

**Japan's Interventions at WIPO**  
**Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)**  
**Twenty-Fifth Session**  
**November 9 to November 12, 2020**

Item 5

<b>Agenda item 5: General Statements</b>
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Thank you, Madam Chair.

The delegation of Japan aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B.

At the outset, this delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for its efforts in arranging this meeting under the difficult circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We will be actively involved and engaged in WIPO's efforts to overcome this challenging situation.

Since 1987, each year, the government of Japan has made voluntary contributions to WIPO for its development initiatives in the field of intellectual property. This year, Japan has contributed 6.3 million Swiss francs, as it did last year.

Making effective use of these voluntary contributions, which are called the Japan Funds-in-Trust (J-FITs), Japan has been implementing a variety of assistance programs for developing countries all over the world in the field of industrial property. The Japan Patent Office (JPO) has invited more than 1,800 trainees since 1996, from 61 countries and four regional IP offices. In addition, JPO has sent more than 400 of its own experts to 38 countries since 1987. The work plan includes workshops and seminars, and support for the IP offices to either launch or upgrade their IT infrastructure.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to introduce some activities related to J-FITs.

Firstly, J-FITs have been used to help activities on WIPO's contribution to the implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

For example, J-FITs were used to finance a three-day conference organized by WIPO, ARIPO, OAPI and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, at Harare, in November 2019. At this conference, Mr. SHIMANO Kunihiko, the previous Deputy Commissioner of JPO, gave opening and closing statements wherein he mentioned the importance of creating new innovations and achieving sustainable economic development in all countries of Africa. IP stakeholders from many African countries joined the conference and had enthusiastic and fascinating discussions at special sessions for SMEs. This conference was a very important opportunity to discuss the five year roadmap and action plan of efforts for IP to establish an advanced innovation ecosystem in Africa. We believe this conference would be helpful for people who will organize or join a conference in the future as a model case of the event leading to the sustainable development of the regional economy.

Furthermore, JPO, jointly with WIPO and JETRO, held an event entitled "Seminar on IP Support to Startups in Africa and One-on-one meetings," by bringing together the representatives of 8 governmental organizations and 11 startups in Africa, aimed at supporting African startups from the perspective of IP. At the seminar, JPO introduced the challenges faced by startups and SMEs from the perspective of IP and JPO's measures to deal with them. On the other hand, African governmental organizations introduced the startups and SME support measures. As a result, participants broadened their understanding of what startups need to keep in mind for development and shared ideas of required measures

with one another. We think that this case is useful for those who will hold similar seminars and those who will participate.

Moreover, Japan co-hosted the event “Dialogue on Utilizing the IP System for Economic, Social and Cultural Development” in October 2019 in Tokyo, with WIPO Arab Bureau, WIPO Japan Office and 6 Arabian countries, namely Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and UAE. We appreciate the expansion of partnership on cooperation activities of J-FIT.

Secondly, J-FITs have also been used to help activities on IP and development in the digital environment.

J-FITs have been used to help digitize national IP data in several countries since 2017. For example, they contributed to the digitization of Philippine and Vietnamese patent documents in 2019. We believe that high-quality digital IP data of national IP rights makes the IP office administrations in these countries more functional and allows the users to manage their applications more efficiently.

In addition, J-FITs were used to finance workflow optimization project implemented for several countries in ASEAN since 2017. This project succeeded in optimizing business processes for administration of the applications within the requirements of each IP office and improved the users’ convenience.

Furthermore, J-FITs financed a wide range of capacity building activities related to technical infrastructure of IP institutions for several countries in ASEAN and Africa. Especially in Myanmar, J-FITs were used to finance a workshop for the purpose of introducing ICT system in order to establish the IP institution. Through this workshop, Vietnam and Laos

shared their experience in IT adoption with Myanmar. We think that utilization of the digital environment needs not only business workflows and ICT systems in digital environment but also good knowledge about them, and J-FITs can contribute to improve the IP office's knowledge.

In the field of copyrights, Japan has been supporting the development of the culture and contents industry in the Asia and Pacific region, by establishing copyright systems and developing human resources. Under J-FITs, Japan has been conducting various activities such as organizing seminars and symposia, sending copyright experts overseas, and welcoming more than 370 trainees from 28 countries.

Next, we would like to touch upon the WIPO GREEN, which is mentioned in the working documents CDIP/25/2 and CDIP/25/6.

JPO joined the WIPO GREEN as a partner in February this year. JPO has been supporting activities of the WIPO GREEN in cooperation with the WIPO Japan Office, while utilizing J-FITs. From this year on as a partner, JPO would like to contribute more proactively to activities of the WIPO GREEN. We look forward to working with many of the partners.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce JPO's efforts for dissemination of the WIPO GREEN. Prior to the World IP Day on April 26th, JPO has launched a new web page for introducing the WIPO GREEN. On this page articles are posted introducing some activities by partners from Japan. Twenty-three partners from Japan have joined the WIPO GREEN, and their activities can be viewed collectively. We believe that it would be helpful in future activities for those considering joining the WIPO GREEN as partners and helpful in

utilization of the WIPO GREEN mechanism for people interested in green technologies. We hope that this page will help promote the expansion of WIPO GREEN activities.

Lastly, we would like to introduce updates of IP advantage, which relates to the Creative Economy, the topic of the Agenda Item 8 in this meeting.

We believe the IP Advantage, which is a collection of successful cases of projects that utilize IP, is effective in the context of development, although it is not included in any of the working documents for this meeting. In 2008, JPO and the WIPO Japan Office initiated a project proposal under J-FITs, in which the WIPO Japan Office would collect, develop and share stories of successful intellectual creation and entrepreneurship. The initiative would eventually evolve into the “IP Advantage” Database, a collection of over 200 case studies. Since some of the cases added currently relate to the Creative Industry, which is the topic of “IP and Development” agenda in this meeting, we would like to introduce them.

The first is an initiative of the Ishinomaki Laboratory. In 2011, Japan was struck by its strongest ever-recorded earthquake and a devastating tsunami. Post disaster, people took various initiatives to restore their lives. The initiative of the Ishinomaki Laboratory is one of these where they provide a space for people to rebuild their community together through do-it-yourself (DIY) projects. Equipped with trademark rights for a unique lineup of furniture and related goods developed by people putting their lives back together, the Ishinomaki Laboratory can protect its brand established by DIY.

The second is an initiative of Toyota Motor Corporation. In order to continue to be successful in the ever-changing area of innovation and branding, Toyota Motor Corporation understands the importance of protecting their inventions as well as their brands. Sakichi Toyoda, the founder of Toyota, filed a patent application for a wooden human-powered loom

in 1890, and since then he applied for patents on a number of inventions, resulting in a growing business. Adding to this, they have been incredibly proactive with the protection of their trademark assets. Their IP portfolio contains multiple trademarks registered using the WIPO Madrid System. Registration of trademarks helps to protect their distinctive signs from counterfeiting as well as other forms of misappropriation. Toyota Motor Corporation has always strived to expand its IP portfolio by proactively valuing and protecting their intangible assets for over a century.

Japan recognizes the importance of conducting development activities effectively and efficiently, in line with the objectives of WIPO, to protect IP. Going forward, the government of Japan, in cooperation with WIPO, is committed to further improving its cooperative initiatives to ensure that J-FITs are used even more efficiently and effectively.

I thank you, Madam Chair.