Thank you, Mr. Chair.

We greatly appreciate that WIPO has been steadily working toward implementing the Development Agenda recommendations. Japan attaches great importance to development activities, including technical assistance and capacity building.

We have been providing various types of assistance through the WIPO/Japan Funds-in-Trust. One of these funds is for Member States in Africa and LDCs, and another is for Member States in the Asia Pacific region.

Our Funds-in-Trust activities include organizing regional, sub-regional and national seminars, workshops, training courses, expert advisory missions, and long-term fellowship programs; and translating selected WIPO materials.

Through these channels, Japan has supported a number of WIPO-administered projects and activities, and shared its experience in the use of intellectual property to create wealth, enhance competitiveness, and develop economies.

We strongly believe that improving IP systems will achieve self-sustained economic development in developing countries as well as contribute to developing the global economy.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.