Assalamualaikum, Wr Wb.
Good Morning
The Honorable Director of Indonesia Agriculture Quarantine Agency, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Firstly, on behalf of the Chairman of the IPCCA who really wanted to attend this conference, as the Secretary General of the IPCCA, I am glad to represent the Industry and to convey some critical points for the future of our industry. And hope that our counterparts all over the region would be pretty much in the same page.

ASPPHAM is the Indonesia Pest Control Companies Association (IPCCA). After 2 decades of business, now it has 129 companies which are currently the stakeholders of the Indonesian Agricultural Quarantine Agency’s Audit Scheme (SAB Barantan) and with valid AQIS Entity Identifiers. If we multiply the companies with 20 staffs (each with 3 family members) we’d get about 10320 lives who depend on the industry. (see slide 1,2). With billion rupiah worth of investment and revenues, we believe no other branches of pest control industry have enjoyed firmer compliance for standards and privileged business, than fumigation service we provide. Up to this moment, we couldn’t be more proud of what we have achieved together with the IAQA in setting the bar so high for other government institutions to keep up with some standardized and audited industry. (see slide 3).

MB Fumigation Industry in Indonesia has flourished since the introduction of AFAS Methyl Bromide Standard about a decade ago. We have witnessed quarantine incidents at destination ports become significantly less and less. However, lately we are getting restless about the escalating pressure in finding the Methyl Bromide alternatives. FOR US it is simple, while the Montreal Protocol still allows MB for QPS usage, we will hold our ground that MB is here to stay. (see slide 4). In fact, up to date, Indonesia is still receiving imported cargos fumigated with MB.

The Montreal Protocol, which came into force in 1989, is the international treaty responsible for the remarkable recovery we are observing in the ozone layer. It is a remarkable example of a successful international cooperation. This broad acceptance has led to an astounding 98% reduction of global production of ozone-damaging substances. Bear with us, ladies and gentlemen. I must emphasis the evidences here. (see slide 7). that searching the internet brings many pages with headlines like “remember the hole?”.
The so called ozone hole IS healing. Atmospheric scientists all believed it caused by radical phase out of CFCs or other Chlorine compounds. Let’s see the picture of monthly average of ozone densities. As you can see, in April last month, where the hole is? (see slide 6). Well, actually the hole usually occurs during August through October. Thus, let’s compare 2005 and 2013 Octobers. Watching the trend, NASA confirms that the hole is recovering. (see slide 7).

Aside from that, the temperature of lower atmosphere directly influence the size of the hole. Unlike Chlorine, more than 50% of Bromine compound in atmosphere occurs from natural sources. Even the AQIS acknowledges this. (see slide 8). Therefore, we believe that bromine has reached harmless level of usage. Zero production and usage no longer results in significant reduction of bromine concentration in the atmosphere.

Nevertheless, IPCCA keeps supporting the IAQA’s quest for MB alternative fumigants. In fact, we’re beginning to have trainings on several of them. (see slide 9). But it is evident that there are cargo situations in which some alternate fumigants do not perform as well as MB. For the time being, the bigger the pressure to corner the MB fumigants, the bigger our worries on losing the MB fumigation industry.

Furthermore, the quarantine regulators must conduct efficacy tests on many alternative fumigants prior to implementations. There are several instances where alternative efforts must go back to the drawing board. At IPPC level for example, Sulfuryl Fluoride promoter has to complete further efficacy tests, after the committee found unreliable temperature range in SF treatment. (see slide 10). Up to full documentation of the standards, training of trainers, and so forth, for every single alternative, the road to recognition is quite far and expensive.

It isn’t impossible but surely takes time. And while the experts are at it, let us refine the MB fumigation industry. We must remember that we all here need more than ten years to set up this reliable and accountable scheme of fumigation. (see slide 11). Hopefully, after this conference and QRM, the quarantine regulators and fumigation industry specialists can renew the spirit and momentum for MB fumigation in the future. Please, bear in mind, in this region there are 574 AEI companies with MB fumigation licenses. Together, this industry must support the lives of about 45920 people in the region. (see slide 12). That’s more than 15 times the number relocated due to the Mud Volcano here.

There are several ideas that we see compelling to get done.

1. AFAS must create a marking for WPM that will enable direct identification of WPM fumigated by AFAS MB fumigators. We believe, many industrialists and buyers in the region already
recognise the AFAS MB treatment as dependable and practical as no other quarantine treatment for WPM. It’s good to have quick recognition and separation when needed. (see slide 13).

2. We have witnessed approved quarantine premises gone out of business because its role isn’t fully incorporated. A seal of endorsement on fumigation certificate will ensure fumigation quality control and in the end, the service-life of the premises itself. (see slide 13).

3. We would like to invite the regulators to multilaterally audit the MB fumigation industry. With more acceptances in the region, the industry of MB Fumigation shall see more growth while continue to contribute to member countries bio-securities. (see slide 13). It would be great if the Proposal 1 above (AFAS marking) could be accepted among the regulators here as the sufficient marking needed for WPM. Not that the ISPM #15 is wrong, with all of our track records, two standards are just a bit redundant.

4. Alternative fumigants for MB must undergo a thorough efficacy tests prior to implementations. A secure homeland from biohazards is the primary goal of all quarantine efforts. (see slide 13).

In the end, on behalf of the MB Fumigation Industry of Indonesia, please allow me to wish you all the best for your successful deliberation in this Conference and the Regulators Meeting.

Wassalamualaikum, W r Wb.

Further Reading:

http://www.policymic.com/articles/27246/remember-that-hole-in-the-ozone-well-it-s-shrinking
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/13/hole-ozone-layer-recovery-2070_n_4441460.html
STATUS OF ALTERNATIVES FOR METHYL BROMIDE IN THE UNITED STATES
Judy A. Johnson, Spencer S. Walse and James S. Gerik, San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center, Parlier, CA, USA
http://www.epa.gov/ozone/mbr/cueinfo.html
BACKGROUND FOR SUBSTANTIAL CONCERNS COMMENTING PERIOD 15 MAY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2012
Revision of Annex 1. Approved treatments associated with wood packaging material To ISPM 15:2009. Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade