



ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance



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Press Release

2018 ISTA ANNUAL MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN SAPPORO, JAPAN – ILAC Magazine

The International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) has decided for the first time to hold the 2018 Annual Meeting in Sapporo, Japan between the 11 and 14 of June, which is the most important event for the association.

Located on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido, Sapporo it's highly recognized as the best food city and for being the fifth metropolis of the country with 1.9 million citizens. It has been also for a long time a local production and consumption leader with an overwhelming food sufficiency rate of 208 percent, which is five times higher than the country's average.

Asia seed industry has undergone constant and important changes, it has a great potential within the seed industry that's not yet internationally recognized, even though they have a blooming market valued in billions of dollars. The Asian demand has expanded, as their economies have flourished in the recent years and are now considered one of the most important economies in the world.

The main factors limiting the market growth include the difficulty of obtaining quality seeds and the domination of the informal seed sector. Despite this, the increasing share of the private sector and the government initiatives in seed policies are driving the market growth and development.

ISTA decided some years ago to put more efforts in the Asian seed market, as the association recognizes the importance of endorsing the regional development and encouraging the use of quality seeds. The association would like to show its commitment to the Asian industry and support it, by facilitating the international seed trade of the region and contributing to the harmonisation of regulatory seed procedures toward internationally accepted standards.

The association has been long working with some laboratories in the area, and only in Japan ISTA has five accredited laboratories from 66 members in the Asian market. Therefore, ISTA

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ABOUT ISTA

Founded in 1924, with the aim to develop and publish internationally agreed rules for seed sampling and testing, accredits laboratories, promotes research, provides international seed analysis certificates and training, and also disseminates knowledge in seed science and technology. ISTA members are over 85 countries/distinct economies worldwide and they work together to achieve their vision of 'Uniformity in seed quality evaluation worldwide'. This facilitates seed trading nationally and internationally, and also contributes to food security.





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regards this event as an opportunity to get closer to our Asian members and also to let the industry be aware of the association.

The Executive Committee members Masatoshi Sato and Keshavulu Kunusoth have actively represented the Asian area during several years and made ISTA aware of the difficulties and opportunities of the market seed industry. In this case, Dr Sato originally from Japan has enthusiastically supported the organization of this event. He recognises the relevance to the industry that ISTA holds the 2018 Annual Meeting in his country. Dr Sato is a Plant Pathologist at the Seed Health Laboratory in the National Center for Seeds and Seedlings (NCSS) of Japan, which is an ISTA accredited laboratory.

It is expected that delegates from more than 50 countries gather in the four-day event, where they mainly discuss and decide on proposals for changes to the International Rules for Seed Testing 2019.

The Japan Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, who is also the national ISTA Designated Authority in the country, will be supporting the 2018 Annual Meeting, for which ISTA feels very thankful and pleased. The event will be held at the Hotel Emissa Sapporo, located at Shin Sapporo Station.

The meeting highlight is the Technical Committees work presentation, as it is an opportunity to learn, discuss and exchange the new scientific advancements as well as to meet other world seed experts.

The annual meeting program includes the first day a seminar in "Validated Vigour Tests and the Scientific Basis of their Development" which is mainly coordinated by ISTA Vigour Technical Committee. This committee aims to encourage the developing and validation of vigour tests but also ensure the repeatability within laboratories.

A workshop on "Quality Assurance and ISTA Accreditation for Beginners" will follow the meeting between the 19 and 21 of June and will be lectured by Rita Zecchinelli, Executive Committee Member and Florina Palada, the Head of Accreditation & Technical Department. The local organiser is Hiroyuki Fujiwara from the Centre for Seeds and Seedlings NARO (NCSS), and It will be in the Tsukuba city, Ibaraki. The local organiser and sponsor is Food and Fertilizer Technology Center (FFTC) for the Asian and Pacific Region. The aim of the workshop is to introduce and discuss the basic principles of quality management and focuses on the needs of seed testing laboratories that wish to comply with the ISTA Accreditation Standard and prepare for attaining and maintaining the ISTA Accreditation. The theoretical background will be given

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through English lectures and the participants will be actively involved in group work, discussions and presentations. The System part includes “how to build quality documentation, document control, and internal audits”, and “how to prepare a checklist, corrective actions and non-conforming work”. While the technical part will include on how to deal with the equipment calibration, seed dividers and statistical aspects in seed testing”.

We invite you to attend the Annual Meeting 2018, the association’s most important event of the year, which will allow you to learn more about ISTA work, committees and community. Finally, looking forward to the future, we ask you to save the date for the ISTA 32nd Congress, which will be held in Hyderabad, India between the 26th of June and the 03rd of July 2019.

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