in this and other regions, leaving no doubt in our minds as to the extensive network of scientists he has woven the worldover. I must say how I envy his enthusiasm! We, the Plant Pathologist, wish him complete success.

Several in-depth questions asked during various question sessions clearly showed that the general interest in various aspects of root-knot nematodes is indeed deepening!

Yesterday was a day of enlightenment on various cropping systems practiced throughout the South-East Asian region. Dr. Madamba successfully brought out the significance of prescribing cropping systems which would reduce root-knot hazard. Dr. Sivapalan warned that a cropping pattern bringing about any reduction in root-knot hazard should take into account the actual cash return to the farmer. Dr. Sasser adviced that recommendations on crop rotations resulting into root-know reduction should be recommended to the farmer on "take it or leave it" basis.

Development of a Regional Program under IMP was discussed by Dr. Madamba. After detailed discussions it was resolved that Crop rotation is an accepted method for nematode control. Dr. Sasser suggested that we should

make our approach more modern and develop some sort of an integrated control of nematode and increase the yield.

Let me admit, I do not feel that I have necessary competence of giving you a masterly review of such highly technical discussions, which, in any case, is not the purpose of my presentation!

I take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. C.P. Madamba for being elected as the President of newly formed Asian Society of Nematologists. There is no doubt that the new President would be active in focussing more attention on the root-knot problem throughout Asia.

At the final stage of my remarks I wisl thank Professor Sasser and Dr. Madamba selecting my country to host this Second A Regional Conference on root-knot nemato under the umbrella of International *Meloidog* Program. I and my colleagues did all wha could and it is hoped that you were not in venienced in any major way.

Here I wish to record my personal th and gratitude to all my colleagues on the (ference Committee. Without their effo would have been impossible to organise Conference.