

OPENING STATEMENT BY Mr. Santisouk PHOUNESAVATH
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Madam Chair, Sa-bai-dee

1. First of all, please let me join the Philippines as our ASEAN Chairman's statement, and other distinguished delegations to congratulate you, Excellency Ambassador Tatiana Molcean, for your election as the Chairperson of this 63rd General Assembly. Under your leadership, I am confident that this meeting will be productive and generate fruitful outcomes.

2. On this occasion, let me also express our sincere appreciation to Director General, Mr. Daren Tang, as well as the WIPO teams for the continued vital supports to the development of IP system in Lao PDR, especially technical assistance in IP Strategy development, IP Diagnostic Study, the implementation of the Madrid Protocol and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, the Enabling IP Environment on Brands and Design Project through the ASPAC Bureau, the establishment of TISC and the LDC graduation Package. Lao PDR is working toward the accession to the Hague Agreement, WCT and WPPT and certainly, technical assistance is also needed in this efforts.

3. Lao IP office is currently implementing the new initiative on "One Product-One IP", which is to build upon the "One District-One Product" initiative to support MSMEs in utilizing IP to add value to their products and enhance their competitiveness

and I am very thankful to WIPO's supports Lao IP office for the great success of this initiative.

Finally, we are also exploring the mechanism to protect genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

I wish for a very successful to this year's General Assembly.

Thank you, Madam Chair!