

**Opening Speech by Mr. Naing Kyi Win,
Director General, Department of Agricultural Research (DAR),
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation on
"Awareness Raising on the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection"
Seminar
Dec 5, 2016, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**

Good Morning,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to give the welcoming remark on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation on **"Awareness Raising on the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection" Seminar.**

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere thanks and warmly welcome to –

- Ms.Yolanda Huerta and Mr. Jun Koide from International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV),
- Ms. Kitisri Sukhapinda from the United States of America Patent and Trademarks Office (USPTO),
- Mr. Katsumi Yamaguchi, Ms.Kasumi Yamaguchi and Ms. Ayako Sato, from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery of Japan
- Ms. Marian Anna van Leeuwen from Nektuinbave New Plant Variety Testing Department of the Netherland,
- Mr. Nguyen Thanh Minh from Vietnam,
- Senior Officials from different related Departments of Myanmar,
- Representatives of NGO, INGO and Plant Breeding and Seed Production Companies of Myanmar.

Very good morning!

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you all know that Agriculture is the main source of livelihood of the Myanmar people. Since most of the developing countries including Myanmar are primarily agriculture-based countries, development in agricultural sector are of paramount important in the request for economic development and food security. In order to increase food production and self-sufficiency, Myanmar needs to establish a viable self-sustainable seed industry in which the private sector involvement plays a major role.

Government is supporting in private public partnership approach for the development of seed industry. It is also important to encourage creativity and investment in private and public plant breeding through an effective Plant Variety Protection (PVP) system. The private sector will be interested if there is reliable legal framework for their business development. In case of plant breeding, plant breeder give great effort such as time, money and to produce new plant variety. PVP system will be able to reimburse the rights of award back to the plant breeders.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Myanmar became a member country of CBD in 1994 and WTO in 1995. Under the provision of the WTO-TRIPs agreement, WTO member countries must provide protection to plant varieties either by patents or by an efficient *sui generis* system or by combination thereof. In accordance with obligations under TRIP, Myanmar needs to establish a system for PVP not only above reason but also for increasing the utilization of the improved new plant varieties by our farmers. Until today, Myanmar is not yet a member of UPOV where Myanmar is a member of EAPVP since 2007.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now, we are starting to establish a system and unit of New Plant Variety Protection under the Department of Agricultural Research of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. We strongly believed that not only the plant breeders but also all of the stakeholders who are involving under national seed industry will get economic benefits, health benefits, environmental benefits through the adoption of PVP and utilization of the new plant varieties.

By the end of this seminar, based on the valuable presentation of experienced experts and discussions, we are expecting to well identify highlights of the seminar achievements and assess seminar outputs as well as clear understanding of the implementation of new plant variety protection system in Myanmar harmonization with other EAPVP countries.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I am going to close my opening remarks, I would like to urge all of you to participate actively in discussion and deliberation on every topic of presentation which are related to the implementation new plant variety protection system in Myanmar. I deeply wish to be able to bring forth this seminar outcome smoothly and successfully. Finally, I strongly believed that fruitful results will come true to our hands in the near future.

Thank you.