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Ladies and Gentlemen, Esteemed Guests, Colleagues, Associates. Members of APSA. The National Organizing Committee, steered by the National Seed Association of Malaysia; Officers from the Department of Agriculture, the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) and the University Putra Malaysia (UPM) Their Excellencies,

- Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Datuk Seri Salahuddin Bin Ayub,
- Secretary General for Ministry of Agriculture and Agro Based Industry, Dato' Mohd Sallehuddin Bin Hassan
- Acting Director General at the Department of Agriculture Malaysia, Putrajaya, Mohd Nasir bin Warris
- NSAM President, Professor Dr Uma Rani Sinniah

Selemat Pegi. Good morning. I am honored to be in your company this morning to inaugurate the 26th Asian Seed Congress here in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.

As President of the Asia and Pacific Seed Alliance, and on behalf of the APSA’s Executive Committee, Office Bearer and Secretariat, let me start off by taking this opportunity to formally congratulate one of our very own seedsmen, Mr Simon NGroot, who was recently awarded the 2019 World Food Prize.

Mr Groot is the founder of one of the region’s leading vegetable seed companies, East-West Seeds, and is one of the founding members of APSA, for which he is also one in only five of our association’s Honorary Lifetime Members. Mr Groot this year was recognized by the World Food Foundation for his dedication over four decades to improve the lives of millions of farmers through quality seeds. More details will be shared in a video on Mr. Groot to be shown here later on this morning.

For now, let me just say that Simon receiving this award is indeed an honor and recognition for the whole seed industry, which is playing vital role for #ZeroHunger.

It’s great to see a fully packed room with many familiar faces, and some new ones joining us. It is always a pleasure to return to this beautiful city and country. The warm hospitality of the Malaysian people, the allure and charm of their rich culture, intriguing history and eclectic cuisine are always a treat. This is the second time APSA has hosted the Asian Seed Congress here. The first was in 2006 and I am eager to see how far the country has come in the last 13 years.

APSA, as a regional body, is willing, able and ready to support Malaysia’s seed sector development goals, whether in the scope of business to business, government to government and/or business to government, especially through public-private partnerships.
Aside from building bridges with our hosts, I am enthused to be in KL to reunite with all colleagues, associates and friends from across the world. As representatives of the Asia-Pacific seed industry, we come in various capacities: many of us, including myself, are executives at seed companies where we source, develop, produce and/or market the best seeds and inputs available for our farmers, who will go on to grow the food to feed our families; also joining us here are technical experts, academicians, scientists, breeders and researchers, who work behind the scenes in fields and labs ensuring our seed catalogues will have the latest and greatest varieties that yield optimal flowers, grains, fruits and vegetables, as measured by taste, shelf-life and especially resistance to pests and disease; others here include government and non-government officers working in phytosanitary, biosecurity or other regulatory capacities, whose role is to screen, filter, monitor and facilitate the safe movement of seeds across borders.

Moreover, we are honored to welcome to Congress this week a group of 25 delegates representing the Lower Mekong Initiative or LMI, who will be holding parallel meetings throughout the week as well as attending our technical sessions. They are joining the Asian Seed Congress for the first time as part of collaborative efforts between APSA, the United States Department of Agriculture or USDA, the American Seed Trade Association or ASTA and the governments of five Lower Mekong countries. Namely, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. By participating in the Asian Seed Congress, and engaging directly with stakeholders from all concerned sectors, the LMI representatives will be able to gain valuable insights about the challenges and opportunities in seed sector development, which can then be applied towards dialogue, strategy and policy at the national level, and with regional cohesion.

And that is really the essence of the Asian Seed Congress: Bringing all stakeholders to the same table. No matter which group you represent, this week we are all one body with the same goals, interdependent on one another in a symbiotic relationship. Indeed, the development, marketing and trade of quality seeds is in the best of all of our interests, and it is here at the Asian Seed Congress that we can embrace our mutual goals.

Beyond business and networking, Congress also serves as an educational platform and forum, where we can synthesize the latest science, policies and regulations that affect the seed sector, nationally, regionally and globally. In our technical sessions over the next few days we will discuss a number of priorities, which span everything from intellectual property rights and plant breeding innovation to pest management, phytosanitary measures and market trends.

The main theme and focus for this Congress is Plant Variety Protection, or PVP, which is the foundation of seed sector development. The tone for this will be set this afternoon at our Congress Workshop this afternoon, so I encourage all to join as it affects us all.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone here for coming and being part of what will certainly be one of our most memorable Congresses to date.

Terima Kasih, Thank You.
Welcoming Remarks by the President of National Seed Association Malaysia (NSAM), Professor Dr. Uma Rani Sinniah

The respected guest of honor, Datuk Seri Salahuddin bin Ayub Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, YBhg. Dato' Mohd Sallehhuddin bin Hassan Secretary General of Ministry of Agriculture (their names are very similar). Mr. Tahir Saleemi, President of the Asia and Pacific Seed Alliance, Director Generals, CEOs and representative of the collaborating/partnering agencies, Ladies and Gentleman. A very good morning to all of you and for those from abroad “Selamat Datang” which means welcome to Malaysia.

On behalf of the National Organizing Committee, I am very proud and honored to be standing here to welcome all of you to the 26th Asian Seed Congress here in the city of Kuala Lumpur. It’s a strange feeling ladies and gentleman, to be standing in front of such an enormous crowd (my first time actually), a mixed feeling of excitement and nervousness, but definitely happiness is the strongest feeling as the congress has materialized in such a grand manner with audiences and delegates from all over the world.

Ladies and gentleman, Malaysia is hosting the Asian Seed Congress for the 2nd time, the first being in 2006, with only half the crowd, this literally shows how the seed community in the region has grown. The National Seed Association Malaysia wasn’t in existence then, it was only formed in 2008, and this is the first time that the National Seed Association Malaysia is co-organizing such a prestigious event.

I still remember the first time APSA contacted me to collaborate with them in organizing this event. I was uncertain as we are just a small association, but the APSA Secretariat headed by Dr. May Kanokwan and her team are not only convincing but extremely efficient. Hence, with the strong support from the NSAM Executive committee members, we embarked on this very prestigious journey together with APSA. I thank APSA for the opportunity and to my team in the National Seed Association Malaysia for the work that we have done together. Ladies and gentlemen, you are here today, to be part of that success.

NSAM is unique as its members constitute government agencies, seed companies, universities, and research organizations. Therefore, the NOC was strongly supported by partners namely The Ministry of Agriculture and Agro Based Industries, Department of Agriculture, the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Universiti Putra Malaysia and the Malaysian Convention and Exhibition Bureau. Each and every organization played an important role in ensuring that Congress runs smoothly.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I do not have to highlight the importance of seeds to this audience. In 2017 the global commercial seed market size was valued at USD 40.70 Billion and is projected to grow up to USD 61.32 Billion by the end of 2025, and the Asia Pacific holds 30 % of stake in the industry. The seed industry in Malaysia is currently still developing. The unique feature of Malaysia is its strong footage with plantation commodities, such as rubber and oil palm. Rice, being a staple food in Malaysia has also driven the industry in the right direction with research institutes like MARDI and Universities churning out new varieties. However, other major crops such as fruits, vegetables, field crops, herbs, flowers etc are still in need of improvement. Currently, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro Based
Industries is attempting to transform and speed up the development of the agricultural sector, with particular interest in the seed sector. I do hope that with the organizing of this congress in Malaysia, the Malaysian government and local seed industry can capitalize on the experts present here and can work together with them to help improve our seed industry. Alternatively, Malaysia can offer incentives to international companies to conduct R&D and produce seeds here.

