

DECEMBER, 2016

Establishment of the OUAVM Paraguay Office

On December 7, an opening ceremony for the Paraguay Office was held in the Nikkei CETAPAR (Centro Tecnológico Agropecuario del Paraguay) Foundation in Paraguay. OUAVM dispatched experts for the JICA Technical Cooperation Project “Paraguay Animal Reproduction Improvement Project” in 1982, which was the beginning of the relationship between OUAVM and Paraguay. In 1986, an academic exchange agreement was signed between OUAVM and the University of Asuncion. In recent years, OUAVM has conducted the Obihiro-JICA Paraguay Volunteer Team Partnership Program which has conducted two programs: Technical Support for the Improvement of Dairy Skills in the Eastern Edge Upland Farming Area and the Project for Strengthening Small Dairy Farmers in Itapua. These two programs have deepened the relationship between OUAVM faculty/students and people involved in agriculture in Paraguay.

Against the backdrop of these activities, OUAVM established the Paraguay Office to further promote educational/research exchanges with Paraguay and continued international cooperation. The Nikkei CETAPAR Foundation, in which the office is located, is a research institute established in 1962 as a JICA-controlled agricultural experiment station, and then transferred to a Japanese-affiliated agricultural cooperative in 2010. It is OUAVM's counterpart, with a wealth of experience in agricultural technical support in Paraguay.

At the opening ceremony for the Paraguay Office, President Kiyoshi Okuda expressed his thanks to the people who supported the establishment of the office, outlined its policies and made a presentation on the organization and business of OUAVM. In attendance were the chairs of the Paraguay Producers' Federation FECOPROD, and NIKKEI Central Agricultural Cooperative Ltd, the representatives of agricultural cooperatives, the deputy director of the JICA Paraguay Office, and other guests.

Three people — a specially appointed professor from OUAVM, a business coordinator and a technical employee — are stationed in the Paraguay Office. Their role is to support dairy projects conducted in the country and investigate the need for technical cooperation in agricultural fields other than dairy farming, thereby expanding educational/research exchanges between OUAVM and Paraguay. This is the second overseas office established by OUAVM, following the establishment of the Mongolia Office in the Mongolian Institute of Veterinary Medicine in 2008.



Unveiling of the sign of the Paraguay Office



Cherry tree planting to celebrate the opening of the office