

## The Robert S. McNamara Seminar

### The Role of Agriculture and Agricultural Research in generating growth and post disaster Reconstruction

In the next 30 – 40 years demand for food will double. Already, almost half of all agricultural land is degraded. Finding solutions to the problems of hunger and poverty in the developing world is the major challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Agricultural research offers solutions.

Scientific breakthroughs like the CGIAR's development of Quality Protein Maize and New Rices for Africa are providing poor farmers with opportunities for change. Improved agricultural and natural resource management techniques and the development of sound food and agriculture policies offer further opportunities to achieve human security and prosperity.

Recent experience also demonstrates the benefits of investing in agricultural research to assist recovery after manmade and natural disasters. As agriculture is the principal driver of so many developing country economies, recovery in the agricultural sector is critical to regional or national recovery.

This second Robert S. McNamara Seminar, will showcase the impact of world class agricultural research in achieving growth and reconstruction, and highlight the value of international cooperation for the benefit of all. Mr. McNamara, founding father of the CGIAR and former President of the World Bank, for whom this seminar is named, will make a presentation. Former Prime Minister Mr. Hashimoto will make a major key note address on Agriculture and Human Security.

Speakers will highlight the work of the CGIAR Centers with their partners, and the Japanese contribution to relieving poverty and achieving growth and human security.