Distinguished guests, let us together utilize the 4 days in the best possible way and help develop the seed industry within our Asia and Pacific region.

Finally, I again welcome all the delegates to the congress. Enjoy your stay, enjoy the Malaysian hospitality and have a great time here during the congress. Thank you.
Welcoming Remarks by the Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry,
Datuk Seri Salahuddin bin Ayub

Assalamualaikum and a very good morning,

My sincere thanks to the National Organizing Committee for inviting me to give the welcoming remarks to all distinguished delegates here at the 26th Asian Seed Congress. I am extremely impressed with such a huge congregation of around 1400 delegates from 48 countries consisting of 520 seed companies. It is my utmost pleasure to welcome everyone to Malaysia. ‘Selamat Datang’ to our capital city, Kuala Lumpur. I hope that you will enjoy your stay here and have a very fruitful discussion and exchange of knowledge or business opportunities during this congress, befitting the objective of the congress. This congress is jointly organized by the Asia and Pacific Seed Alliance and the National Seed Association Malaysia (NSAM) as the National Organizing Committee. APSA’s annual Asian Seed Congress is the largest and most significant seed industry event in the world which provides the prime opportunity to connect and grow business.

Locally apart from the National Seed Association Malaysia as the National Organizing Committee, the event is very much supporter by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia, Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau, Department of Agriculture Malaysia, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute and Universiti Putra Malaysia. Thank you for taking the time to be here today. Your presence here today clearly indicates your commitment to the agenda and objectives of this congress towards the development of the seed industry in this region. My hope is that all of you will utilize to the fullest this platform to share ideas and strengthen networks so that we can all together grow as a region.

Ladies and gentlemen, It is to my understanding that this is the second time that the Asian Seed Congress is hosted in Malaysia. The first time was in 2006 which was the 13th Asian Seed Congress. We thank APSA for choosing Malaysia again to host this prestigious event. It is a great recognition for Malaysia to host this esteemed event.

Being the largest gathering of seed fraternity and the most significant seed industry event in the world, I urge all delegates to use this platform as an opportunity to boost and grow your business. The Asia and the Pacific region is home to 60 per cent of the world’s population – some 4.3 billion people and growing. This region is a very big market and is ever needing high-quality seed to boost up agriculture produce. Ladies and gentlemen, without a doubt, seed is the most important input in agriculture. From the beginning of crop husbandry, our current time and towards the future, seeds have played a very important role as the key ingredient in the establishment, expansion, diversification and improvement of crop production. However, even though seeds are such an integral part of agriculture, we tend to take them for granted, or overlook their crucial roles in agricultural production and crop improvement. Seeds are the most efficient and effective means for the propagation of crops. They are the principal means by which plant populations have been and are distributed over both time and space. With climate change standing at our doorsteps, decreasing size of agriculture land and other environmental issues, it is important that seeds of great quality be used in agriculture. High yielding, early maturing, pest and disease tolerant
and extreme climate tolerant varieties are very important to help increase production of vegetables for world consumption.

Generally, the seed industry is considered as a small industry here in Malaysia. We have about 4 million hectares (ha) of agricultural land and only 66,500 hectares is being utilized to plant vegetables in 2018. Currently we only have one local and one foreign seed production company producing seeds on a commercial scale, based here in Malaysia. Most of the other local companies are small scale producers for local consumption or seed traders and Malaysia is known as a transit country for the import and export of seeds due to our strategic location. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome more seed companies to come to Malaysia to research and produce seeds. We are blessed with a tropical climate that makes it easy to plant all year round. Malaysia’s foreign investment policies are also conducive to investors. I believe that you will be provided with slots for interaction and information of investment opportunities in Malaysia during the course of the congress.

Ladies and Gentlemen. I believe that this congress will provide the necessary platform for representatives from the seed industry including seed companies, agricultural extension agencies, agricultural research institutes, universities and value chain actors to share their views, exchange business proposals and knowledge. Through this, Asia and Pacific countries can actively strengthen their economy & development efforts.

We do have a big task ahead of us in this congress. Let us all put together our ideas and efforts to ensure the sustainability of seed production in our region. I am confident that with commitments from all of you here today, we will be able to work together to develop effective and efficient strategies concerning seed production and delivery.

Finally, I wish all of you a productive congress and many thanks to the hardworking committee members from the Asia and Pacific Seed Alliance and the National Seed Association Malaysia in ensuring the success of this congress. To all our international participants, do enjoy your stay in Malaysia and don’t forget to visit some of the interesting touristic places.

Before I end my speech, I wish to again welcome all of you to Malaysia, enjoy our food, weather and hospitality. Enter as our guest, but leave as our friends.

With that, I would like to declare this Congress officially open.

Thank you.
Asian Seed Congress Workshop - Intellectual Property Rights Protection
25th November 2019

The ASC 2019 Workshop on November 25 focused on Intellectual Property and Plant Variety Protection (IP/PVP). APSA Executive Director Dr Kanokwan Chodchoey introduced the hashtag #Saynotoseedpiracy during her welcoming remarks and exhibited the organization’s poster, which was to be used in a first-ever ASC social media campaign.

The campaign and competition would go on to prove a success, with hundreds of delegates posting on their personal social media profiles #Saynotoseedpiracy to caption their “selfies” in front of the poster, placed throughout the venue. This initiative amounted to thousands of Likes and Shares on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and WeChat. Finally, two winners stood out with the most likes: the posts of the WIC’s very own Dr Mary Ann Sayoc (East West Seed) and Rahul Pagar (HM.Clause).

If APSA’s poster was designed to spread the anti-filibustering message generally, the Workshop, with presentations by four speakers, aimed at addressing the nuts and bolts of seed sector IPR.

The first was industry consultant Dr Michael Turner, from the United Kingdom, who afforded an overview of plant variety registration and protection fresh from his work surveying IP legislation in the Asia-Pacific region with APSA's Standing Committee on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Biodiversity. He said variety registration and protection are determined by comparing similarities with differences and strengths with weaknesses, thereby leading to established legal status for given varieties – with accompanying benefits. Thus, order is brought to the market by identifying varieties more clearly and confirming their value. Initially, Dr Turner explained, seed laws were enacted to protect farmers from poor quality seeds. Now, however, they have expanded to include registration of approved varieties on a National List, a concomitant of which is standardized species characterization – hence the concept of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) to define varieties.

While inclusion on the National List provides some protection for varieties, he said, it does not prevent theft. He ended his session by observing that linking regulation and other information using an online system provides distinct benefits, as modern technology makes identifying, authenticating and agronomic confirmation much more widely accessible than was hitherto possible.

