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EAPVPPF

EAST ASIA PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION FORUM

The Seventh East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum Meeting

7th AUGUST, 2014, VIENTIANE, Lao People's Democratic Republic

[FINAL] REPORT

prepared by EAPVPPF Office

INTRODUCTION

1. The Seventh Meeting of the East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum (EAPVP Forum) was held on 7 August 2014 in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Monthathip CHANPHENGXAY, Director General, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR, and co-chaired by Ms. Akiko NAGANO, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), JAPAN, as had been agreed by the preparatory meeting held on the previous day. It was attended by delegates from all Member countries, which are ASEAN + 3 countries namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam plus China, Japan and Korea. Representatives from UPOV, GNIS and AVRDC were also attended as observers. The list of delegates appears as ANNEX 1.

AGENDA 1: OVERVIEW THE BACKGROUND OF THE MEETING

3. The EAPVP Forum Office presented on the overall achievements of 5 years of the Forum. The forum noted the overview of the current status of PVP in Member countries, particularly in the non-UPOV member countries. In general, they have taken positive action to develop and strengthen their PVP system. The details of the report appears as ANNEX 2.

AGENDA 2: OPENING SESSION

4. Dr. Phouangparisak PRAVONGVIENGKHAM, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR welcomed all delegates to the Meeting as the host. In his speech, Dr. Phouangparisak PRAVONGVIENGKHAM stated that the EAPVP Forum is the opportunity platform for ASEAN countries and ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and Korea) as well as the international organization to exchange experiences and lesson-learnt, most importantly to provide the information, highlights of the development of plant variety protection in their respective countries. He concluded by wishing the delegates a successful as well as fruitful meeting. The full text of the Welcoming Remarks appears as **ANNEX 3**.

5. Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General of UPOV extended his appreciation to Dr. Phouangparisak PRAVONGVIENGKHAM, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr. Monthathip CHANPHENGXAY, Director General, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Dr. Khanlasy Keobounphanh, Director General, Department of Intellectual Property Rights, Lao PDR hosting the Meeting and Mr. Tadaatsu IWASE, Deputy Director-General Food Industry Affairs Bureau, MAFF, JAPAN for the significant support. The text of his Remarks appears as **ANNEX 4**.

6. Mr. Tadaatsu IWASE, Deputy Director-General, Food Industry Affairs Bureau of MAFF Japan delivered his remarks. He extended his appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR for hosting the Meeting and to JICA for the significant support, as well as to UPOV and EAPVP Forum Office. He stated that crop breeding has been and will be the most effective and efficient solution in overcoming challenges on global food policy topics. And the role of internationally harmonized PVP system is becoming more important, and therefore East Asian countries need to mutually cooperate to strengthen the PVP system in the region. The full text of the Remarks appears as **ANNEX 5**.

AGENDA 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Forum adopted the draft agenda, as presented as **ANNEX 6**.

AGENDA 4: REPORT ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE FORUM in 2013-2014

8. The report was presented by Mr. Toyoharu FUKUDA of the EAPVP Forum Office. The details of the report appears as ANNEX 7.

AGENDA 4: PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY REPORTS

Brunei Darussalam

9. Mr. Bakhitar Hafeez Bandial from Brunei Intellectual Property Office noted that the country is developing the PVP law and preparing for accession to UPOV. He explained that they were working on incorporating border measures in their draft law with advice from a Japanese expert who used to work in the Japanese Customs Office. He also indicated that Brunei does not have facilities for examination. Thus, cooperation from other countries is needed. The essence of his oral report report appears as ANNEX 8.

Cambodia

10. Mr. Sao Chesda, Deputy Director of Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries noted that the English version of the Law on Seed Management and Plant Breeder's Right was prepared to be used as an official working paper for further consultation with UPOV. He mentioned that there are the constraints such as development of national TG, lack of human resources engaged in making subsidiary regulations under the law, lack of understanding PVP among public-private sectors to implement PVP. He provided information on Cambodia's future plans for the implementation of PVP, etc. The details of the reports appear as ANNEX 9.

