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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

COUNCIL

Forty-Fifth Ordinary Session
Geneva, October 20, 2011

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UPOV CONVENTION

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. This document provides a summary of the following aspects of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants” (Fiftieth Anniversary):

- I. PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPOV SESSIONS OF OCTOBER 2011
- II. FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPOV SESSIONS OF OCTOBER 2011
- III. FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY ITEMS
- IV. OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

I. PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPOV SESSIONS OF OCTOBER 2011

2. A draft program of the planned activities for the Fiftieth Anniversary is provided in Annex I to this document. The draft program for the “Symposium on Plant Breeding for the Future” (Symposium), is provided as Annex II to this document.

3. The proceedings of the Symposium will be combined with the program of activities for the Fiftieth Anniversary in a document that will be provided to participants in the Fiftieth Anniversary after the Symposium. In addition, a publication containing both the proceedings of the Symposium and the “UPOV Seminar on Plant Variety Protection and Technology Transfer: the Benefits of Public-Private Partnership”, held in Geneva, on April 11 and 12, 2011, will be produced for wider circulation and for publication on the UPOV website.

II. FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPOV SESSIONS OF OCTOBER 2011

4. The Office of the Union has received the following offers of support for the Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations:

Hosting of Events

France

5. France will host a cocktail reception for members and observers to the Council at Villa “Les Ormeaux”, its Permanent Mission in Geneva, on the evening of October 19, 2011.

Switzerland

6. Switzerland will host a dinner for members and observers to the Council on October 20, 2011, at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Geneva.

7. A program of visits has been planned for the afternoon of October 20, 2011 (see Annex I), courtesy of the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

Financial Support

8. Financial support for the Fiftieth Anniversary has been offered by the Czech Republic, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Mexico, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

9. The funding of the European Union Member States, European Commission and the Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union (CPVO) is to provide a specific event within the Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations and to provide support to the overall Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations. The specific event entitled “15 years of supranational cooperation in plant variety protection: the European experience” will take place on

October 21, 2011, being the day of the “Symposium on Plant Breeding for the Future” (Symposium), and the above funding will be used to host a lunch for the Symposium participants. The funding beyond the cost of the lunch will be used to contribute to the Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations.

Other Support

Japan

10. Japan has funded the production of a video of the “Ashiro Rindo story”, which explains how a group of farmers from the Ashiro region of Japan have used plant variety protection to develop a global market for their gentian varieties. A copy of that video will be included in the USB flash drive, which will be presented in the “Celebration Box” (see below).

International Seed Federation

11. The International Seed Federation (ISF) has contributed a souvenir gift in the form of a Swiss army knife. That gift will be included in the “Celebration Box” (see below).

Meilland International

12. Meilland International will provide flower arrangements for the dinner hosted by Switzerland on October 20, 2011.

III. FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY ITEMS

13. The following items will be prepared in connection with the Fiftieth Anniversary:

Celebration Box

14. A “Celebration Box” will be distributed to members and observers to the Council, on the occasion of its forty-fifth ordinary session, to be held in Geneva on October 20, 2011.

15. The Celebration Box will contain:

- (a) a Swiss army knife, bearing the UPOV logo;
- (b) a pen, bearing the UPOV logo; and
- (c) a USB flash drive, bearing the UPOV logo, containing a presentation on UPOV (see below), a video of the “Ashiro Rindo story” (see paragraph 8) and the “UPOV Collection” (see below).

Presentation on UPOV

16. A presentation, explaining the UPOV system, has been developed for publication on the UPOV website. That presentation, similar in style to a Powerpoint presentation, contains embedded interviews on selected topics that can be viewed on request. The presentation will be published on the UPOV website and, therefore, will not have a specific Fiftieth Anniversary theme. The USB flash drive, to be included in the Celebration Box, will contain a copy of that presentation.

UPOV Collection

17. At its eightieth session, held in Geneva on October 20, 2010, the Consultative Committee approved the proposals for the creation of a “UPOV Collection”. The purpose of the UPOV Collection is to provide a set of guidance and information materials concerning plant variety protection under the UPOV Convention. A set of 10 binders has been created to contain the documents in the UPOV Collection. Each member of the Union will be provided with two sets and each observer State and organization will be provided with one set, if so requested. After the initial supply of the set(s) of UPOV Collection folders with a printed set of documents, no further printed documents will be provided by the Office of the Union. All documents in the UPOV Collection will be available for download and printing from the UPOV Website. The USB flash drive, to be included in the Celebration Box, will contain a copy of the UPOV Collection.

IV. OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Republic of Korea

18. The Republic of Korea organized the “Symposium on Plant Variety Protection Future Strategy for Enhancing the Effectiveness of the PVP System” on July 13 and 14, 2011, in Seoul, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Republic of Korea’s membership of UPOV and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the UPOV Convention. Copies of the presentations made at the Symposium will be published on the UPOV website.

Mexico

19. Mexico organized the “International Seminar on Plant Breeders’ Rights”, on August 30, 2011, in Mexico City, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the *Servicio Nacional de Inspección y Certificación de Semillas* (SNICS) and of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the UPOV Convention. Copies of the presentations made at the Symposium will be published on the UPOV website.

Colombia

20. Colombia organized the “International Seminar on Intellectual Property in Plant Variety Protection”, on September 27, 2011, in Bogota, on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of

the UPOV Convention. Copies of the presentations made at the Symposium will be published on the UPOV website.

21. The Council is invited to note the plans for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the UPOV Convention, as set out in this document.

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX I

DRAFT PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
October 17 (Monday)	9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Administrative and Legal Committee
	5.30 p.m.	Cocktail reception at UPOV Headquarters
October 18 (Tuesday)	9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Administrative and Legal Committee Advisory Group
	5.30 p.m.	Working Group on Rules Concerning Observers
October 19 (Wednesday)	9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Consultative Committee
	7.30 p.m.	Cocktail reception hosted by France at <i>Villa “Les Ormeaux”</i> <i>36, route de Pregny, 1291 Chambesy, Geneva</i> (transportation provided by French Mission from UPOV headquarters at 7.00 p.m.)
October 20 (Thursday)	9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Council
	12.30 p.m. – 1.30 p.m.	Press Conference
	2.30 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.	Visits in Geneva
	7.30 p.m.	Dinner hosted by Switzerland at the <i>Mandarin Oriental Hotel</i> <i>1 Quai Turrettini, 1201 Geneva</i>
October 21 (Friday)	9.15 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.	Symposium on Plant Breeding for the Future
	12.30 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.	Lunch Seminar “15 years of supranational cooperation in plant variety protection: the European experience” hosted by the European Union at the <i>Intercontinental Hotel</i> <i>7-9 chemin du Petit-Saconnex, 1209 Geneva</i>
	3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Symposium on Plant Breeding for the Future (continued)

[Annex II follows]

SYMPOSIUM ON PLANT BREEDING FOR THE FUTURE

Geneva, October 21, 2011

DRAFT PROGRAM

prepared by the Office of the Union

- 08.30 Registration
- 09.15 Welcome address by Mr. Francis Gurry, Secretary-General, UPOV
- 09.25 Message from the host of the 1961 Diplomatic Conference
Minister (France)
- 09.30 Messages from the founding members of the Union
Minister (Germany)
- 09.35 *Minister (Netherlands)*
- 09.40 *Minister (United Kingdom)*
- 09.45 Opening by Mr. Keun-Jin Choi, President of the Council of UPOV
- 09.55 The development of plant breeding and plant variety protection
Mr. Bernard Le Buanec
- 10.25 *Coffee*

Session 1: Plant science and the future for plant breeding

Chair: Ms. Kitisri Sukhapinda, Vice-President of the Council of UPOV

- 10.55 The role of genomics in crop improvement
Mr. Mike Bevan, Deputy Director Science, John Innes Centre (United Kingdom)
- 11.15 Bioengineering
Mr. Konstantin G. Skryabin, Director, Research Centre "Bioengineering", Russian Academy of Sciences (Russian Federation)
- 11.35 Heterosis in rye
Mr. Stanislau Hardzei, Head, Laboratory of Genetics and Biotechnology, Scientific and Practical Centre of the Belorussian NAS for Arable Farming (SPCAF) (Belarus)
- 11.55 Breeding for virus resistance in cereals
Mr. Frank Ordon, Director and Professor, Head Institute of Resistance Research and Stress Tolerance, Julius Kühn-Institute (JKI), Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants (Germany)

12.15 Lunch*

Session 1: Plant science and the future for plant breeding (continued)

15.00 Stress resistance in maize

Mrs. Marianne Bänziger, Deputy Director General, Research and Partnership, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT)

15.20 Molecular virus-plant interactions and pathogen defense in tuber crop plants

Mr. Jari P.T. Valkonen, Professor, Plant Pathology, University of Helsinki (Finland)

Session 2: Applying the science: challenges and opportunities

Chair: Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General, UPOV

15.40 Plant variety protection and technology transfer

Mr. Peter Button, Vice Secretary-General, UPOV

15.55 Variety traits for the future

Mr. David Nevill, Head of Cereals R&D, Syngenta International AG

16.10 Vegetable and field crop strategies in East Africa

Mr. Yashwant Bhargava, Head of R&D, East African Seed Company Ltd.

16.25 Breeding prospects for horticulture in Asia

Mr. Ki-Byung Lim, Professor of Department of Horticulture, Kyungpook National University (Republic of Korea)

16.40 Coffee

16.55 Flower breeding for the global market

Mr. Ulrich Sander, Managing Director, Selecta Klemm (Germany)

17.10 Fruit breeding aims for the twenty-first century

Mrs. Wendy Cashmore, Manager Plant Varieties, New Zealand Institute for Plant & Food Research Limited (New Zealand)

17.25 Discussion

17.55 Concluding remarks by Mr. Keun-Jin Choi, President of the Council of UPOV

18.00 Close

[End of Annexes and of document]

* Lunch Seminar “15 years of supranational cooperation in plant variety protection: the European experience” hosted by the European Union at the Intercontinental Hotel, 7-9 chemin du Petit-Saconnex, 1209 Geneva