

10th East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum Meeting
11 September 2017, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Opening Remarks by Atsushi Suginaka, Director,
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H.E Dr. Tin Htut, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar, Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General of UPOV, distinguish delegate, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

It is my great honor to make a remark for the opening of this memorable 10th Annual Meeting of the East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar, for hosting this meeting. I also wish to express my appreciation to the UPOV Secretariat for assisting us to organize this meeting and to all the distinguished participants to the EAPVP Forum.

For achieving our common goal, which is further development of the agriculture, forestry and food industry of East Asian countries, 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 and was started in 2008, and this year, the Forum celebrates its 10th anniversary.

During the last decade in EAPVP Forum, we have intensively focused on information exchange and successfully enhanced public awareness on importance of protection of breeder's right in East Asian region.

However, in this decade, ASEAN and its economy have larger expanded. As a result, ASEAN consumers demand large number of varieties of high quality Agricultural product. In order to respond to these demands, international harmonization of PVP system is necessary.

Ladies and gentleman, as a result of 10 years effort of EAPVPF, I heard, Brunei is going to be a UPOV member soon. We have to accelerate this movement, and cannot wait another 10 years to take a look at another new UPOV member following Brunei.

According to the change as I mentioned, I believe it could be high time to reconsider our objectives and activities for achieving our common goal by development of the Next 10 years strategic plan. I hope we can discuss on this important matter later based on our mutual trusted atmosphere in this forum.

In any case, Japan intends to conduct continuous assistance necessary for activities of members of EAPVP Forum, which are aimed at early accession to the UPOV 91 convention or further enhancement of PVP system through cooperation activities of this forum through technical assistance scheme including by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Before closing, I am looking forward to have a fruitful discussion and outcome in this meeting.

Thank you very much.