

# 8<sup>th</sup> East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum Meeting

## Welcoming Remarks by Mr. Tadaatsu Iwase,

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Ladies and Gentleman, Good morning and 안녕하세요.

I am Tadaatsu Iwase, Deputy Director General of Food Industry Affairs Bureau in the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. It is my great honor to make a remark, for the opening of the 8th Annual Meeting of the East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Yoon, Moo-Kyoung Director of Korea Seed & Variety Service and his staff, for hosting this meeting and Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General of UPOV, and to all the participants to the EAPVP Forum session of this week. I am myself very excited to attend this meeting for the second time, following the 7th Meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR. I wish to express my sincere gratitude also to the UPOV Secretariat as well as the EAPVP Forum Office for providing assistance to organizing this Meeting.

In the face of environmental changes and diversification of seed market needs, it is of a greater emergence to promote development of elite varieties with higher yield potential, disease resistance and marketability, as well as expansion of plant variety protection system as a basis to facilitate plant breeding.

As you know, this Forum was endorsed at the AMAF+3 meeting in 2007, to promote regional cooperation to develop PVP systems in line with the UPOV system.

During the 7 years, Korea and Singapore have celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of becoming UPOV member, and Vietnam will follow in 2016. Furthermore, in Korea, I understand that public-private seed industry coordination is vigorously being promoted, and I am looking forward to the field trip to visit a research center of a seed company, on Friday.

In many other Forum member countries, capacities of examination have enhanced and the numbers of PVP applications are increasing. This shows that there is increased public awareness on the importance of protecting the breeder's right. However to my regret, we have not seen new UPOV membership from the Forum members lately. I recognize the need for Forum members to strengthen mutual cooperation in order to facilitate new UPOV member countries from ASEAN.

With above-mentioned changes in Japan, such as increasing globalization of food industry and introduction of the new Geographical Indication Act, our Ministry revised and developed the new "Intellectual Property Strategy 2020 of MAFF" in May. I will introduce the contents as part of our country report later.

Before closing, I am looking forward to fruitful discussion and outcome in this meeting.

Thank you very much and 감사합니다.