Australian Seed Federation head and Seed Regulatory Lead for Asia and Africa at Bayer Crop Science Mr Michael Leader, speaking on behalf of Croplife Asia in his capacity as a seed and biotechnology regulatory affairs expert, discussed PVP challenges. He said the effects of illegal seeds are lower quality, farmer exploitation and reduced field productivity. Worse, they undermine both intellectual property rights and the cycle of innovation, which today involves digital breeding, targeted breeding, biotechnology, applied seed technology, digital and agronomic solutions.
In southern Asia, he said, farmers have little awareness of these aspects and ignore IPR issues as enforcement is limited. So prevailing laws and regulations must be updated as the problem of seed counterfeiting is growing at an alarming rate and actually amounts to organized crime, with counterfeits achieving significant market share in several countries: Thailand (30%); Vietnam (20%); and the Philippines (10%).

To overcome the problem, he concluded, joint advocacy of strong IP safeguards – as PVP, Essentially Derived Varieties (EDV) and trait patents – is necessary, and the safeguards included in amended seed laws and regulations. Mr Leader concurred during Q&A that seed traceability is similarly important, adding that work to improve it is underway.

Corteva Agriscience APAC and GC Brand Protection Leader Mr Herbt Feng, of China, then introduced CropLife Asia’s updated enforcement guidebook. He advocated stronger intelligence gathering and industry collaboration, while noting many types of infringement: counterfeit seeds; IPR infringement via generic registration and its opposite, IPR infringement without generic registration; and via unpacked seeds.

Seed pirate decision-making, he said, might be influenced by increasing risks or decreasing opportunities. The former could involve jail sentencing, exposure, or stricter customs enforcement; the latter, introducing customized products or crop solutions.

Mr Feng said effective enforcement comprises increasing awareness, removal of technical barriers, government agencies’ engagement and higher transparency. Meanwhile, process filings under trademark law, patent law, criminal law, seed law and the PVP Acts must be simplified.

Finally, Corteva Agriscience Global Seed Policy Leader Mr Marc Cool, from the US, focused on the definition of Essentially Derived Varieties (EDV), and their use in IPR enforcement. He said EDVs are predominantly derived from initial varieties, while retaining expression of essential characteristics, and that UPOV91 differs from UPOV78 owing to inclusion of the EDV concept and protection extended to harvested materials.

EDVs, he explained, answer the “Am-I-related?” question by using standard marker sets to indicate similarity percentage and genetic conformity.

In practice, new varieties are compared to PVP-protected varieties using standard morphological, agronomic and DNA markers, with three expected outcomes -- not distinct; distinct but an EDV; or distinct and thus free to sell. He emphasized that breeders themselves must apply the EDV concept as PVP offices have no role in enforcement.

In terms of test methodology and percentage thresholds, Mr Cool offered the example of maize: if a new variety is 95% similar in terms of genetic distance (GD), it is considered an EDV. If GD is lower than 91%, it is an independent variety. However, there is a grey area between 91 – 95%, wherein pedigree must be proved.

Technical guidelines for defining thresholds include: validated germplasm pedigrees; public markers; and genetic similarity analyses. EDVs are established for maize, perennial ryegrass,
oilseed rape, cotton, lettuce and button mushroom. Meanwhile, it is important to develop new EDV-system specifics as different breeding methods -- for example, point mutations via CRISPR or backcrossing with native traits and insertion of GM traits -- impact EDV testing. Mr Cool said breeders must balance IP rights protection with breeders' access, and, when asked whether backcrosses are considered EDVs, explained that, if backcrossing changes the nature and character of a variety, it is not considered an EDV. However, if it has a high percentage of similarities, it is -- and thus licensing is required for its release.

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Special Interest Group on Field Crops
26th November 2019

Two pest management experts presented views on the Fall Armyworm (Spodoptera frugiperda) invasion of Asia for APSA's SIG Field Crops. Focus was on proven approaches to containment and control.

Dr BM Prasanna, Director of the Global Maize Program at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and of the Maize Research Program at the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), spoke on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Fall Armyworm in Maize Production. Dr Prasanna described ways for seed companies to “develop effective, coordinated, and flexible approaches to manage Fall armyworm within the endemic areas, especially in hybrid maize seed production hubs.”

A Grassroots Approach to Management of Fall Armyworm in India was the theme of the address by Dr Bhagirath Choudhary, founder director of the nonprofit South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC) in New Delhi and board member of the Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry’s Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). He dilated on the salient features of the grassroots approach: addressing the knowledge gap; and comprehending the nature of Fall Armyworm, its biology, life cycle, feeding habits, adverse economic impact assessment, distribution, migration, and best practices for effectively managing the pest.

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Special Interest Groups on Hybrid Rice
26th November 2019

APSA's Hybrid Rice session saw Dr Bingbing Wang, Chief Executive Officer at BioBin Data Science Co., and adjunct professor of Hunan Agriculture University in Changsha, China deliver a talk on the latest biotechnology applications. Focus was on gene editing technology for developing desired traits in rice, especially those related to taste, fragrance and disease-resistance. Dr Wang explained application of largescale genotyping technology, including SNP
array and KASP/Taqman SNP assays, and whole-genome and target sequencing -- now widely applied in rice breeding to facilitate marker assisted selection, marker assisted backcrossing, germplasm characterization and fingerprinting. He also introduced breeding software available for managing Big Data, as well as the training of Genome Selection models for predicting performance of varieties based on genotypic profiles.

The session concluded with a round table discussion on future SIG activities moderated by SIG Hybrid Rice Chair Dr Frisco Malabanan and Co-Chair Ms Zhu Xiaobo.

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Standing Committee on Seed Technology
26th November 2019

APSA’s SC Seed Tech held a 90-minute panel discussion moderated by SC Seed Technology Chair Mr Johan van Asbrouck, Managing Director of Rhino Research, and Co-Chair Dr Manish Patel at ASC 2019 concerning the impact of seed technology on seed enterprise bottom lines.

“Everyone knows the idiom ‘missing the train’,” said van Asbrouck, “but just as bad could be ‘taking the wrong train’.” Seed cleaning, treatments, upgrading, pelleting, priming, and optical sorting were among topics addressed.

The four seed tech panelists were: Mr Eduard Fito of Semillas Fito (and ISF President); Mr Arthur Santosh Attavar from Indo American Hybrid Seeds; Mr Abdul Awal Mintoo of Lal Teer (and now an APSA EC Member) and Mr Jack Metzelaar from Limagrain.

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Standing Committee on International Trade & Quarantine
26th November 2019

Systems Approach, ePhyto, ISPM38, IYPH 2020 and ISTA accreditation were on the agenda for APSA’s SC ITQ technical session. Three speakers figured:

Dr Szabolcs Ruthner, Regulatory Affairs Manager at the International Seed Federation (ISF) introduced the Systems Approach concept and updated participants on the international digital phytosanitary certification ePhyto system. The former could be adopted by National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) instead of existing pest risk management options as it accounts for the entire seed production and distribution chain. Dr Ruthner discussed it in context with adoption of ISPM38 on the International Movement of Seed, and, about the latter, said electronic equivalents of conventional paper phytosanitary certificates are not merely digital copies of paper certificates, but "contain the data of certificates in a specific electronic format as prescribed in ISPM12."
Datin Jatil Aliah Binti Tamin, Deputy Director at the Plant Biosecurity Division of Malaysia’s Department of Agriculture, looked at implementation of ISPM38 in the ASC 2019 host country, and described Malaysia’s planning for the UN’s International Year of Plant Health or IYPH 2020, which includes workshops and capacity-building courses on plant and seed disease management, identification and diagnostics, molecular techniques and integrated approaches. She also covered Malaysia’s strategy for containing invasive pests such as the Fall Armyworm and South American Leaf Blight.

