

Speech of Vice Minister Bui Ba Bong
At the workshop on Plant Breeders' Rights Partnership
At Da Lat 16.12.2007.

Dear the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Royal Netherlands,

Dear distinguished guests,

Vietnam has become one of the big exporters of agricultural products in the world with objective of "improving the productivity and quality of plants" to meet people's need. Plant variety is, therefore of much importance in achieving this objective.

Acknowledging the role of variety, the Vietnamese government has built a target program on developing new varieties, from which varieties with high productivity, of good quality selected and created by Vietnam together with imported ones have been acknowledged to have contribution to a diversified agriculture of the country. To further promote the research and creation of new plant varieties for the community benefits and international integration requirements, Vietnam has spent efforts on establishing a system on plant breeders' rights protection with a result of being the 63rd member of UPOV on 24 December 2006. Therefore, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has attached much importance to international cooperation in capacity strengthening for an effective protection of plant breeders' rights.

The Netherlands is one of countries who join UPOV convention from the very beginning, thus has much experience to share with Vietnam. In recent years, many kinds and varieties of vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants from the Netherlands have substantial contribution to the development of Vietnam's agriculture. The effective enforcement of plant breeders' rights system will benefit the two countries and this will be achieved soon with a mutual understanding partnership relation.

On the occasion of Dalat flower festival, on behalf of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, I declare the official opening of the workshop on Plant Breeders' Right Partnership co-organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Royal Netherlands and Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands. I hope this will be a good starting point for a fruitful cooperation relation of the two countries in plant breeders' rights protection.