

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM'S OPENING STATEMENT
57th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
2 October 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President,

1. At the outset, Brunei Darussalam would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia, on behalf of ASEAN and the Asia Pacific Group.
2. We would also like to congratulate the newly appointed officers especially our ASEAN colleague, His Excellency Duaong Chi Dung, for his appointment as the next President of WIPO General Assembly. Such big shoes to fill but I have no doubt that under his able leadership and strong commitment, the work under the General Assemblies would continue to progress efficiently.
3. Mr. President, it is with great privilege and pleasure that I make this statement on behalf of the Brunei Darussalam delegation. Brunei Darussalam would like to join the previous speakers in commending you for your excellent stewardship of the proceedings and we have great confidence that the General Assemblies will be well conducted in your good hands.
4. Brunei Darussalam also wishes to express and note our appreciation to WIPO for the continued support over the last year and indeed the wide-ranging assistance that we have always been able to access. We would also like to congratulate the Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry and his team for the continued good work in ensuring that WIPO and the international IP system continues to evolve as an enabler for innovation and technological progress. We also thank the Secretariat for their excellent organisation of these series of meetings.

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5. Mr. President, the year 2017 brought with it, a continuation in the development of Brunei Darussalam's intellectual property infrastructure, development which could not have been achieved without the unwavering support of WIPO. Brunei Darussalam has continued in our efforts to improve our IP-related services as we move towards a model that promotes IP accessibility and convenience.

6. Brunei Darussalam continues in its efforts to streamline our office processes in order to provide the best possible service to our utilisers of IP. With the help of WIPO, we are now much closer to achieving our goal of working as a paperless office. The WIPO Digitization and the **WIPO Electronic Data Management (EDM)** projects have been implemented successfully in Brunei Darussalam, an effort which can potentially result in a huge increase of efficiency for the Brunei Darussalam's IP Office. With the continuing assistance from WIPO, we are confident that we will be able to fully utilise our new Electronic Data Management System (EDMS) to the fullest of its capability.

7. To accompany this increase in office management efficiency, Brunei Darussalam also continues to use work-sharing initiatives to increase our examination efficiency. Brunei Darussalam has continued to use the tools provided to us in WIPO's **Global Brand Database (GBD)** in order to provide a more meticulous and thorough trade mark examination. Brunei Darussalam's work-sharing initiatives also extend to the world of patents where the **ASEAN Patentscope** has just been launched in July this year, whereby Brunei Darussalam has also published our registered Patents on the platform. Brunei Darussalam is now a

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depositing member of **WIPO Case** and we hope that our participation as a depositing office will allow for a greater facilitation of related work-sharing programs.

8. To continue upon the themes of increasing efficiency and providing the best service possible, Brunei Darussalam has also begun to look at the implementation of an **e-Filing system WIPO File** for online IP applications. A WIPO mission has graciously visited the Brunei Darussalam IP Office earlier this year to discuss this matter and over the coming months we will continue to lay out the ground work that will allow for us to adopt an e-Filing system.
9. Additionally, in recognition and response to the rising and rapid changes in digital technology, Brunei Darussalam has acceded to two copyright treaties on 2nd February 2017, namely the **WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT)** and the **WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT)**. In line with this, in February this year, a WIPO team from the News and Media Section paid a visit to Brunei Darussalam to film a video interview project to highlight the success stories of several local copyright, trademark and patent owners. We have seen and received the mock-up of the videos and are very inspired and grateful indeed for the professionalism portrayed of our local Bruneian talents and innovators in the videos produced by WIPO.
10. In addition to the above, a number of forthcoming areas of cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and WIPO have been identified for the remainder of this year and the next, such as classification trainings on the Locarno, Nice and Vienna

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Classifications, project on resource management diagnostic of our IP Office, assistance with the development of an updated National IP Strategy (NIPS) and activities under the Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs). Most, if not all, of the cooperation activities are carefully designed to address the priority IP needs of Brunei Darussalam and will undoubtedly contribute towards the Brunei Darussalam national development and economic goals.

11. Mr President, support from WIPO in 2017 has continued to be constant and ever-evolving. The support is always adapting to the needs of the small office that we have in Brunei Darussalam and for this we would like to express our gratitude to WIPO and we look forward to further collaborations and WIPO's invaluable support in activities under the **ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Action Plan 2016-2025** of which we are country champion.

12. To conclude, it is with great pride and pleasure that I can laude the year 2017 as one of advancement in the field of IP in Brunei Darussalam; advancement that has been realized with the help and support of WIPO. We hope to only accelerate our advancement in the year 2018 and to utilise IP as a tool for growth and development for the nation of Brunei Darussalam.

13. Thank you.