

2021 IPPC-APPPC Regional Workshop

Welcome Remarks

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*Madam Chair Dr Yim,
APPPC members and FAO member countries in Asia,
Fellow colleagues from the IPPC Secretariat,
Distinguished guests and friends,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am pleased to welcome you all today to this important annual event jointly organized by the IPPC Secretariat and the APPPC Secretariat. This regional workshop is subsequent to the first one, which was held virtually in September 2020. Last year, we had more than 60 participants from 18 countries. Today, we have almost 90 registered participants from 16 countries.

First of all, on behalf of the APPPC Secretariat, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the IPPC, the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), the CPM Bureau, as well as the IPPC Standards Committee (SC) and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) for your continued support to our regional activities and also for the participation of their representatives in this workshop to provide us with various updates.

In addition, I would like to thank Dr Sooil Kim, Director of Republic of Korea's Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency/Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, for his opening remarks, Mr Avetik Nersisyan, IPPC Officer-in-Charge for his very well-prepared video presentation, and, last but not least, Dr. Wang from CPM Bureau Asia for kindly agreeing to deliver the opening remarks this morning despite our short notice request.

Not less importantly, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the APPPC's Standards Committee and the Standing Committee on Plant Quarantine as well as the IPPC Secretariat for your generous support in relation to the preparation of this meeting.

As a key part of this regional workshop, we are going to discuss nine priority topics for Asia including:

1. Draft Revision of ISPM 4 (2009-002): Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas.
2. Draft ISPM for the Use of Specific Import Authorizations (2008-006),
3. Draft ISPM: Revision of ISPM 18 (2014-007): Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure
4. 2019 & 2020 Amendments of ISPM 5 (1994-001): Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms.

5. Draft CPM Recommendation: Reduce the incidence of contaminating pests (2019-002),
6. Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures (2019-008),
7. Audit in the Phytosanitary context (2015-014),
8. Focused Revision of ISPM 12 (“re-export”) (2015-011): Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system, 2004 and
9. Draft Specification for Reorganization of Pest Risk Analysis standards (2020-001).

Prior to this workshop, participating countries were requested to give their comments/sub-reviews/recommendations to these topics through the Online Comments System (OCS), for which the APPPC Secretariat would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to you. All your comments, sub-reviews and recommendations are valuable inputs for our discussions at this workshop.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your kind attention the UN International Year of Plant Health (IYPH), which recently ended on 1 July 2021. IYPH has been very successful in fulfilling its purposes of raising global awareness on how protecting plant health could help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment and boost economic development. Thanks to the achievement, it is most likely that an International Day of Plant Health will be observed on 12 May every year.

IYPH has served as a key catalyst in protecting plant health to sustain life transmitted by the IYPH slogan, ***“protection plants, protecting life”***. The slogan has resonated high on the global agenda.

It is important for us, both at the national and regional level, to maintain the history and momentum of APPPC in building and developing ISPMs for the enhanced phytosanitary capacities.

Before concluding, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your active participation and support in making this event very successful. The outcomes of this workshop will certainly have significant future impacts on ISPM development, plant protection as well as pest and pesticide management in Asia and the Pacific.

With every hope of welcoming you all again at next year’s physical meeting.

Thank you.

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