

## Preface

The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) launched five research projects in 2002. The Project ICCAP - Impacts of Climate Change on Agricultural Production System in Arid Area - has been commenced as the first project among them. At the beginning, we organized a meeting in Turkey, which is one of the case study areas of the ICCAP. We called it the Kick-off Meeting of ICCAP. The aim of the meeting was to share common recognition of the objectives and policy of ICCAP and to exchange personal resources and personalities of the participants to the project.

The objectives and methodology of ICCAP is outlined in the first part of these proceedings. As you may see, it is a quite challenging cross-disciplinary research project and not easy to be implemented with conventional methodologies and research organization. This meeting is a good opportunity to deepen the recognition of the project and to enhance motivation to initiate the project. This is just the first step for getting a goal.

This volume contains the papers presented at the Kick-Off Meeting, held in Cukurova University, Adana, Turkey, July 4 and 5, 2002. We had many participants from Turkey, Egypt, Israel and Japan. Some of them have already discussed the exact research topics of ICCAP, and others show initial ideas or strategies to tackle with. These papers are to be the proof of the kick-off.

All participants were very happy at the Kick-off Meeting, since the Turkish Team and the Japanese Team did much excellent performances than expected at the FIFA World Cup 2002 Korea-Japan held just before the Kick-off Meeting. I believe we just kicked-off toward a beautiful goal.

Finally, I would like to express my special thanks to all participants to the meeting, and my friends of Cukurova University and the Regional Directorate of DSI for their work as a local secretariate for the meeting and organizing the field study tours. Also my thanks should be extended to my colleagues of RIHN for secretarial works and for editing this volume.

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