

Welcome Remarks for the National Awareness  
Raising Seminar for Myanmar  
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Min ga la ba.

H.E. Dr. Aung Thu, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar,  
Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General of UPOV, ladies and gentleman, good morning.

It is my great honor to make a remark for the opening of a National Awareness Seminar for Myanmar.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar, for hosting this seminar. I also wish to express my appreciation to the UPOV Secretariat as well as staff for providing assistance to organize this meeting, and to all the distinguished participants to this seminar.

Last year, UPOV and Government of Japan held “High level study tour of PVP” in Japan and many policy makers in ASEAN members including from Myanmar participated.

In the tour, many participants impressed by Japanese rice variety “Tsuyahime”, where breeder’s right holder utilize breeder’s right to allow Tsuyahime production only to the farmers who can make environmentally friendly and high quality rice production. As a result, consumer evaluates Tsuyahime very much, and Tsuyahime became one of the most famous rice brands of Japan in a short time.

This is a good example that internationally harmonized PVP system can contribute development of local agriculture.

After the tour, I have realized strong movement in Myanmar toward joining UPOV Convention. For example, “A seminar on awareness raising on the UPOV system of PVP” was held in December 2016, and many stakeholders actively participated. Japan welcome these movements and I would like to stress that Japan will support Asian country including Myanmar to be a UPOV member.

In this seminar, we can get many of lessons from many stakeholders including seed associations, seed companies, and national authorities with regard to the PVP system under the UPOV Convention. I think we can consider the way of optimizing merits of PVP system under internationally harmonized system in this discussion. I look forward to fruitful discussion and outcome in this seminar.

Kye:ju:tang pa tai. Thank you very much.