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Appreciation to Dr. BORLAUG

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Thank you very much, Dr. BORLAUG. Your lecture was truly inspiring for our students and faculty members. I am sure that your powerful messages reached their hearts.

I liked the sentences of the last overhead transparency you have just showed us. It said, "Agriculture is the first science—the mother of all sciences; it remains the science that makes human life possible; and it may well be that, before the century is over, the success or failure of science as a whole will be judged by the success or failure of agriculture." We must realize the importance of our science and must not fail in our science. In the 21st century, I believe that agriculture is the science for the survival of mankind. It is our responsibility to advance our agricultural sciences.

The process you succeeded in developing the new variety of wheat was a good example to teach young researchers how to conduct research. Particularly, shuttle breeding was a very effective method to select potential candidates of the varieties in a short time and it is a powerful method in diverse conditions to select superior individuals. Also, in the selection process, you realized the importance of dwarf genes and have chosen dwarf genes of Japanese line Norin 10. This was interesting to us, as Japanese dwarf genes contributed to the development of the new variety of wheat.

One thing which I really appreciated is that you are always concerned with human factors. When you tried to disseminate the new variety of wheat, you mentioned the importance of the people's involvement.

The agricultural science may differ from pure biology, as agriculture always has to deal with human activity. I often point out the need to consider human activities in agriculture, forestry and fisheries sciences. In 1996, our college restructured and changed the name from College of Agriculture and Veterinary to College of Bioresource Sciences. With this restructure, we try to cover studies of all the biological processes as well as bio-resources. To formulate our curriculums we emphasized four areas of studies as central themes of our educational and research. The first theme is biological productions including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, livestock and also biomass. The second one is the conservation of natural environment, the third one is life science and the fourth one is human activity. Your lifetime involvement with cereal breeding teaches us the importance of production, environment, life science and human involvement.

Our college is celebrating 50-year anniversary of establishing the present structure of the college. Your lecture is commemorating the 50-year anniversary and it is the most appropriate lecture for this anniversary. I really thank you for your kindness to come down long way to this campus and giving the lecture to our students. Although the big typhoon hit Tokyo last night, we have a clear and sunny day today. You even brought beautiful autumn weather with you. Once again, on behalf of the students and faculties of Nihon University, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. BORLAUG. Thank you very much.

* President of Japan Society for Bioresource Sciences