

**51ST WIPO ASSEMBLIES
JOINT ASEAN STATEMENT
AGENDA 5: GENERAL STATEMENTS**

Madam President

Director-General Dr Francis Gurry

Distinguished Delegates

1 I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of ASEAN. At the outset, ASEAN joins others in congratulating H.E. Paivi Kairamo on your election as President of this Assembly and pledge our full support and cooperation for a successful General Assembly.

Madam President,

2 IP and innovation is an integral part of ASEAN's economy as ASEAN Countries increase their engagement in higher value-added activities. ASEAN Member States continue to make good progress in Creativity and Innovation as shown in the Global Innovation Index 2013. Economically, ASEAN as a region is one of the fast growing markets in the world for the past three years. ASEAN's achievements would not have been possible without WIPO's role in shaping a balanced IP global agenda and its strong institutional support to ASEAN, in particular through the capacity building programmes offered by the WIPO Singapore Office.

Madam President,

3 ASEAN recognizes the importance of WIPO administered treaties in helping businesses and rights holders obtain global IP protection while

bearing in mind that the development and social dimension of intellectual property rights remains at the heart of this organization. Following the accession of Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines to the PCT and Madrid Protocol, respectively, in 2012, ASEAN now has eight Contracting States for the PCT and three Contracting States for the Madrid Protocol. ASEAN Member States are committed to acceding to the WIPO administered treaties as enunciated in the ASEAN IPR Action Plan, with the support of WIPO. Brunei Darussalam - **in** the process of depositing its Instrument of Accession to the Hague Agreement this week, making it the second ASEAN member country after Singapore to accede to the agreement. In addition, Lao PDR has committed to the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement with its accession to the WTO on 2 February 2013. Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia and Thailand remain steadfast in working towards accession to the Madrid Protocol by 2015.

4 ASEAN recognizes the progress that has been achieved during the past year – a clear indication of the seriousness that Member States, with the able support of the Secretariat, have attached in advancing the work in WIPO. We are pleased that a breakthrough, short of a miracle, was attained during the Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh, which resulted in a treaty to facilitate access to published works by Virtually Impaired Persons or persons with Print Disabilities in June this year. Member States applaud the successful adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled. The treaty cements Member States’ commitment to the disabled, and provides a simple yet effective framework to deliver information to some of the world’s most-marginalized citizens in the digital age, which is indeed a clear manifestation of the development and social dimension of intellectual property rights. ASEAN Member States are proud to have participated in the Diplomatic Conference. Within ASEAN, copyright exceptions and limitations for the visually impaired

and persons with disabilities are also a key initiative under the work plan of the ASEAN Working Group on IP Cooperation (AWGIPC). Indonesia will join other states in signing the Treaty during this WIPO Assemblies Session. ASEAN Member States will continue to advance the cause in the region even as we look forward to the swift ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty.

Madam President,

5 To further strengthen years of partnership through the AWGIPC, ASEAN and WIPO successfully convened its first ever meeting at the fringes of the General Assembly in 2012. During the meeting, both sides discussed priority areas for WIPO's engagement with ASEAN, and the specific activities under the ASEAN IP Rights Action Plan 2011 – 2015 in which WIPO could render its support. WIPO continues to work closely with the AWGIPC to implement priority activities under the Action Plan. In March 2013, WIPO hosted the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications with Thailand. With the AWGIPC, WIPO has started preparatory work with the objective of assisting ASEAN Member States in modernising their IT infrastructure. In particular, the ASEAN lauds WIPO's excellent cooperation with the Philippines in the successful deployment of IPAS for Patents and Trademarks, with WIPO taking into account the needs and requirements of the member state. WIPO has also supported the ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC), a regional work-sharing arrangement that is akin to a PPH-Mottainai. I am pleased to report that ASEAN has agreed to join WIPO Case as Accessing Offices under this initiative.

6 In the area of capacity building, WIPO, through its external office in Singapore, has also deepened its engagement with the region. Since its inception, the WIPO Singapore Office had in place over 50 programmes to train and equip IP practitioners from more than 23 countries with the most up-to-date

information on IP management and protection. Among others, these included issues on copyright exceptions and limitations for the visually impaired, and the administration of Collective Management Organisations. ASEAN has planned more activities in collaboration with WIPO's Singapore Office and the Brands and Designs Sector, specifically in the areas of Madrid and Hague.

7 ASEAN is appreciative of WIPO's contributions to capacity and infrastructure building in the region. At the 41st ASEAN Working Group on IP Cooperation Meeting in July 2013, WIPO offered a suite of services to further support ASEAN Member States in such areas as capacity building for trademark and patent examiners, establishment of technology commercialisation centres, and public awareness and education of IP. ASEAN Member States continue to look forward to working with WIPO on new challenges that we face in the rapidly evolving IP landscape.

8 Beyond such regional support, ASEAN is pleased to note that WIPO continues to engage ASEAN Member States actively on a bilateral basis, and has in place country-specific programmes in a region as diverse as ASEAN. In addition to providing assistance for accession to WIPO administered treaties, WIPO has rendered good support to several ASEAN Member States in devising their national IP strategies and policies. WIPO has given excellent assistance to Myanmar in drafting its IP legislation, and the Director-General personally visited Myanmar in November 2012 to discuss new areas of IP cooperation. In the same period, the Director-General also visited Thailand on the occasion of the General Assemblies of the World Blind Union and International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment. WIPO has undertaken four advisory missions to assist Indonesia with the deployment of the Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS). In August 2013, the Director-General visited Singapore to address the Global Forum on IP held during IP Week @ SG. A number of workshops and an Appropriate Technology Competition were

also organized in Viet Nam. ASEAN expresses its gratitude for WIPO's tailored engagement and seeks WIPO's continued support in its activities, taking into account the expressed needs and requirements of member states.

Madam President,

9 WIPO and ASEAN have met again this year to discuss current priorities and to explore new areas of cooperation. ASEAN is pleased to continue our collaboration with WIPO through such annual exchanges and at the AWGIPC meetings. ASEAN appreciates the support given by WIPO, and is pleased to report on the good progress made since the last General Assembly. ASEAN would like to reiterate its support for WIPO to work with Member States in improving IP systems in developing countries.

.