

International Seminar “Benefits of UPOV Membership in Your Country”

1. Background and Context

- Agriculture is an important industry in many East Asia countries, and a major source of employment and incomes for a large proportion of the population.
- New, improved varieties of plants are an essential factor in agricultural development. Breeding plant varieties with improved yield, more efficient use of nutrients, resistance to plant pests and diseases, salinity and drought tolerance and better adaptation to climatic stress can sustainably increase productivity and product quality, ultimately leading to higher incomes for farmers and the development of local industries.
- An effective plant variety protection system is essential for the creation of these new varieties. However, the benefits of PVP have yet to be recognized by many stakeholders in these countries. In order to achieve the goal of agricultural development, it is important for key policy makers to have a better understanding of PVP.

2. Objective of the International Seminar

- The primary aim of this International Seminar is to provide an opportunity for key policy makers to move forward to UPOV accession by sharing experiences on challenges and benefits to promote agricultural development and giving inspiration on the role of plant variety protection under the UPOV Convention.
- In this program, the invited prominent speakers and panelists, such as a policy maker, a farmer, a breeder, and international organization, will share their experiences in terms of the importance of the PVP system, which would encourage and inspire all those who are facing difficult challenges in their journey to establish a robust PVP system at the international level.

3. Tentative Program

Date: 5th August, 2025

Venue: Four Points by Sheraton Singapore, Riverview

*Electronic participation will also be possible in the seminar

Host: Intellectual Property Office of Singapore

Master of Ceremony (MC): Ms. Lee Qianyu, Senior Executive, Registry of Patents, Designs & Plant Varieties, IPOS

Time	Subject	Responsible Person/ Speaker
08:30-09:00	Registration	All participants
09:00- 09:05	Objective and overview of the meeting	Master of Ceremony (MC)
09:05- 09:10	Welcome Remark by IPOS	Mr. Bryan Yip, Group Director, Registries, IPOS
09:10- 09:15	Remark by MAFF Japan	Mr. Hiroyuki Tanaka, Director of Plant Variety Protection Office, Intellectual Property Division, Export and

		International Affairs Bureau, MAFF, Japan
09:15- 10:40	Presentations on benefits of Plant Variety Protection (PVP) System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Tran Ngoc Thach, Director, Cuu Long Delta Rice Research Institute • Ms. Yolanda Huerta, Vice Secretary-General, UPOV • Mr. Ho Quang Cua and Mr. Tran Quang Vu, Rice breeder in Vietnam • Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui, Managing Director, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)
10:40- 11:05	<i>Photo session and Coffee break</i>	
11:05- 12:20	Panel Discussion on benefits and challenges with PVP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui, Managing Director, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) • Dr. Ha Thuy Nguyen, APSA Standing Committee of Intellectual Property Right (SC-IPR), Standing Committee of International Trade and Quarantine (ITQ) and Co-Chair of APSA Working Group of Integrated Vegetable Seed Companies (WIC) • Mr. Sok Sotha, Lead founder and Chief Executive, the Cambodian Farmer Federation Association of Agricultural Producers (CFAP) • Mr. Saybandith Sayavongkhamdy, Deputy Director General, Department of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR • Mr. Muhammad Moazzam, Policy Officer, Naktuinbouw
12:20- 12:30	Closing the seminar	Ms. Sharmaine Wu, Director, Registry of Patents, Designs & Plant Varieties, IPOS