

**"East Asia Plant Variety Protection (EAPVP) Forum"**

**September 11, 2017, DAR, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**

**By Dr. Tin Htut, Permanent Secretary**

**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 the **"East Asia Plant Variety Protection (EAPVP) Forum on Meeting of Technical Steering Committee"**.

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

- High Officials and delegates from UPOV, MAFF, GNIS, KPHIS, CPVO,
- And all delegates from each UPOV member ASEAN countries and other invited countries,
- Representatives from national and international NGO, INGO and Plant Breeding and Seed Production Companies of Myanmar,
- Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Agriculture is the main source of food and livelihood of the Myanmar people. Development in agricultural sector is 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. It is 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.

Plant Variety Protection is a measure for promoting breeding by providing breeders of new plant varieties with a legal framework for

protecting their intellectual properties. It benefits both breeders and farmers of each country by contributing to the improvement of agricultural productivity and the quality of agricultural products.

With such circumstances as the population growth, market diversification and environmental fluctuation, an incentive for the development of new varieties of plants with unique characteristics in productivity, marketability and resistance to specific conditions has become more and more necessary in order to provide sustainable progress in agriculture of each country.

### **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In East Asian Region there is close geographical, historical and socio-economic inter-relationship among countries. Intra-regional economic partnership has rapidly been strengthened, which is regarded as the source of the recent remarkable economic development of the region. In order for the region to expand the IPR-oriented international trade and to further strengthen mutual exchange in agriculture and food-related industry, it is getting more and more crucial for any country to establish and improve its PVP system and to promote the international harmonization thereof.

The existence of an effective and internationally-harmonized PVP system not only promotes breeding of new plant varieties in each country, but also provides an incentive to foreign breeders to invest within foreign territories and the release of elite varieties bred by such foreign breeders, and thereby benefits producers and consumers of each country.

Under the mutual recognition of the importance of strengthening each PVP system while harmonizing them, and that of the UPOV Convention and role of UPOV for the harmonization of PVP systems in accordance with the

UPOV Convention in each country, ASEAN plus 3 countries set up the East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum in 2007.

The objectives of the East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum are:

- To establish a sustainable forum in view of the importance of discussion to explore possible cooperative activities for the development of PVP in the East Asian region
- To promote mutual cooperation, particularly in capacity building, depending on the degree and needs of each country, by sharing experience and knowledge in the region
- To understand the situation of each country surrounding PVP and specific circumstances behind it
- To promote above mentioned items by setting up the secretariat of the Forum rotationally by year on each country's willing

Moreover, one of the important Forum activities is information exchanges.

It should be emphasized that any activities which are promoted by the Forum will be carried out based on the autonomy of participating countries, and with the voluntary participation of members in specific cooperative activities, and will promote mutual contributions by participating country in each field where they possess an advantage.

Forum meeting had been rotationally held annually hosted by the willing countries.

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan, July 2008

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting was held in Beijing, China, April 2009

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, April 2010

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting “The Guideline for Operation of East Asia Plant Variety Protection” was approved.

4<sup>th</sup> Meeting was held in Makassar, Indonesia, May 2011

5<sup>th</sup> Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand, May 2012

6<sup>th</sup> Meeting was held in Kuching, Malaysia, July 2013

7<sup>th</sup> Meeting was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, August 2014

8<sup>th</sup> Meeting was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, July 2015

9<sup>th</sup> Meeting was held in Hanoi, Vietnam September 2016

10<sup>th</sup> Meeting is Now Here in Myanmar.

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In Myanmar, we are establishing 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 believe that not only the plant breeders but also all of the stakeholders who are involved under national seed industry will get economic, health, and social benefits through the adoption of PVP and utilization of the new plant varieties.

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 of 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 believe that fruitful results will come true to our hands in the near future.

**Thank you.**