China

11. Mrs. Tao Tao, Examiner from State Forestry Administration presented the report on the Development of Plant Variety Protection System in China. She mentioned that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress is revising the Seed Law and discussing to put the Regulations on Protection of New Varieties of Plants into the Seed Law. She also reported the updated lists of protected agricultural plants and forestry plants, the development in technical capacity of PVP, main cooperative activities under the framework of EAPVP Forum in 2013, priorities and action plans for 2014 and the new proposals and suggestions to the Forum. The details of the reports appear as ANNEX 10.

Indonesia

12. Mr. Warsidi Ahmad, Assistant Director for PVP Service, Center for Plant Variety Protection and Agriculture Permits, Ministry of Agriculture has presented the updates of the development of PVP system in Indonesia. The Forum was informed on the legal basic of the implementation of PVP system in Indonesia, updates of PVP related activities and focus and action plan for 2014-2015. The action plans include: establishing the internal PVP examiners; carrying out the advance DUS testing training for internal PVP examiners; high level study visit on PVP. The details of the reports appear as **ANNEX 11.**

Japan

13. Mr. Akira Miyake, Senior Policy Advisor on Intellectual Property, Food Industry Bureau, MAFF presented the cooperate activities including basic training jointly operated with JICA in fiscal year 2013 and data of PVP system such as applications and granted PBRs in Japan. The details of the reports appear as **ANNEX 12.**

Korea

14. Ms. CHUNG Eunsun, Senior Researcher/Examiner of Plant Variety Protection Division, Korea Seed & Variety Service presented the paper on cooperate activities in Korea for the fiscal year 2013. She noted that new PVP Act was enforced as of June 2, 2013, separated from Seed Industry Act. The target and action plan in FY 2014 include training courses and 14th BMT meeting and Seed Technology Workshop. The details of the reports appear as **ANNEX 13.**

Lao PDR

15. Mr. Bounchanh Kombounyasith, Director of Agronomy Management Division, Department of Agriculture has presented the paper on the current status of Plant Variety Protection in Lao PDR. He elaborated on the agriculture situation in Lao PDR, national PVP legislative field, development of PVP, cooperation Activities under EAPVP Forum in 2013 and future plans. He noted that Agricultural Law promulgated on 10th October 1998 is now under improving/review process. The details of the reports appear as **ANNEX 14.**

Malaysia

16. Ms. Siti Saudah Binti Hashim, Deputy Director, Crop Quality Control Division, Department of Agriculture presented a report which elaborates on Malaysian legislation in PVP, current status of applications and granted PBRs, cooperate activities in July

2013 - July 2014, target and action plan in FY 2014. Total of 14 PVP titles including Rice, Chrysanthemum, Roselle, Durian, Capsicum were granted in May 2014 and 49 titles will be granted in 2014-2015. The details of the reports appear as **ANNEX 15.**

Myanmar

17. Ms. Khin Mar Mar Nwe, Deputy Director, Oilseed Crops Section, Department of Agricultural Research noted Myanmar Seed Law has been under review and revision and was recently submitted to the Attorney General's office for approval and enactment, also sent to UPOV. She presented a report which elaborates on procedure for new plant varieties, seed industry development, activities on awareness of PVP system, future plan and so on. The details of the reports appear as **ANNEX 16.**

Philippines

18. Dr. Vivencio R. Mamaril, Designate-Head, Plant Variety Protection Office Secretariat presented the report on the topics in July 2013 – July 2014 and target and action plan in FY 2014. He noted that Philippines is aiming at increasing the number of reference variety collections and developing information system for determining similarities and differences among traits of crop-varieties. The details of the reports appear as **ANNEX 17.**

