

Opening remarks for the Seminar on Awareness Raising on the
UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection
By Ms. Yolanda Huerta
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- Mr. Naing Kyi Win, Director-General, Department of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar
- Mr. Katsumi Yamaguchi, Director, PVP Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan
- Ms. Kistisri Sukhapinda, Attorney Advisor, United States Patent and Trade Mark Office

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to start by thanking the Government of Myanmar for organizing this Seminar on Awareness Raising on the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection, the Government of Japan for its support in the organization and the Government of the United States of America for its assistance.

The UPOV Convention provides the basis for UPOV members to encourage plant breeding by granting breeders of new plant varieties an intellectual property right: the breeder's right.

As of today, UPOV has 74 members covering the territories of 93 States.

Plant Breeding has significantly contributed and will continue to be a major contributor to increased food security within the context of climate change.

The UPOV system plays a crucial role in encouraging plant breeders to meet those aims.

The introduction of the UPOV system of plant variety protection and UPOV membership were found to be associated with: greater availability of improved varieties; encouraging the development of a

new industry competitiveness on foreign markets; improved access to foreign plant varieties which enhance domestic breeding programs, and the development of public and private partnerships.

Today's Seminar will provide a great opportunity to share experiences between policy-makers, officials, breeders, producers from Myanmar and experts from UPOV members - Japan, Viet Nam, United States and Netherlands - on the role of the UPOV system in encouraging the development and protection of improved varieties by all types of breeders and in providing benefits for farmers, growers and consumers.

Since 2012, the UPOV Office has provided assistance to the Government of Myanmar in the development of legislation in accordance with the UPOV Convention and the procedure to become a UPOV member.

The above cooperation was intensified in 2016 and meetings had taken place with relevant officials in Geneva and Hanoi to discuss the missing provisions of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention in the Plant Variety Protection Law of January, 20, 2016 (Law No.15, 2016).

Also, from July 25 to 28, in Japan, H.E. Mr. Tun Winn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and Mr. Naing Kyi Win, Director-General, Department of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, participated with Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General of UPOV in the High Level Study Tour, and received information on how the UPOV PVP system benefited farmers and society.

It is a great honor for my colleague Jun Koide and me to be here today to strengthen the cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and UPOV and we look forward to working together to achieve productive and successful outcomes.

Thank you.