

December 7, 2015

Opening Address for Lao PDR

Katsumi Yamaguchi

Dr. Bounkhouang Khambounheuang, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General of UPOV

Dr. Chantha Thipphavongphanh, Deputy Director General, Department of Agriculture, MAF

Distinguished participants from MAF, Ministry of Science and Technology, JICA and other department concern

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. Bounkhouang Khambounheuang 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 10th 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