

**Speech by Dr. Chi-kuo Mao, Vice Minister, Ministry of  
Transportation and Communications, at the Opening Ceremony of  
the “Third Symposium on the Impact of Climatic Change  
on Agricultural Production in the Pacific Rim”  
Taipei, May 17, 1993**

Dr. Tsay, Dr. Wu, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure to be invited to address this distinguished audience at the opening ceremony of the 3rd Symposium on the Impact of Climatic Change on Agricultural Production in the Pacific Rim. I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to extend our hearty welcome to you all, especially to the many distinguished delegates and guests from abroad.

Climatic change has gained a great deal of attention and has gradually become a major subject of meteorological research in past decades. Scientists around the world have been closely observing and analyzing every sign that might indicate a global climatic change. One of the most renowned examples is the Antarctic Ozone Hole case. As you know, in 1985, a group of British Scientists led by Dr. Farman discovered that the total amount of ozone over the Halley Bay in the Antarctic area has been decreasing over the past years. This phenomenon which is then called the Antarctic Ozone Hole has attracted worldwide attention.

The ozone hole phenomenon together with many other issues, such as the worsening situation of air quality and the overuse of various kinds of chemical products which causes many pollution problems, have eventually aroused the environmentalists around the world to call for immediate actions to prevent the Earth from further damaging and to preserve it for our future generations. The Montreal Protocol is a part of such actions, in which many agreements have been researched on restricting the use of Chloro-fluro-carbons and many other chemicals.

Among the abovementioned issues, the consequences of greenhouse effect and the impacts of climatic changes on agricultural production have drawn special attentions from the agricultural and agro-meteorological researchers in many countries. One of their major concerns is the drought and floods that are normally associated with climatic changes which will eventually cause a serious decrease in agricultural production and in turn the shortage of the world food supply.

The Central Weather Bureau of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications has spared no effort in the improvement of the meteorological services in this country. Agro-meteorology is one of the most important areas. In the past few years, the Central Weather

Bureau has modernized its service significantly. One well-known achievement is the installation of the Numerical Weather Prediction System and the implementation of the Weather Integration and Nowcasting System. In March this year, the CWB has further completed the Automated Rainfall and Meteorological Data Collection System for the western half of Taiwan. This data collection system will lay a foundation for the further improvement of the CWB's quality of services. Nevertheless, international cooperation and technological exchange are still the key for improving weather forecasting quality. This is also the main reason for the holding of this Symposium.

Today, we are very pleased to have so many multidisciplinary experts from different countries to discuss issues which are of our mutual concern. I trust that you will have a very productive and successful symposium. Last but not the least, to our distinguished foreign guests, I wish you all have an enjoyable stay in Taipei.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.