

OPENING STATEMENT BY ASEAN

H.E Mr. Suon Vichea, Advisor to Ministry of Commerce, Head of Secretariat on National Committee for IP and Director of Department of Intellectual Property Cambodia, Ministry of Commerce, and Chairperson of the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC)
At the 66th Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
8-17 July 2025, Geneva, Switzerland

Chair of the WIPO General Assembly
Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of WIPO,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It my honour and a privilege to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on the occasion of the 66th Assembly of the Member States of WIPO.
2. We would like to express our Gratitude is extended to the Chair of the 66th Assembly for the excellent leadership and organization of the meetings. ASEAN expresses confidence in successful outcomes under the Chair's effective guidance.
3. ASEAN thanks Director General Daren Tang and the WIPO Secretariat for their efforts and support in facilitating ASEAN's participation and in advancing IP development in the region.
4. ASEAN is described as a dynamic region with a clear and progressive economic vision. One of the six strategic goals of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan 2026–2030 is to create an “enterprising, bold and innovative community”. IP and innovation are seen as foundational pillars of that goal.
5. WIPO is credited for its instrumental role in integrating IP into ASEAN's economic roadmap. This has been concretely realized through the drafting and support of the ASEAN IP Rights Action Plan 2026–2030, which forms the core of ASEAN's IP strategy for the next five years.
6. The ASEAN IP Rights Action Plan is designed to foster a robust and inclusive IP ecosystem. WIPO helped ASEAN formulate five strategic measures:
 - 1- Harmonizing IP regulatory frameworks and advancing regional platforms and institutions;
 - 2- Facilitating IP asset creation, management and commercialization;
 - 3- Fostering an ASEAN culture of respect for IP, compliance and enforcement of IP rights; and
 - 4- Promoting IP for sustainable and inclusive growth.
7. I emphasize ASEAN's desire to further strengthen its cooperation with WIPO, while also learning from the experiences of other WIPO member states. ASEAN is portrayed as a

model for regional collaboration and multilateralism, but also one that remains humble and eager to learn.

8. Asean acknowledges the WIPO Division for Asia and the Pacific (DAP) and the WIPO Singapore Office (WSO) as critical partners in finalizing ASEAN's IP Action Plan. Their technical and coordination support was essential in completing the regional goals.
9. ASEAN notes the valuable contributions of other WIPO division:

The IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector facilitated the 1st ASEAN TISC Network Meeting, connecting nearly 250 ASEAN TISCs.

The IP Office Business Solutions Division (IPOBSD) enhanced the ASEAN IP Register – a regional IP database, accessible through the ASEAN IP Portal, making IP data more transparent and useful for stakeholders.

10. The ASEAN Working Group on IP Cooperation (AWGIPC) would like to express our sincerest thanks to all WIPO colleagues that have afforded expertise and technical assistance to ASEAN and we look forward to continuing these strong relationships with WIPO as a whole, as well as our very important focal points from each department.

Ladies & Gentlemen, Mr. Chair;

11. ASEAN-WIPO cooperation will only grow stronger under the ASEAN-WIPO Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The 23 planned joint activities offer a comprehensive vision of ASEAN's innovation priorities. The monitoring and implementation of these activities will be jointly overseen by WIPO and ASEAN Economic Ministers. ASEAN emphasizes its belief in IP as a key economic enabler, vital to improving innovation economies and managing intangible assets.
12. It is my honour and privilege to speak on behalf of AWGIPC and extends congratulations to WIPO and the Chair of the Assembly for another successful year. ASEAN reaffirms its unwavering commitment to promoting and coordinating IP efforts among its 10 Member States, offering its highest level of assurance to WIPO and the global IP community.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.