

**General Statement**

Iceland would like to congratulate Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General on his unanimous re-election earlier this year and wishes him and his team all the best with the upcoming projects of WIPO in the next six years. We also congratulate the WIPO on the opening of the new impressive Conference Hall.

Iceland highly appreciates and deeply thanks WIPO for the continued fruitful cooperation and support. In the autumn 2013 the Icelandic Patent Office had the opportunity to host a seminar in Iceland on WIPO Services and Initiatives, where Mr. Víctor Vázquez, Mr. Matthew Bryan and Mrs. Ásta Valdimarsdóttir presented the various aspects of WIPO services, e.g. the developments in the PCT System, Madrid and the Hague Systems. Also WIPO Arbitration and Mediation services were introduced. The seminar was very well received by the Icelandic users and is being followed-up with a conference in Iceland on 20 November 2014. The conference will focus on co-operation in IP Awareness and University Technology Transfer and will be held by WIPO and the University of Iceland in close cooperation with the Icelandic Patent Office.

The importance and interest of the international filing systems, namely the PCT, Madrid and the Hague systems is continuous in Iceland with stability reached in the number of filings in the last two years. The continuous growth played an important part of the decision of the IPO to renew its filing system and IPR registers, which will within the upcoming months be launched, to begin with for electronic filing of Trademarks and Designs, but later on for all tasks of the IPO.

The IPO and the IPR Professionals in Iceland make use of the databases developed and operated by WIPO on a daily basis. To name a few, PATENTSCOPE, ROMARIN and the database on Global Brands are very important tools for all users of the International Systems.

A proposal for law on Geographical Indication protection was presented before the Icelandic Parliament earlier this year and will be further discussed this autumn. Hopefully, this new legislation will lead to Iceland's accession to the Lisbon Treaty in the near future. Iceland supports a diplomatic conference on a revised Lisbon Treaty in the year 2015.

As mentioned above, IPR awareness and focus on enforcement issues is a constant task of the Icelandic Patent Office. The World Intellectual Property Day was very successful this year as previous years. The Icelandic Patent Office celebrated the day this year by being one of the largest participants in an exhibition on Innovation, where the focus was on Intellectual Property Rights and its value for innovation.

Finally it is a great pleasure to inform that the Icelandic Government has officially taken the first steps in the preparation of a written national IP strategy. The information that WIPO provides on that issue, such as WIPO's Methodology and Tools for the Development of National IP Strategies is a great guidance for such an important task.

Iceland would like to thank the WIPO team for organizing this General Assemblies meeting in Geneva and congratulates Mr. Gurry on his great achievements within the Organization. We are looking forward to welcoming the WIPO delegation to our country scheduled this fall.