

December 9, 2015

## Opening Address for Lao Cambodia

Katsumi Yamaguchi

Dr. Hean Vanhan, Deputy Director General, General Directorate of Agriculture,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General of UPOV

Distinguished participants

Good morning

I am Katsumi Yamaguchi, Director of Plant Variety Protection Office, Food Industry  
Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

It is my great honor to make a remark, at the opening of this Awareness Seminar  
under the East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Hean Vanhan and his  
staff, for hosting this Seminar and Mr. Peter Button and to all the participants to  
this Seminar.

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 Seminar.

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 8 years, Korea and Singapore have celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
becoming UPOV member, and Vietnam will follow next year.

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. I also recognize this seminar  
is one of activities mentioned above.

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

Thank you very much