Singapore

19. Mr. Tay Jwee Boon, Senior Scientist from AVA Singapore presented the country report for Singapore. He covered the updates on national legislation, technical cooperation activities in 2013, focus for the year and action plan. He noted that amendment to the Plant Variety Protection Act and Rules has took effect on 30 July 2014. The amendment includes extending the application of the PVP Act to all genera and species, and IPOS is engaged in the service of examination authorities from other countries. The details of the reports appear as **ANNEX 18.**

Thailand

20. Mrs. Chutima Ratanasatien, Senior Plant Variety Protection Specialist from Plant Variety Protection Office, Department of Agriculture presented a report on development of PVP system, list of plants eligible for protection, cooperation activities in 2013, in-country activities in 2013 and target and action plan in 2014. The action plan in 2014 includes: follow up the law revision; distribution the first draft TG of longan, mango and jackfruit; organizing awareness meeting. The details of the reports appear

as ANNEX 19.

Vietnam

21. Mr Nguyen Thanh Minh, Senior Officer, Plant Variety Protection Office, Department of Crop Production presented the report on the Development of PVP System in Vietnam. He elaborated the activities to improve system, achievement, cooperation activities of Vietnamese Plant Variety Protection since last Meeting until now and action plan for the near future. The action plan focuses on continuing strengthening PVP system. The details of the reports appear as ANNEX 20.

AGENDA 5: REPORT OF PREPARATORY MEETING

22. The Report was presented by the Chairman of the Preparatory session, Mr. Kham SANATEM, Deputy Director General, Department of Agriculture, Lao PDR. The details of the report appears as ANNEX 21.

AGENDA 6: PROPOSAL OF THE PRIORITIES, CRITERIA and COOPERATION ACTIVITY PLANS

23. Based on the agreement by the Preparatory Meeting, the EAPVP Forum Office in Japan made proposals on priorities, criteria to adopt the cooperation activities of the EAPVP Forum, and the cooperation activity plans for year 2014-2015. Five (5) areas of priorities, which are of equal importance were proposed : Priority 1: In- country training (training organized by host country); Priority 2: Harmonization of test guidelines and other tools for PVP examination in the region; Priority 3: Information sharing including through the Forum Website; Priority 4: Awareness raising for key persons in decision making (Seminars, Workshops) ; Priority 5: Support for PVP law development and other activity to assist accession to UPOV, with a footnote stating that activities related to priority 5 is expected to be implemented by the Office of UPOV, which means that an official request to UPOV would be required. The activity plans were developed based on proposals from Forum Member countries on, priorities and criteria. The details of the proposal are reproduced in ANNEX22, ANNEX22-2, ANNEX 23 and ANNEX23-2.

AGENDA 7: DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF PRIORITIES, CRITERIA AND COOPERATION ACTIVITY PLANS

24. The EAPVP Forum agreed on the Principles of the Forum that it was a regional

cooperation framework for Members to develop and implement PVP systems based on the UPOV system, and welcomed the proposals made by the EAPVP Forum Office.

25. EAPVP Forum adopted the priorities, criteria and cooperation activity plans for 2014-2015.

26. With regard to priority 5 Mr. Peter Button emphasized that, in order for UPOV to provide assistance to countries, an official request from the country was necessary. In reference to the test guideline harmonization activities, he commented that it was important to familiarize EAPVP Forum experts with the UPOV system of developing Test Guidelines and encouraged experts, including those from non-UPOV countries, to participate in Technical Working Party sessions of UPOV.

AGENDA 8: DECISION OF A HOST COUNTRY FOR THE NEXT FORUM MEETING

27. Korea offered to host the 8th EAPVP Forum Meeting and the meeting agreed to the offer.

OTHER MATTERS

28. No matters recorded.

AGENDA 9: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

29. The Meeting adopted the Report of the 7th Meeting of the EAPVPF, held on the 7th of August 2014 in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic. The details of reports appears as Annex 24.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

30. All the delegations expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government of Lao PDR for the hospitality accorded to them and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. The Meeting also thanked the MAFF, Japan and UPOV for the support rendered.

[This report was adopted by correspondence]

[Annexes follow]

7 August 2014, Vientiane, Lao PDR