

**Opening Remarks**

**By**

**Chairman of International Pepper Community,  
Director General of International Trade Cooperation, Ministry of Trade,  
Republic of Indonesia**

**On the occasion of the Inauguration of  
the 39th Session and Meetings of the IPC  
On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011, Sheraton Hotel, Mataram  
West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.**

His Excellency Mr. Bayu Krisnamurthi, Vice Minister of Trade, Republic of Indonesia,

His Excellency Dr. K. H. M. Zainul Majdi, Governor of West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia,

Head of Delegations from Member Countries of IPC,

Delegates from Member Countries of the IPC,

Representatives from Non-Member Countries of the IPC and Other International Organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the establishment of the IPC over 39 years ago, the pepper industry has undergone many changes and faced many challenges. Currently, the outlook of the pepper industry has changed. The issues are different. Every pepper producing country has its own problems. The importing countries have also changed their quality and other food safety requirements.

Indonesia is honoured to have this opportunity to host the 39<sup>th</sup> Session and Meetings of the IPC in this beautiful Island of Lombok. This event reflects the commitment of the Government of Indonesia to promote the interests of the IPC members for improving the quality and productivity of pepper and the prosperity of pepper farmers.

When I see a large number of overseas dignitaries and trade representatives present here today, I am delighted to learn that the IPC Session and meetings have grown to be a prestigious gathering of eminent personalities of the global pepper industry as a common platform for deliberations and finding remedial measures to the issues in hand.

I am extremely glad to note that over 200 delegates representing 20 countries have assembled here for this big event. Participation of senior officials from Government of India and Government of Sri Lanka, New Chairman of the Spices Board and Mr. Albert from Mc.Cormick Global Ingredients, in particular, have added value to the IPC Session. I thank all of you for sparing your valuable time and making this Lombok Island meeting more memorable and purposeful.

After assuming as the chairman of the IPC, I have launched a Price Dissemination Program through SMS to the pepper farmers in February 2011 and called for a gathering of all the Ambassadors of the IPC member countries in Jakarta on the occasion of the IPC formation day during March 2011. I also had the opportunity to inaugurate the meeting of the expert members of the IPC Committee on Quality at Pusat Pengawasan Mutu Barang (PPMB), Ministry of Trade, Republic of Indonesia and stress the need for food safety and traceability.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This year has been a very busy one for the IPC. During 2011, the IPC has done a commendable job in conducting Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) trainings in villages, empowering the farmers with market and price information, and sending weekly and monthly reports, re-starting the Publication on “Focus on Pepper”. The quality of the pepper news and market review has improved considerably. The Liaison officers of the member countries are also updated on the activities of the IPC every month.

Pepper statistics for the last ten years in compact disk (CD) as well as hard copy, an electronic compilation on pests and diseases of pepper, prepared during the FAO project, will be launched today towards the end of the inauguration. I hope these two publications will serve as a valuable reference for pepper growers, traders and government institutions, who are interested in the development of the Pepper Industry. I also hope that the CD on pests and diseases will be translated into the local languages by the concerned agencies in the producing countries for effective use of the farmers. On behalf of the IPC member countries, I thank FAO and Dr. Sharma, the lead consultant, for providing the CD for publishing.

Decline in the global production of pepper and reduced stock level have mainly attributed for the rise in price. The major reason for the shortage of pepper supply is pests and diseases in pepper gardens in almost all producing countries. Due to increased cost of labor, land and inputs, unless remunerative prices are ensured, the pepper farmers may not stay in the pepper cultivation.

Under the current situation of global shortage the program and resources of the member countries are required to be examined for better and efficient utilization of the resources and effectively addressing the country specific issues for sustaining pepper production and trade.

Availability of quality and certified planting material is the real problem for the re-planting and area expansion. The agricultural ministry in the member countries is required to have special efforts to address this issue on priority. However, we should keep in mind that over supply position may bring down the price to uneconomical level. In this connection, the IPC should strive to have a realistic estimation on the trend and growth rate in consumption of pepper and pepper products and advise the concerned agencies to avoid excess production.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In Indonesia, Lampung, Bangka and Kalimantan are the major production areas. Other areas in the western part of Sumatera, Java and Eastern part of Indonesia also have potential for new plantations.

For the buyers, quality and price are equally important. To satisfy these parameters, producing countries should be able to increase the per-vine productivity and thus reduce the cost of production. Pre-harvest and post-harvest handling is to be made scientifically in order to give clean pepper. The IPC is hopeful of organizing village level training programs in member countries for promoting the GAP.

In understanding various functions and coordinating of the IPC with agencies and institutions from member countries, as we know, the IPC Secretariat has been functioning with limited human and financial resources. The support and co-operation of the member countries are essential for the IPC to continue to play its role as expected. As expectations and problems facing the industry rise, particularly farmers becoming more critical, the continued co-operation and support of all the members is crucial for the IPC to be able to play its role efficiently.

I thank Mr. Kannan and the IPC Secretariat for their dedicated support and service rendered for the development of the pepper industry.

To those of you who have traveled considerable distance come to this session, I thank you all, for your presence. We wish you a pleasant stay and memorable stay in Indonesia and hope that you will find time to experience the wonders of Lombok Island.

I would like to thank all the member countries for the support extended and all the people who have worked to make the 39<sup>th</sup> Session succeed. My appreciation also goes to the Organizing Committee of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session and Meetings of the IPC from Ministry of Trade of Republic of Indonesia and IPC Secretariat for their efforts ensuring that the meeting runs smoothly and efficiently.

I wish this event all success and look forward for thought provoking deliberations among you that will decide the roadmap of the global Pepper Industry for the coming years.

Thank you.