Dr Mary Ann Sayoc, Group Lead, Public Affairs, East-West Seed International, delivered a talk entitled Multi-Stakeholder Initiative Against Child Labor: The East-West Seed Experience, in which the issue of child labor in seed supply chains is addressed. She described East-West Seed’s initiatives to combat the practice.

Dr Andreas Wais, Secretary General of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) reviewed the ISTA Accreditation System and Procedures for laboratories from the public and private sectors. His talk included testing for GMOs and Seed Health, covering types of seed, samples and seed lots.

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Special Interest Group on Vegetables & Ornamentals
26th November 2019

The SIG Veg & Orn meeting agenda at ASC 2019 included the sunflower trade, knowledge transfer, pesticide trends and remote-sensing tech. At the three-hour meeting 26 November were five expert speakers:

The first presentation was an overview of the sunflower ornamental market, delivered by Mr Takahiro Ando, General Manager of International Sales and Marketing at Takii, a leading Japanese company. He explained how the Helianthus annuus, or sunflower, originated in the New World, and was not actively bred as an ornamental plant globally till the early 20th century -- thereafter delving into everything sunflower during his 30-minute talk.

The second saw Mr Herve Thieblemont, Regional Seed Business Development Lead, Asia, Syngenta Foundation, discussing Knowledge Transfer for Small Holding Farmers. Mr Thieblemont introduced the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA) business models for Africa and Asia, designed to fulfill farming community needs by deployment of modern technology and innovation in activating value chains.

The third, from Mr Stuart Morris, Director East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer, East – West Seed Foundation, was on Promoting Vegetable Production as a Rewarding Livelihood: A Win-Win for Farmer and Company, in which he described how his company supports intensive training for farmers as precursor to commercial activity in less developed and emerging markets; he also explained the role of the non-profit East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer Foundation in showcasing profitable and sustainable production practices.
The fourth talk centered on The Need to Reduce Pesticide Misuse and Improve Food Safety in Vegetable Production from Dr Pepijn Schreinemachers, Program Leader – Enabling Impact, World Vegetable Center. His presentation highlighted alarming trends in pesticide use while noting the attendant health risks to farm workers and consumers, environmental damage and impact on the bottom line. He also covered safer pest management methods, differentiation of products based on food safety attributes and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

The fifth was on Remote Sensing Technologies for Seed Companies from Mr Jurgen Decloedt, Business Development Manager, VITO, who reviewed current state-of-the-art remote sensing technologies and applications in the seed industry while also looking at the direction such technology is likely to take in the years to come. He said two remote sensing applications are especially useful in seed production: an app called MapEO, to speed up and improve the phenotyping process; and WatchITgrow, a multi-satellite-based solution for monitoring multiplication and production fields.

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Standing Committee on Intellectual Property Rights & Biodiversity
27th November 2019

APSA’s Standing Committee for Intellectual Property Rights and Biodiversity held their technical session on 27 November during ASC 2019. The two-part session was chaired by SC IPR & Bio Chair Dr Arvind Kapur and Co-Chair Mr Casper van Kempen. The first portion covered the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture (ITPGRFA) with three 20-minute presentations:

The first was a Report on the Results of the Governing Body delivered by Ms Anke van den Hurk, Deputy Director at Plantum, who participated as a seed sector representative in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

The second, from ASC 2019 Host Country Malaysia, was Malaysia and the ITPGRFA by Dr. Mohd Shukri Bin Mat Ali, Deputy Director of Genetic Resources, National Focal Point for ITPGRFA, Conservation Management Programme, Gene Bank and Seed Center, Malaysian Agricultural Research & Development Institute (MARDI), who discussed his country’s experiences as a Contracting Party to the ITPGRFA since 2003. Issues addressed included Treaty conformity and Malaysia’s National Agrofood Genebank (MyGeneBank™).

The third was on Developments in Biodiversity Legislation/Access and Benefit Sharing in India from Dr Shivendra Bajaj, Executive Director at the Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) and Alliance for Agri Innovation (AAI).

Talks were followed by Q&A discussion.

The session’s second portion focused on IPR & UPOV Status with five 30-minute presentations:
The first, on the Status of Seed Legislation and Policies in the Asia-Pacific Region, was from Dr Pepijn Schreinemachers, Program Leader - Enabling Impact, World Vegetable Center, whose areas of discipline include scaling approaches, monitoring tools, knowledge management, and impact evaluation.

The second was from seed industry consultant Dr Michael Turner, who presented his work with APSA’s Standing Committee on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Biodiversity in surveying from July to October last year the status of IP legislation for plant varieties in the Asia and Pacific Region, its effectiveness in securing the rights of plant breeders, and interested parties’ awareness thereof.

The third was APSA’s IP Position Paper, presented by Dr. Arvind Kapur.

The fourth covered the Plantum and Oxfam reports, and was delivered via conference call by Mrs Judith de Roos-Blokland, Legal Counsel, Plantum, and Mr Bram de Jonge, Seed Policy Advisor, Oxfam Novib. The reports related to a project in which those organizations and Euroseeds undertook to increase clarity and find common ground regarding the private and non-commercial use exception (Article 15.1.i) of the UPOV 1991 Convention.

Fifth was the Plant Variety Protection Update on Experience and Challenges delivered by Mr Tomochika Motomura, Technical/Regional Officer (Asia) UPOV, and Mr Nguyen Thanh Minh, Director of the Plant Variety Protection Office of Vietnam, on EAPVP.

The day-long session concluded with a round table discussion moderated by Dr Mary Ann Sayoc, Public Affairs Lead, East West Seed (Philippines).
APSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting Agenda

Date: Thursday, the 28th of November 2019, 13.00-17.00
Venue: Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (Extension Hall 7A & 7B, Level 3)
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

13:00 Call to order (registration)
13:30 Confirm quorum (Door close)
13:40 APSA President Opening Remarks
13:45 Approve Minutes of APSA GAM #23 & #24
13:50 President’s Report and Special Interest Group-Standing Committee Reports
14:00 Candidate presentation and Executive Committee elections (8 seats)
   - Major Country representative (Japan): 1 seat
   - Singapore Resident: 1 seat
   - Associate Member: 1 seat
   - Seed Enterprise or Government Seed Agency Member: 5 seats
14:40 Treasurer Report 2019
   - Approve 2018 Audited Report (Thailand)
   - Approve 2018 Audited Report (Singapore)
   - Approve Budget 2020 and 2021
15:00 Constitution and Administration Updates
   - Address questions received in advance, if any
   - Address other questions from the floor
   - Vote for amendments to the constitution
15:30 Recognition of Service for Retiring EC Members
   - 8 EC members, including immediate past president
15:15 Executive committee election results announcement (8 seats)
   - Major country representative (Japan): 1 seat
   - Singapore resident: 1 seat
   - Associate member: 1 seat
   - Seed Enterprise or Government Seed Agency members: 5 seats
16:40 Presentation of newly-elected EC members
16:50 Announce the next AGM date and venue
17:00 Meeting closed by President

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Annual General Meeting Report

Date: November 27, 2019 (13.00-16.00)
Venue: Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre
Chair: Mr Tahir Saleemi (APSA President)
Co-Chairs: Mr Wichai Laoharakornkul (APSA Vice President)
           Mr Manish Patel (APSA Treasurer)
           Dr Kanokwan Chodchoey (APSA Executive Director)

Total length of AGM – 3 hours starting from 13:15.

