



ePhyto Factsheet #6

ePhyto Steering Group Newsletter

The second IPPC global symposium on ePhyto, Incheon, Republic of Korea

The symposium was an excellent opportunity to increase understanding and awareness of ePhyto amongst phytosanitary officials from a wide range of countries, the representatives of international organizations and industry. Experiences from all over the world were shared and lessons learned exchanged. The concept of the hub and a generic national system was explained. The hub provides a mechanism for the exchange of ePhytos and a generic national system allows for the production and receipt of ePhytos by countries that do not have a national system. This led to a better understanding of the differences between the two components. The symposium was also a very good starting point for further development and harmonisation of ePhyto particularly in relation to the STDF (Standards and Trade Development Facility) project to set up a hub and generic national system. These two systems will now be developed and piloted and once fully implemented will give an enormous boost to the global use of ePhyto both by developed and developing countries, thereby facilitating trade. This symposium marks an important change to global implementation of ePhyto.



Report of the global ePhyto symposium

The 2nd IPPC Global Symposium on ePhyto was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea from 9 to 13 November 2015. The symposium was made possible by financial support from the Government of Korea. About 80 participants from over 50 countries attended the Symposium. The attendants were from National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and other government offices, from industry and multinational organizations.

STDF project

The symposium was also a very important step in the implementation of the STDF (Standards and Trade Development Facility) project which aims to set up a global hub for ePhyto exchange and a generic national system, especially for developing countries. This generic national system will enable countries that do not have a specific national system to produce and receive ePhytos, to participate in ePhyto development and to exchange ePhytos via a global hub.



Opening

Mr. Suhyon Rho, the Governor of the Korean Animal and plant Quarantine Agency, delivered the Welcome Address, Mr. Jingyuan Xia, the Secretary of IPPC Secretariat, provided the Opening Remarks, and Ms. Kyu-Ock Yim, the Chair of CPM, made a presentation on the International Year of Plant Health 2020. The Symposium was facilitated by the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) and the IPPC Secretariat.

Presentations

During the five day symposium, presentations were given on the developments in ePhyto, nationally and globally. First of all, the principles of ePhyto were explained by the ePhyto steering group, followed by presentations from international organizations. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC) presented their activities related to electronic exchange of data and certificates.

The following global industry representatives explained how ePhyto systems would benefit their respective industries: cut flowers (International Flower Trade Association, Union Fleurs), grain and seed (International Seed Federation (ISF), International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC)), forest products (Canada Wood, Korea) and providers of electronic documentation services. A number of countries (Republic of Korea, China, Japan, Chili, New-Zealand, Australia, USA, Kenya, Ethiopia, Argentina, the European Union and the Netherlands) presented their experiences with ePhyto and shared their lessons learned.

Working groups

During the symposium the participants also participated actively in working groups on the following subjects:

- ◆ Engagement of industry in ePhyto developments
- ◆ Experiences with electronic documents and exchange
- ◆ Functionalities of a hub for exchange of ePhytos
- ◆ Functionality of the generic system
- ◆ How to sustain ePhyto after piloting in countries
- ◆ Establishment of cost recovery for sustainability of ePhyto
- ◆ Harmonisation of schema and mapping for ePhytos

Closing of the Symposium

In his closing remarks, Secretary Xia expressed his thanks to the Republic of Korea and the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency for their support and excellent organization of the symposium. The Secretary also noted the positive contributions from the ePhyto steering group and the participants in general. He noted that there is a lot of work yet to be done, but he felt that the positive composition of the people working on ePhyto globally will result in a great success.

Additional resources

The IPPC website has a lot of information on the history of ePhyto development – use the links below to find out more information:

- [IPPC ePhyto – home page](#)
- [IPPC ePhyto – Steering Group and recent developments](#)
- [IPPC ePhyto – codes and schema](#)

Contact us

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