

## Comments from Japan on *Agenda Item 15.3*

### International Recognition of Pest Free Area

1. Japan appreciates discussions by OEWG and SPTA to provide the recommendations, and for the following reasons, we strongly support the findings of the SPTA.
2. As the Secretariat of IPPC clarified in several occasions, human and financial resource of the IPPC is not enough for the current activities. Prioritization of activity in the IPPC is necessary.
3. In the case of plant health, plants and plant products are extremely variable and quarantine pests vary in each contracting party. In most cases, the plant concerned has multiple relevant pests and international recognition for one specific pest would not resolve trade issues. It is also true that most pests are able to establish in wild flora. Thus, evaluating freedom from those pests is a hard task and requires tremendous resources. In addition, implementation of pest reporting obligation has yet been reviewed by the IPPC, in spite that pest reporting is critical to support credibility of international recognition.
4. Japan is aware of “official recognition” of specific animal disease status by the OIE. In the case of animal health, main commodities are limited to cattle, swine and chicken. Diseases concerned are also limited to four diseases, and the OIE does not officially recognize avian influenza status which is conveyed quickly by wild birds.
5. In contrast to the OIE, which published the first edition of the Code in 1968, the IPPC has started to adopt ISPMs since 1993, and we still in urgent need for many ISPMs. Therefore, Japan suggests that the IPPC should allocate resources to develop ISPMs.