

**THE FIRST TWG MEETING ON TEST GUIDELINES HARMONISATION  
OF  
ACACIA SPP  
(UNDER THE PLATFORM OF EAST ASIA PLANT VARIETY  
PROTECTION FORUM)**

FRIM KEPONG  
8 to 11 SEPTEMBER 2015

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Speech by  
Director General of FRIM

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**Thank you Master of Ceremony,**

**Bissimillah hirrahman ni rahim,**

Mrs. Kimiko Ishikawa

– Representative from East Asia Plant Variety Protection (EAPVP) Forum  
Office, Japan

Dr. Mohd Zaki Abdullah

– Chairman of organizing committee

Mr. Sulaiman Hashim

– Co-chairman of organizing committee

Distinguished guests, ladies & gentlemen

**Assalamualaikum waramatullah hi wabarakutuh and very good  
morning**

It gives me a great pleasure to extend to you all a very warm welcome to  
FRIM Kepong. On behalf of the organizing committee for The First TWG  
Meeting on Test Guidelines Harmonisation of Acacia spp., I wish to take

this opportunity to welcome all the participants from Cambodia, China, Vietnam, as well as the local participants to this meeting. I would also like to welcome our experts from Japan to this important EAPVP meeting.

Malaysia is honoured to be given the opportunity to host this kind of technical meeting again and this is the first time the meeting being organised in FRIM, with a special focus on forest plantation species. A special thanks goes to MAFF Japan and EAPVP Secretariat for assisting us in organizing this meeting. I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mrs. Kimiko Ishikawa from EAPVP Forum office in Japan, for making herself all the way to Malaysia to organize and harmonize the Technical Guidelines for Acacia spp.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

EAPVP forum provides a platform for East Asia countries to sit together as a committee to discuss the direction and strengthen the plant variety protection system in the region. This meeting is principally to develop harmonized Acacia spp. Test guidelines that can be used for Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability examination among member countries in the East Asia region. I believe this meeting will enable to strengthen closer cooperation and knowledge exchange among the experts while the technical aspect is harmonized and achieved mutual understanding.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I was made to understand that, in this meeting, invited technical expert, Mr. Yuichiro Ishii from the Japanese National Center for Seeds and Seedlings, will be guiding the committee on fundamental principles of distinctness, uniformity and stability (DUS) examination and not to least, Japanese tree breeder, Mr. Osamu Chigira, to share with us his experience in tree breeding and registering Plant Breeder's Right for tree crops. I hope their valuable guidance and experience will be useful for the committee to continue its work after this meeting.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Not many forest tree crops have been registered for plant breeder's right in Malaysia. Till to date, we have 19 Acacia hybrids protected in Malaysia, which are developed by a joint venture Japanese breeding company and

the local agency. I was also informed that a total of 25 characteristics on Acacia are proposed by Malaysia and will be tabled for discussion and later adoption during this meeting. Malaysia are also expecting to look into other new characteristics brought up by our interested countries during the meeting. Therefore, I hope that we will make our best effort striving towards an excellent progress in harmonizing the Test Guidelines of Acacia at the end of this meeting.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Once again, I would like to thank MAFF, EAPVP Secretariat, FRIM and DOA Technical team, delegations from Cambodia, China, Vietnam and Japan for your commitments and participations in this meeting and for your generosity in sharing your knowledge and experiences with us. We truly appreciate your dedication to be part of the community.

Before I end my speech, I would again like to thanks the organizing committee for inviting me today. I would also like to congratulate them for their hard work which I believe this meeting will be a successful and beneficial one. To our friends from abroad, thanks again for making your way here and we hope you will enjoy Malaysian hospitality and diversity. Finally, with **lafaz Bissimillah hi rahman ni rahim** now I officially declare the opening of The First TWG Meeting on Test Guidelines Harmonisation of Acacia spp. under the Platform of East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum.

Thank you.

Wabillah hi taufik wal hidayah, assalammualaikum waramatulah hi wabarakatuh.

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