

OPENING STATEMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL TEODORO C. PASCUA
WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

7 July 2026

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Mr. Chair, Director General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

The Philippines extends its warm congratulations to Director General Daren Tang on his re-election as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization. We are confident that under his continued leadership, WIPO will continue to strengthen an inclusive and innovation-driven global intellectual property ecosystem.

We also warmly congratulate Ambassador Carlos P. Sorreta of the Philippines on his assumption as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly. His leadership comes at a pivotal time for international cooperation in advancing innovation and creativity towards greater sustainable development.

As the current Chair of ASEAN, the Philippines is proud to advance regional initiatives that contribute to the global IP system. Among our Priority Economic Deliverables is the development of an ASEAN IP Valuation Handy Manual, which aims to strengthen the capacity of enterprises, innovators, and institutions to unlock the value of intangible assets. This will further spur commercialization initiatives and IP-backed financing across the ASEAN region.

Since the last General Assembly, the Philippines has further strengthened its geographical indications framework through the recognition of additional Philippine GIs, the Philippines now has a total of four GIs, namely, the Guimaras Mangoes, the Aklan Piña cloth, the Albuquerque Asin Tibuok and the Tnalak Tau Sebu. We have also launched the Philippine GI logo, reinforcing the protection and promotion of products that reflect our rich cultural heritage and local communities.

On IP enforcement, the Philippines recently opened an IP Help Desk in one of Metro Manila's major malls, bringing IP services closer to businesses, creators, and consumers.

The Philippines also reaffirms its commitment to supporting the global patent system through our application for the extension of appointment as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority.

Lastly, we express our sincere appreciation to WIPO for its active engagement and support for the Philippines' priorities, and for being a key partner in advancing initiatives that highlight the importance of intellectual property in the economy.

The Philippines, through IPOPHL, looks forward to continuing and deepening this strong partnership with WIPO in the years ahead.

Thank you.

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