

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION

54TH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES

NATIONAL STATEMENT BY THE SINGAPORE DELEGATION

MR TAN YIH SAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF SINGAPORE

Your Excellencies

Madam Chair

Director-General Dr Francis Gurry

Distinguished Delegates

1 Madam Chair, we would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Chair of this meeting and look forward to a fruitful discussion and good progress under your able leadership. Singapore would also like to congratulate Dr Francis Gurry on his re-appointment as Director-General of WIPO. Please also allow us to thank Dr Gurry and members of the Secretariat for the organisation of this 54th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and also their outstanding effort in putting together a comprehensive report on the achievements of WIPO since last year. We are confident that under the leadership of Dr Gurry and his Senior Management Team, WIPO will be able to scale new and greater heights. Singapore looks forward to intensifying our cooperation with WIPO in the coming years.

Status of our IP Eco-system

2 Last year saw a fruitful delivery of quality technical assistance programmes to the region. Our technical assistance programmes were primarily delivered with WIPO, including under the joint funding initiative between the Singapore Cooperation Programme and the WIPO Singapore Office. Over the past 2 years, under this joint funding initiative alone, we jointly conducted 7 training programmes for over 150 officials. Together with all our other programmes, we delivered and were involved in over 20 seminars, workshops and training

programmes, and the WIPO Summer School, reaching about 500 participants from 20 countries.

3 We should mention that a highlight in our Intellectual Property (IP) calendar was our annual outreach event, IP Week@SG. In partnership with WIPO, we had the honour of having Director-General Francis Gurry grace the week as our keynote speaker. And, we are delighted to report that we had over a thousand participants from more than 30 countries, including most of the Asia-Pacific Region and some European and America countries, participating in the week-long IP activities.

4 Singapore, both in its national capacity as well as Chair of the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC), appreciates the assistance that WIPO and other IP offices have rendered to ASEAN and the larger Asia Pacific Region.

Madam Chair,

5 Singapore also continues to introduce new initiatives to strengthen its IP regime, to support our local enterprises as well as the 7000 over multinational companies that are based in Singapore. For example, to improve patent quality, we moved to a Positive Grant System in February this year.

6 To further support the innovative industry sector in Singapore, we have strengthened our patent substantive examination capability, and entered into further patent work-sharing arrangements. Our Patent Search and Examination unit, which comprises 95% PhD holders, will have work-sharing arrangements with 30 other patent offices by the beginning of 2015, up from 12 a year ago.

7 These patent work-sharing initiatives include bilateral Patent Prosecution Highways (PPHs), the Global PPH programme, and the ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC) programme. The sharing of search and examination results enables faster processing of patent applications and with higher quality results, providing innovators with time and cost savings. The ASEAN-focused ASPEC programme also includes a Patent Examiner Community

of Practice, which brings ASEAN patent examiners together to share best practices and experiences, and assist each other. Singapore will also participate actively in various initiatives under WIPO CASE.

8 To support the thriving Research and Development Hub in Singapore, we believe that a quality and efficient patent system is crucial. Singapore will contribute constructively to the international patent system. A PCT International Authority in the growing South-East Asia region will encourage greater use of the PCT system amongst IP creators within Asia, as well as amongst businesses interested in operating in this region. We look forward to the support of member states for our request to be appointed as an International Authority.

9 In closing, we would like to register our sincere appreciation to WIPO, which has been an invaluable partner to Singapore. WIPO continues to play an important role in providing an efficient and accessible intellectual property system in our region that provides benefits to all. This is crucial to the collective journey to achieve growth and sustainable development amongst members. Singapore firmly believes in its vision and remains committed to our partnership with WIPO, the WSO, and other member states in advancing these efforts.

10 An addendum to this multi-party collaboration is the IP Financing Forum being held on the side lines of these Assemblies on Wednesday, 24 September, at 1pm in Conference Room NB 0.107, on the ground floor of the New Building. This Forum is supported by WIPO and jointly organised by SIPO, the UKIPO and IPOS. We warmly welcome delegations to this Forum, where we will share our experiences in our IP Financing Scheme for SMEs which was launched earlier this year. Together with a purpose-built IP valuation service, we hope to enable companies to put IP at the core of their business strategy, and encourage them to grow and expand with their IP. We look forward to seeing you at the Forum.

In closing, we would like to once again affirm Singapore's commitment to our partnership with WIPO, to advance efforts that bring the discussions on IP to greater heights and foster a business friendly and pro-growth IP ecosystem for all.

11 Thank you.

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