Quorum:

Doors closed at 13.32. Dr Chodchoey explained that since the total number of active members in 2019 is 581 members, the number of members needed to meet the AGM quorum requirement of 25% is 145. With 250 members confirmed to be in attendance, which corresponds to 43% of all members, the quorum was met. With that, the meeting started. Dr. Chodchoey added that green wristband holders (Corporate Members comprising of seed enterprises, seed associations and government agencies) accounted for 225 members, while yellow (Associate Members) and orange (Affiliate Members) numbered 25. Dr Chodchoey invited APSA President for opening remarks.

Opening Remarks by APSA President Mr Tahir Saleemi

Mr Tahir Saleemi welcomed members to APSA Singapore’s first AGM. He presented an outline of the proposed agenda for the APSA 2019 AGM and motioned for approval of the agenda by show of hands.

The agenda was approved with simple majority.

Approval of GAM 2018 Meeting Minutes

Next, Mr Saleemi motioned for approval of the minutes from APSA’s joint 23rd and 24th GAM (Manila), which he noted had already been disseminated to APSA members via email and was posted on the APSA website since earlier this year. The minutes were approved with simple majority.

President’s Report and Special Interest Group & Standing Committee Reports)

Mr Saleemi began with updates on technical matters, with respect to APSA’s three Standing Committees (SC) and four Special Interests Groups (SIGs) as follows: The Standing Committee for Trade & Marketing is now called the Standing Committee on International Trade & Quarantine, chaired by Dr Ravir Rathi. There were no changes in the chairmanship of the other SCs and SIGs whose respective chairs are Dr. Arvind Kapur (SC Intellectual Property Rights & Biodiversity), Mr Johan van Asbrouk (SC Seed Technology), Mr Michael Devarrewaere (SIG on Vegetables and Ornamentals), Dr Frisco Malabanan (SC Hybrid Rice) and Mr Bhupen Dubey (SIG Cover Crops). The chair for SIG Field Crops is vacant.
All of APSA’s SIGs, SICs and additional sub-committees of the Working Group for Integrated Vegetable Seed Companies (WIC) and R&D Advisory Groups convened in frequent online meetings throughout the year.

Among active initiatives include the organisation of a Midterm Meeting in April. Key topics covered at this meeting were the development of an APSA position on Plant Breeding Innovation; a progress update from an IPR-focused working group to establish the Seed Innovation and Protection Initiative (SIPI), which will be concerned with IPR education and enforcement issues in Asia-Pacific; reviewing the latest draft for APSA WIC’s Code of Conduct; and successful completion of a report on the status of seed legislation and policies in the Asia-Pacific region.

Next, Mr. Saleemi noted that this year various collaborations had been explored and initiated by APSA, including with Thailand’s National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), World Vegetable Centre (WorldVeg), the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), the University of California at Davis (UC Davis) and Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands.

Mr Saleemi went on to highlight various events and activities that APSA organised and led in 2019. These include the 5th Expert Consultation on Phytosanitary Measures in the Asia-Pacific (August 29-30 in Bangkok, Thailand); 3rd Asian Solanaceous Roundtable (October 22-25 in Bengaluru, India); Seed Production Study Tour in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem (September 21-28 in Israel); and the signing of an agreement with the China Seed Association to jointly-organize the 27th Asian Seed Congress in Shenzhen, China.

In terms of communication initiatives, Mr. Saleemi noted that APSA had reduced print publication frequency of Asian Seed Magazine from six to four issues per year. APSA also developed Plant Breeding Innovation informational videos in three languages along with a poster on the same topic, as well as a poster to promote Intellectual Property Rights. To further support the organization’s digital communications strategy, including creating and disseminating of graphics and interactive media online, Mr. Saleemi noted that an ICT officer was hired (Mr Visavesa Chuaisiri). Moreover, a dedicated congress website (www.apsacongress.com) and smartphone apps were developed and launched to promote membership engagement leading up to and during the Asian Seed Congress.

**Candidate Presentation and Executive Committee Elections**

Mr Saleemi called for elections to fill eight (8) APSA Executive Committee member vacancies for the 2020-2022 term. Following is the list of all the candidates nominated to stand in the elections.

**Major Country (Japan): Takahiro Ando**  
Singapore Resident: Teck Wah Koh  
Associate Category: Abigail Struxness
Seed Enterprise or Government Seed Agency (Corporate Members):

- Abdul Awal Mintoo
- Amanda Foster
- Chua Kim Aik
- Frisco M Malabanan
- Park Chan Woong
- Sachin Madhukar Bhalinge
- Senthilnathan Sengottuvelu
- Sumitra Kantrong
- Vaibhav Kashikar
- Vinod Kumar Gaur
- Wei-Ting Chen

Mr. Saleemi then invited all candidates onto stage to briefly introduce themselves. Out of 14 nominated candidates, two candidates (Mr. Vaibhav Kashikar and Mr. Vinod Kumar Gaur) withdrew their candidature. One candidate from Singapore (Mr. Teck Wah Koh) was unable to attend the AGM in person due to a personal emergency; therefore, a video of his self-introduction would be broadcast remotely instead.

Each candidate was given three minutes for their self-introduction. Mr. Saleemi then called to stage members of the Election Committee, who would be responsible to supervise the electoral procedure and announce the result.

The Election Committee consists of:

1. Mr. Avtar Singh Dhindsa
2. Mr. Koshibe Madoka
3. Mr. Wang Zhiping

Dr. Chodchoey explained the electoral procedures to voting representatives. At that moment, she added that 298 active members had been confirmed in attendance, which represents 51% of total active membership.

The election proceeded starting with ballots for the initial three category vacancies. Voting reps were instructed to vote by show of hands using provided yes/no cards:

- Major country (Japan): Takahiro Ando
- Singapore residence: Teck Wah Koh
- Associate category: Abigail Struxness

Voting Representatives from Seed Enterprise, Seed Association and Government Agency membership categories were eligible to vote in all election categories. Associate Member voting representatives were only eligible to vote in the ballot for the Associate Member category.

All the above three candidates were elected by a simple majority.
Constitution and Administration Update

Mr Saleemi presented proposed constitution amendments, which he noted the APSA Secretariat had informed all members about in advance, and had not received any questions, though a few suggestions were submitted by e-mail to the APSA Secretariat.

a. Question received in advance, if any:
   There were none.

b. Voting for the amendment to constitution
   Mr Tahir explained each amendment to the constitution and call out for approval. The amendments are as stated below. Each amendment has to pass with 75% of total members attending AGM. And the vote is done by show of yes/no card. The members from all categories can vote.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION - AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

RESOLVED THAT the following additions and amendments be made to the Company’s Constitution as follows.

Additions – Articles 8, 13 and 48A

Article 8

The Constitution be amended by inserting immediately after Article 7, the following Article:

“8. This Article is not used.”

