

**植物品種保護に係る UPOV システムに関する意識啓発セミナー**  
**2016年12月5日、Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**  
**山口種苗審査室長御挨拶**

Mr. Naing Kyi Win, Director General, Department of Agriculture and Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar, Ms. Yolanda Huerta, Legal Counsel, UPOV, Ms. Maria Anna van Leeuwen, Naktuinbouw, Ms. Kitisri Sukhapinda, Patent Attorney, United States Patent and Trademark Office, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

I am Katsumi Yamaguchi, Director of Plant Variety Protection Office, Intellectual Property Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. It is my great honor to make a remark for the opening of Seminar on Awareness Raising on the UPOV system of Plant Variety Protection.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar and East Asia Plant Variety Protection (EAPVP) Forum Office for organizing this Seminar. I also wish to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Tun Winn, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar and all the distinguished participants to this Seminar.

As you know, this Seminar was determined to be held as a part of cooperation activities of EAPVP Forum in the ninth Forum held in Vietnam this September. The Forum was endorsed at the AMAF+3 meeting in 2007, to promote regional cooperation to develop PVP systems in line with the UPOV system and was started in 2008. During the 8 years, Korea and Singapore have celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of becoming UPOV member, and Vietnam will follow this month. In many other Forum member countries, capacities of examination have enhanced and the numbers of PVP applications are increasing. I consider that awareness for the protection of breeders' right has been raised in East Asian region.

Given this situation, as a part of activities to promote early accession of East Asian countries to the UPOV, high-level study tour on plant variety protection was implemented by the UPOV secretariat this July in Japan in cooperation with our ministry. We had 11 high-level participants in charge of PVP system to the tour from six ASEAN countries, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. The theme of tour was "PVP system and branding of agricultural products."

In the tour, in addition to lectures on UPOV system, policies related to breeding of new plant varieties by our ministry, and DUS testing of National Center

for Seeds and Seedlings, etc, field trips were set to see actual sites concerning a series of food value chains. Such sites included Sakata Seed Cooperation that tackles with breeding of new varieties with excellent traits, Japan Agricultural Cooperatives in Yamagata Prefecture that have improved a brand value of rice variety called Tsuyahime, Ohta market where active auctions of agricultural products are conducted, and Aeon's supermarket where higher price is offered on brand agricultural products evaluated highly by consumers.

I think 11 high-level officials from 6 ASEAN countries realized that continuous efforts of stakeholders such as improvement of cultivation techniques are needed for branding and that PVP system cannot function without support of appropriate examination system through the tour in Japan in addition to importance of PVP system that can contribute to branding by promoting development of new plant varieties. Branding cannot be attained only by PVP system. But it seems to me that high-level officials had an impression that PVP system is a decisive factor to achieve branding of agricultural products and the system can be useful for farmers themselves. Some participants mentioned their intentions concerning further enhancement of PVP system while envisioning future accession to the UPOV. Basically, given high evaluation from the participants, the tour was successful.

A courtesy call of the participants on then Japan's Minister of agriculture, Mr. Moriyama, was set in the tour. The Minister pointed out that given globalization of Asian economies, it has become important that new plant varieties are protected by the same PVP system in every Asian country. He also mentioned that introduction of internationally harmonized PVP system is useful for development of agriculture in each country and early accession to the UPOV as well as further improvement of each PVP system is also significant to the end.

EAPVP Forum has been managed to attain such goals. Japan intends to conduct continuous assistance necessary for those aims through cooperation activities of the Forum in collaboration with the UPOV Secretariat and technical assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

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

Thank you very much.