

## Opening remark for the Eighth Session for the East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum

- Mr. Yoon Moo-Kyoung, Director, Korea Seed & Variety Service (KSVS), Rep. of Korea
- Mr. Tadaastu Iwase, Deputy Director-General, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to start by thanking the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting this 8th EAPVP Forum Meeting and the Government of Japan for its financial support.

It is always with a great spirit that I come to the Republic of Korea because on my previous visits I have always found a truly warm welcome and experienced excellent organization with a stimulating environment for work.

On my travels around the World, it is common to hear reference to the economic miracle in the Republic of Korea – particularly from developing countries that would like to repeat that success. I can also say that, in UPOV, we have seen the PVP miracle in the Republic of Korea – and developing countries also wish to emulate that experience.

It is only a little over 10 years since the Republic of Korea introduced plant variety protection and became a UPOV member – becoming our 50<sup>th</sup> member in 2002. However, in that short time, the PVP system has grown to become the 7<sup>th</sup> largest PVP system in UPOV in terms of applications (the 6<sup>th</sup> largest national system). At the same time breeders from the Republic of Korea have started to make applications in other Asian countries, and also around the World, including in South America, North America, Europe and Africa.

The development of the PVP system in the Republic of Korea has followed a well-structured plan. I remember well, in the years

before becoming a UPOV member, that experts from the Republic of Korea attended UPOV meetings in an observer capacity and participated and organized various training activities in order to learn about the system and its effective implementation, in parallel with making the necessary legislative provisions to become a UPOV member. After becoming a UPOV member, the Republic of Korea fully embraced the spirit of UPOV and has sought to share its experiences in important ways. For example, in drafting Test Guidelines, hosting Technical Working Party meetings, providing training courses and, perhaps just as importantly, sharing its story in the UPOV Impact Study. By 2010, the Republic of Korea was in the position of providing the President of the UPOV Council, Dr. Keun-Jin CHOI – a man who is very well known in this Forum.

Indeed this is an impressive story and I hope that all EAPVP Forum participants will have the chance to learn more about that story over the coming days – and to understand the necessary ingredients that make a recipe for success.

At the beginning of my remarks, I mentioned that we can be sure of a warm welcome from our hosts with excellent organization and a stimulating environment for work. In UPOV, we have seen that the enthusiasm in this country has challenged us to improve the way we work in significant ways, so please be ready to also respond to the stimulating environment that I am sure we will find for the 8<sup>th</sup> EAPVP Forum meeting.

I am sure that we shall be rewarded in this meeting if we approach our challenges with a positive spirit and are ready to learn from the successful experiences of others. I look forward to working with you in this positive spirit and to a productive outcome from this meeting.

Thank you.