

**WELCOME REMARKS SPEECH BY**

**OIC- ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LORNA HERRADURA  
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE BENEFITS OF PLANT VARIETY  
PROTECTION UNDER THE UPOV SYSTEM**

**THURSDAY, 02 AUGUST 2018**

**VIVERE HOTEL AND RESORTS, ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA**

Distinguished Officials from the

- International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
  - **Mr. Peter Button** –Vice Secretary General
  - **Mr. Tomochika Motomura** – Technical/Regional Officer (Asia)
  
- Japan Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
  - **Mr. Yuichi Fujita** – Director, Intellectual Property Division
  - **Mr. Atsuhiko Meno** – Senior Advisor, Intellectual Property Division Food Industry Affairs Bureau
  - **Mr. Manabu Suzuki** – Deputy Director, Intellectual Property Division Food Industry Affairs Bureau
  - **Mr. Hiroyuki Kawano** - Intellectual Property Division Food Industry Affairs Bureau
  - **Mr. Akira Nagata** – General Manager, Innovation Division, Japan Association for Techno-Innovation in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (JATAFF) and his staff

Distinguished Delegates from our Co-Forum Member Countries:

- |                     |            |            |
|---------------------|------------|------------|
| • Brunei Darussalam | • Korea    | • Thailand |
| • Cambodia          | • Lao PDR  | • Vietnam  |
| • China             | • Malaysia | • Japan    |
| • Indonesia         | • Myanmar  |            |

Distinguished guests from

- Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)
- Naktuinbouw
- Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)
- And from the Philippine Plant Variety Protection Board
  - **Dr. Pompe Sta. Cruz** – Director, Institute of Plant Breeding, UPLB
  - **Dr. Ricardo Lantican** – Representative, National Academy of Science and Technology
  - **Dr. Mary Ann Sayoc** – President, Philippine Seed Industry Association
  - **Atty. Josephine Santiago** – Director General, Intellectual Property Office Philippines
  - **Dr. Reynaldo Ebor** – Executive Director, DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development
  - **Mr. George Culaste** – OIC-Director, Bureau of Plant Industry

Our key players from the Philippines, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to all of you.

1. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the International Seminar on the Benefits of Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV System. This event primarily aims to facilitate information sharing among the Member Countries of the East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum and other developed countries, on their experiences in the area of plant variety protection.
2. Today's program is also designed to facilitate interactive discussions in order to extract real needs and opportunities toward a new regime of PVP system. We have a very good cross-section of the institutions, and organizations, both public and private here today. All are interested with the lined topics of this event. Therefore, the Seminar invited knowledgeable speakers from renowned institutions in various countries, and I welcome you all here today.
3. We recognize that plant breeding substantially enhance agricultural productivity. The industry is equipping farmers to continue to provide food while reducing their impact on the environment and natural resources. Hence, plant breeding requires know-how and investment in terms of time and human and financial resources.

4. To further develop and promote the industry, it is vital to encourage creativity and investment in private and public breeding through an effective plant variety protection system. The PVP system is a legal designation designed to protect plant breeders, which provides breeders with a legal framework and administrative structure for controlling reproduction of their varieties and thereby recovering their investment.
5. We appreciate the contribution and the role of the The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) in this line of endeavor. Many countries are benefitting on the assistance continuously being provided by the Union. We are in deepest gratitude of their beneficial roles that play in assisting the development of a country's seed industry and agriculture as a whole. The overall impact of a UPOV system is indeed noteworthy.
6. These are some of the things which I think are very relevant to today's Seminar. We have to be reminded that what we are doing this for the realization of harmonized PVP system and ultimately to make the Region's competitively sustainable.
7. So with that short statement, I would like again to welcome you, all the participants, speakers. Moreso, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsoring agencies - Japan MAFF, JATAFF and UPOV for giving us, the Republic of the Philippines, the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Plant Industry the opportunity to host this Seminar.
8. I look forward to our fruitful discussions.

Thank you. Again, a pleasant day to all.