

**Speech by Dr. Ching-yen Tsay, Director General, Central Weather Bureau
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**

Vice-Minister, Dr. Mao, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Wu, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Central Weather Bureau (CWB), I would like to express my warm welcome to all of you at this "Third Symposium on the Impact of Climatic Change on Agricultural Production in the Pacific Rim." Special thanks are due to scientists from Australia, Canada, Japan, Netherlands, U.S.A. and Mainland China for your contributing to this conference, especially to Dr. Shu Geng of the Univ. of California at Davis for organizing this conference.

This symposium is sponsored by the CWB with co-sponsorship by the Council of Agriculture, the National Science Council, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry of the Taiwan Provincial Government, as well as the Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of these organizations for their support and assistance.

Taiwan is located in a sub-tropical region with unique topographic features. Hazardous weather events such as cold surges, heavy rains, typhoons, and drought are common. We suffers an average of 14 billion N.T. dollars (about 550 million U.S. dollars) annual loss due to these meteorological disasters. About 28.6% (150 million U.S. dollars) is in agricultural losses. Therefore, the impact of hazardous weather and climatic change has for years drawn special attentions from both government and scholars of this country. This conference certainly will contribute to the understanding of the relationship between climatic change and agricultural production, and mitigating natural hazards.

In agrometeorology work, CWB has an agrometeorological research station at Chiayi, located in southwest of Taiwan, has co-sponsored 14 class I and 12 class II agrometeorological observation stations, and publishes agrometeorology bulletin every ten days. In climate monitoring, CWB has two ozone observation stations and two climate and background air-quality stations, monitors global climatic change and issues monthly weather outlook for Taiwan.

For routine weather forecasts, CWB is developing 2nd generation numerical weather prediction (NWP) system in CRAY YMP supercomputer. For nowcasting and flash warning purposes, CWB has developed an Automated Surface Observation System and a Weather Integration and Nowcasting System (WINS). All these efforts will contribute directly or

indirectly to agrometeorology. Your recommendation and suggestions in improving all these efforts will be welcomed and appreciated.

This Symposium will be held in Taipei for the first two days. It will then be moved to the Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute in Taichung on the 19th and 20th. I hope all these arrangements will be satisfactory and all our foreign guests have a pleasant stay in Taiwan. Thank you.