Results: Passed without objection

Article 13

Article 13 of the Constitution be amended by inserting immediately after the definition of “Associate Member” the following new defined term and its definition:”

“calendar year” includes a financial year or financial period of the Company.

Results: Passed without objection

Article 48A

The Constitution be amended by inserting, immediately after Article 48 of the Constitution, the following Article:
“48A. The Members may, at a General Meeting, adopt a code of conduct concerning the Company’s governance values and all the Members shall follow such code of conduct as amended from time to time.”

Results: Passed without objection

Amendments – Articles 42, 62, 98, and 107

Article 42

Article 42 of the Constitution be amended by inserting the following words at the end of the existing Article 42:

“For the purposes of this Constitution, “no proxy voting is allowed” means that a representative or proxy of a member is not allowed to vote for any Member that (i) did not appoint him or (ii) he is not an employee or officer of.”

Results: Passed without objection

Article 62

Article 62 of the Constitution be amended by replacing it with the revised Article 62 as follows:

“62. The Immediate Past President will automatically be an Executive Committee member for a period of two years. At the end of such period of two years, the Immediate Past President will step down from the Executive Committee.”

Article 98

Article 98 of the Constitution be amended by changing the term that the Immediate Past President will serve for from “one year” to “two years”. The amended Article 98 is as follows:

“98. The Immediate Past President shall serve for a term of two years.”

Results for Article 62 and 98 amendment was not passed due to objections more than 25% of the active members attending AGM.

Article 107

Article 107 of the Constitution be amended by inserting immediately after the words “on behalf of the Company”, the following words:
“provided that the documents for opening, operating, and closing of the bank accounts are signed jointly by the Executive Director and a director authorised by all the members of the Executive Committee,”

Results: Passed without objection

Removal – Article 116

Article 116 of the Constitution stating that the “Company’s financial year will begin on the first day of January and end on the thirty first day of December of each year” be deleted. Since the financial yearend has to be changed to July to June as AGM has to organize within 6 months after closing the yearend date to comply with Singapore law.

Results: Passed without objection

c. Other questions from the floor

Question 1: A member of the floor raised his concerned about the two-year terms for immediate past president and why do we need it?
Answer: Mr Tahir explained that according to the constitution, we have maximum of 16 members. And we would like to keep the same number every year. That is why we propose to have immediate past president term be extended from one to two years so the maximum number of Executive committees do not change to 15 and 16 year by alternate year.

Further suggestion: Member of the floor suggested to reconsider this point and perhaps consider filling in the vacancy for immediate past president if we want to keep the maximum of 16 executive committee members.

Suggestion 1: Another member from the floor, for the approval of the amendments of constitution it would be advisable to include 75% of the YES votes rather than considering 25% of NO votes.
Response: Mr Tahir agreed, and he will incorporate this action in coming approvals.

Question 2: Another member raised his concern on proposing of Director to be authorised signatory in Singapore.
Answer: Ms Brenda Dossey explained that according to Singapore constitution the Executive Committees are referred as Directors hence the word of director was included in Article 107.
Recognition of Service for Retiring EC Members

The following outgoing EC members’ contribution towards the committee throughout their tenure was acknowledged with a token of appreciation:

1. Ms Brenda Dossey (immediate past president)
2. Mr Daniel Gleeson
3. Mr Isao Luchi
4. Mr Muhammad Asim Butt
5. Dr Tso-Chi Yang
6. Mr Tsukasa Kawakami
7. Dr Mi-Hee Yang
8. Mr John Mizicko

Executive Committee Election result announcement

- Major country (Japan): 1 seat
  Mr Takahiro Ando was voted into the Executive Committee with full majority.
- Singapore residence: 1 seat
  Mr Teck Wah Koh was voted into the Executive Committee with full majority.
- Associate category: 1 seat
  Miss Abigail Struxness was voted into the Executive Committee with full majority.
- Seed Enterprises or Government Seed agencies: 5 seats
  Below is the list of 5 members chosen based on highest number of votes according to the balloting system.
  - Abdul Awal Mintoo
  - Chua Kim Aik
  - Senthilnathan Sengottuvelu
  - Sumitra Kantrong
  - Wei-Ting Chen

Presentation of new Executive Committee members

The newly elected Executive Committee members were called to the stage for a photography session.

Announce the next GAM date and venue and meeting closed by President

Mr Tahir announced the next GAM will be on November 12, 2020 in Shenzhen, China.

The meeting adjourned with the closing remarks by Mr Tahir, the President of APSA at 3.46 p.m.
# ASC 2019 GENERAL INFORMATION

## Program & Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
<td>09:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>WIC Meeting (Closed Meeting)</td>
<td>Meeting Room 402 (4th Flr.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 24, 2019</strong></td>
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<td>APSA OB Meeting (Closed Meeting)</td>
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<td>13:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>APSA EC Meeting (Closed Meeting)</td>
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<td>13:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>ASC 2019 Registration Opens</td>
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<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<td>ASC 2019 Registration Opens</td>
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<td><strong>Nov. 25, 2019</strong></td>
<td>09:00 - 11:00</td>
<td>Inaugural Ceremony</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7A &amp; 7B (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<td>11:00 - 12:00</td>
<td>Press Conference</td>
<td>Meeting Room 410 (4th Flr.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00 - 18:00</td>
<td>Trading Tables &amp; Exhibition Area Opens</td>
<td>Extension Hall 6A, 6B &amp; 6C (1st Flr.)</td>
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<td>11:00 - 18:00</td>
<td>Semi-Private &amp; Private Meeting Rooms Opens</td>
<td>Meeting Rooms 401 - 409 (4th Flr.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>Asian Seed Congress Workshop - Intellectual Property Rights Protection</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7A &amp; 7B (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19:00 - 22:00</td>
<td>Welcome Cocktail Party</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7A &amp; 7B (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>08:00 - 17:00</td>
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<td>Registration Booth (1st Flr.)</td>
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<td><strong>Nov. 26, 2019</strong></td>
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<td>08:00 - 18:00</td>
<td>Semi-Private &amp; Private Meeting Rooms Opens</td>
<td>Meeting Rooms 401 - 409 (4th Flr.)</td>
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<td>08:30 - 11:00</td>
<td>Special Interest Group on Field Crops</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7A (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>08:30 - 11:00</td>
<td>Special Interest Groups on Hybrid Rice</td>
<td>Meeting Room 410 (4th Flr.)</td>
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<td>11:15 - 12:45</td>
<td>Standing Committee on Seed Technology</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7A (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<td>11:30 - 14:00</td>
<td>Buffet Lunch</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7C (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<td>12:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>Accompanying Person’s Hosted Lunch</td>
<td>Parkview Deck Café</td>
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<td>12:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>APSA Past Presidents’ Luncheon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13:00 - 15:00</td>
<td>Standing Committee on International Trade &amp; Quarantine</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7A (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<td>15:15 - 18:15</td>
<td>Special Interest Group on Vegetables &amp; Ornamentals</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7A (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19:00 - 22:00</td>
<td>APSA EC Dinner (Invite Only)</td>
<td>Meeting Room 410 (4th Flr.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>08:00 - 12:00</td>
<td>ASC 2019 Registration Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 27, 2019</strong></td>
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<td>Trading Tables &amp; Exhibition Area Opens</td>
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<td>08:00 - 18:00</td>
<td>Semi-Private &amp; Private Meeting Rooms Opens</td>
<td>Meeting Rooms 401 - 409 (4th Flr.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>08:00 - 11:00</td>
<td>APSA Seed Associations Meeting (Closed Meeting)</td>
<td>Meeting Room 410 (4th Flr.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>09:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>Accompanying Person's Tour</td>
<td>KL City Tour with Petronas Twin Towers &amp; Batu Caves</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00 - 12:30</td>
<td>International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food &amp; Agriculture Workshop</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7A (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<td>11:30 - 14:00</td>
<td>Buffet Lunch</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7C (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>Grand Banquet Registration</td>
<td>Registration Booth (1st Flr.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13:30 - 17:30</td>
<td>Standing Committee on Intellectual Property Rights &amp; Biodiversity</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7A (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<td>18:30 - 20:30</td>
<td>APSA Young Club</td>
<td>Meeting Room 410 (4th Flr.)</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>08:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>GAM Registration Opens</td>
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<td>Grand Banquet Registration</td>
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<td>Trading Tables &amp; Exhibition Area Opens</td>
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<td>08:00 - 12:00</td>
<td>Semi-Private &amp; Private Meeting Rooms Opens</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:30 - 14:00</td>
<td>Buffet Lunch</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7C (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>General Assembly Meeting (GAM)</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7A &amp; 7B (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19:00 - 23:00</td>
<td>Grand Banquet</td>
<td>Extension Hall 7A, 7B &amp; 7C (3rd Flr.)</td>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td>08:00 - 18:00</td>
<td>Post Congress Tour 1</td>
<td>GWG Batu Arang Farm</td>
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<td><strong>Nov. 29, 2019</strong></td>
<td>08:00 - 18:00</td>
<td>Post Congress Tour 2</td>
<td>GWG Cameron Highland Farm &amp; Kampung Raja Farm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>08:00 - 18:00</td>
<td>Post Congress Tour 3</td>
<td>MARDI tour to GeneBank, CMDV &amp; Putrajaya</td>
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<td></td>
<td>08:30 - 17:00</td>
<td>APSA EC Meeting</td>
<td>Meeting Room 401 (4th Flr.)</td>
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</table>
The National Seed Association Malaysia (NSAM) was established on 25 February 2008 with the primary objective of being the official body representing the professional interest of the seed scientists and technologists, plant propagators, seeds men and seed merchants. NSAM also acts as the referral center in seed and planting material industry for the government and private sectors. In accomplishing the above-mentioned role, NSAM regularly embarks on events that enables it to promote and disseminate advancement and knowledge in the area of seed and planting material science through seminars, conferences, symposia, workshops and publications. NSAM to date has more than 200 members including corporate membership with companies like Green World Genetics, Sing Seng Huat Sdn. Bhd, and Enza Zaden.

Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), a statutory body was established on October 28, 1969, with the primary objective of developing and promoting new and appropriate technologies in agriculture. Its core business is to carry out research and development to generate, disseminate and transfer innovative technologies to stakeholders. MARDI also provides technical services and consultancies and offers collaboration and licensing arrangements for the commercialization of research results. Since its establishment, MARDI has contributed to the growth and development of the agricultural and agrifood industry in Malaysia, together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry (MOA). MARDI also addresses constraints and challenges faced by the industry to ensure that agriculture remains a robust industry, contributing significantly to the country’s economy and nation’s wellbeing.

The Department of Agriculture (DOA) was established in 1905 and the main function was to implement the agricultural policies outlined by the Government. With a vision towards realizing a competitive agricultural industry, production of quality, safe and environmentally friendly as well as export-oriented products, the Department of Agriculture is committed to provide services to the operators of agriculture through adoption of the latest technologies in addition to the implementation of regulatory service activities. The Department of Agriculture has two core services. The first is technical extension services to the target groups and clients in order to improve productivity especially food crops sub-sector and the second is to enforce related agriculture acts.
Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) was first established as the School of Agriculture in 1931, located at Serdang on a 22-acre land. In 1947, the school was declared the College of Agriculture Malaya by Sir Edward Gent, the then Governor of the Malayan Union. The establishment of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia came about when the College of Agriculture in Serdang merged with the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Malaya. In 1997, the name Universiti Pertanian Malaysia was changed to Universiti Putra Malaysia, as a strategic gesture to portray the status of UPM as a centre of higher education capable of providing various fields of studies, especially in science and information technology, which facilitate national development in the new millennium. As a premier institution of learning, widely recognized for leadership in research and innovation, UPM continues to strive for excellence. UPM’s vision is to become a university of international repute. While its mission is to make meaningful contributions towards wealth creation, nation building and universal human advancement through the exploration and dissemination of knowledge.

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ASC 2019 Participating Countries

This year at the 26th Asian Seed Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, we had a total of 1,240 participating delegates. Of the total 1,192 were full delegates and 48 were day pass delegates. A total of 583 Member Companies attended the congress form a total of 42 countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total number of companies</th>
<th>Total number of full delegates</th>
<th>Total number of day pass delegates</th>
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<td>India</td>
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<td>Total number of day pass delegates</td>
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<td><strong>1192</strong></td>
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*******
ASC 2019 Satisfaction Survey

**ASC 2019 Satisfaction Ratio**  
(Total Surveyed 275)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Satisfaction Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASC Mobile Application</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASC Website</td>
<td>73.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congress Venue</td>
<td>87.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnered Hotels</td>
<td>78.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Beverage</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>86.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibition Booth</td>
<td>68.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading Tables</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Rooms</td>
<td>55.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun-Run for Charity (126 attended)</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Sessions (189 attended)</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual General Meeting (169 attended)</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accompanying Person Tour (87 attended)</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APSA Young Club (90 attended)</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Cocktail (225 attended)</td>
<td>73.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inaugural Ceremony (207 attended)</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Banquet (219 attended)</td>
<td>71.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment (226 attended)</td>
<td>71.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Congress Tour (112 attended)</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OVERALL SATISFACTION RATIO 64.0%**

*******

**ASC 2019 Social Media Insights**

**Top Facebook Posts**

Post by: Rahul Pagar  
Message: Hello everyone...support seed industry awareness campaign. I really need your support to win a contest.... Pls pls pls hit the like button if u see the post  
Hashtags: #APSASEedforChange  
#SayNoToSeedPiracy  
#ASC2019KualaLumpur

Likes/Reactions: 769  
Shares/Retweets: 42  
Comments/Replies 103
Post by: Mary Ann Pelagio Sayoc
Message: Hi FB friends. Please like this post and be part of the seed industry’s campaign to stop seed piracy to protect the interest of farmers.

Hashtags:
#SayNotoSeedPiracy
#APSASeed4Change

Likes/Reactions: 478
Shares/Retweets: 31
Comments/Replies 25

Post by: Rahul Pagar
Message: Thanks to all who supported the cause #limagrain #hmclause #asc2019kualalumpur #apsaseedforchange #saynotoseedpiracy

Likes/Reactions: 225
Comments/Replies 40

Post by: Bhagirath Choudhary
Message: #CIMMYT & #SouthAsiaBiotechnologyCentre participated in the “Special Interest Group on Field Crops”, organized during the Asian Seeds Congress 2019 held at #KLCC, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 26th November 2019 ....

Likes/Reactions: 208
Comments/Replies 7
Top Twitter Tweets

**Top Tweet**
- Earned 1,204 impressions
- Productive #ASC2019KualaLumpur Workshop this afternoon on #PVP & #IPR in Asia-Pacific seed with @CropLifeAsia @CropLifeint @corteva @UPOVint @myDOA_HQ @AusSeedFed @gnis @PlantumNL pic.twitter.com/ZeRq5G0Hrh

**Top mention**
- Earned 49 engagements
- Check out some of the improved seed varieties, with features such as high yields greater tolerances to diseases and viruses, that we are highlighting at the 2019 @apsaseed Asian Seed Congress. Talk to us if you would like to know more. pic.twitter.com/S3pnLX3NHf

**Wasima F1**
- Halflong podded green, very strong hybrid with very good from high yield.
- Attractive dry grey green color with attractive resistance.
- Has high percent shoot oil. & PPM and GMP.

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**NOV 2019 SUMMARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tweets</th>
<th>Tweet impressions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2019</td>
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<td>9,947</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Profile visits: 256
Mentions: 30
New followers: 41
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

APSA Executive Committee Members

President
Name: Mr. Tahir Saleemi
Term: 2014 - 2016 - Present
Organization: Haji Sons
Country: Pakistan
Category: Seed Enterprise

Vice President
Name: Mr. Wichai Laocharoenpornkul
Term: 2016 - Present
Organization: East West Seed Thailand
Country: Thailand
Category: Thai Nationality (Seed Enterprise)

Treasurer
Name: Dr. Manish Patel
Term: 2018 - Present
Organization: National Seed Association of India (NSAI)
Country: India
Category: Seed Association

Committee
Name: Mr. Casper van Kempen
Term: 2015 - 2018 - Present
Organization: Anti-Infringement Bureau for IPR on Plant Material (AIB)
Country: Belgium
Category: Associate Member

Name: Dr. Shupeng Yan
Term: 2018 - Present
Organization: Haidian Seed Chamber of Commerce
Country: China
Category: Seed Association

Name: Mrs. Zhu Xiaobo
Term: 2018 - Present
Organization: Wuhan Qingfa-Hesheng Seed Co., Ltd.
Country: China
Category: Seed Enterprise
Name: Mr. Abdul Awal Mintoo  
Term: 2019 - Present  
Organization: LAL Teer Seed Limited  
Country: Bangladesh  
Category: Seed Enterprise

Name: Ms. Abigail Struxness  
Term: 2019 - Present  
Organization: American Seed Trade Association (ASTA)  
Country: USA  
Category: Associate Member

Name: Mr. Chen-Wei Ting  
Term: 2019 - Present  
Organization: Known-You Seed Co., Ltd.  
Country: Chinese Taipei  
Category: Seed Enterprise

Name: Dr. Chua Kim Aik  
Term: 2019 - Present  
Organization: Green World Genetics Sdn Bhd  
Country: Malaysia  
Category: Seed Enterprise

Name: Mr. Senthilnathan Sengottuvelu  
Term: 2019 - Present  
Organization: Acsen Hyveg Private Limited  
Country: India  
Category: Seed Enterprise

Name: Dr. Sumitra Kantrong  
Term: 2019 - Present  
Organization: Chia Tai  
Country: Thailand  
Category: Seed Enterprise

Name: Mr. Takahiro Ando  
Term: 2019 - Present  
Organization: Takii and Company Ltd.  
Country: Japan  
Category: Seed Enterprise

Name: Mr. Koh Teck Wah  
Term: 2019 - Present  
Organization: Syngenta Asia Pacific Pte Ltd.  
Country: Singapore  
Category: Singaporean Residence (Seed Enterprise)
### Standing Committee Members

#### Standing Committee – International Trade and Quarantine
- Rajvir Rathi, Chair 2019 India
- John Mizicko, Co-Chair 2019 USA
- Thelma Soriano 2017 Singapore
- Mary Ann Sayoc 2018 Philippines
- Hamzah Imran 2019 Pakistan
- Cindia Jia 2019 China
- Sumitra Kantrong 2019 Thailand
- Michael Leader 2019 Australia
- Sanjay Bisht 2019 India
- Elvire Petel 2019 France

#### Standing Committee – Seed Technology
- Johan van Asbrouck, Chair 2017 Thailand
- Manish Patel, Co-Chair 2018 Netherlands
- Uma Rani Sinniah 2019 Malaysia

#### Standing Committee – Intellectual Property Rights and Biodiversity
- Arvind Kapur, Chair 2017 India
- Casper van Kempen, Co-Chair 2017 Belgium
- Anke van den Hurk 2017 Netherland
- Francois Burgaud 2017 France
- Koh Teck Wah 2018 Singapore
- Michael Leader 2019 Australia

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### Special Interest Group Committee Members

#### Special Interest Group – Vegetables & Ornamentals
- Michel Devarrewaere, Chair 2017 Thailand
- Yan Shupeng, Co-Chair 2018 China
- Jack Metzelaar 2017 Netherland
- Isao Iuchi 2017 Japan
- Praveen Noojibail 2018 India
- Sumitra Kantrong 2018 Thailand
- Rahul Pagar Ashok 2018 India

#### Special Interest Group – Hybrid Rice
- Frisco Malabanan, Chair 2017 Philippines
- Zhu Xiaobo, Co-Chair 2018 China
### Special Interest Group – Cover Crops (Forage & Amenity Seeds)
- Bhupen Dubey, Chair 2017 India
- Brenda Dossey, Co-Chair 2018 Australia

### Special Interest Group – Field Crops
- Vacant, Chair
- Muhammad Asim Butt, Co-Chair 2018 Pakistan

### R & D Advisory Group on SIG Vegetables & Ornamentals
- Narendra K. Singh, Chair 2017 Thailand
- Seetharam Annadana, Co-Chair 2017 India
  1. Surinder K. Tikoo 2017 India
  2. Simon de Hoop 2017 Thailand
  3. John R Sheedy 2019 Thailand

### Working Group of Integrated Vegetable Seed Companies (WIC)
- Sumitra Kantrong, Chair 2018 Thailand
- Rahul Pagar Ashok, Co-Chair 2017 India
  1. Anthony Tse 2017 Hong Kong, China
  2. Harendra Singh 2017 India
  3. Lee Jinman 2017 South Korea
  4. Manoj Mehta 2017 India
  5. Mary Ann Sayoc 2017 Philippines
  6. Matsumoto Akio 2017 Japan
  7. Isao Iuchi 2017 Japan
  8. Tarunvir Singh 2017 India
  9. Arthur Santosh Attavar 2017 India
  10. Senthilnathan Sengottuvelu 2017 India
  11. Takahiro Ando 2017 India
  12. Zhang Wei 2017 China
  13. Zhiping Wang 2017 China
  14. Sanjay Kumar Singh 2017 China
  15. Sushil Kumar Kaushik 2017 India
  16. Linda Chang 2017 Chinese Taipei
  17. Sanjay Bisht 2017 India
  18. Michael Leader 2017 Singapore
SEE YOU IN 2021!