

Director General Darren Tang, Deputy Director General Lisa Jorgenson, Director Christine Bonvallet of the PCT International Cooperation Division, Director Andrew Michael Ong of the Asia Pacific Division, Lutz Mailander of the PCT International Cooperation Division Training and Examination Section, my colleagues in different IP offices, our partners in the PCT system, good afternoon.

Let me express my gratitude to the World Intellectual Property Organization for this opportunity to share the experience and learnings of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines' in implementing a Moodle-based learning management system as an important component in our capacity building and human resource development for our patent examiners.

It is auspicious that we are presenting this on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Philippines' accession to the PCT in 2001. Indeed, the two (2) decades have been a meaningful journey for IPOPHL from being a member of the PCT in 2001 to playing a bigger role as an international searching and preliminary examining authority (ISA/IPEA) in the global patent system today. As innovation becomes the engine that propels further technological development, the PCT system becomes even more relevant as the platform for protection of inventions globally and a mechanism for diffusion of knowledge.

In this light, we express our appreciation to WIPO for the continuous support in providing capacity building programs for our examiners. IPOPHL takes pride in supporting and being the partner of the International Bureau in developing a competency framework for substantive patent examiners and an Learning Management System using the open-source platform Moodle. The development of an efficient training program for patent examiners is a critical component of IPOPHL's holistic capacity building approach in enhancing our efficiency and quality of services in our operations as an ISA/IPEA. In this regard, we have developed and launched a structured training for new patent examiners and a continuous training program for senior examiners since 2013.

We are pleased that our bilateral partners such as the Japan Patent Office, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), European Patent Office (EPO) and IP Australia for the range of training-related capacity building activities which benefited IPOPHL over the years. Our training infrastructure has evolved from a curriculum-based into a competency - based under the Regional Patent Examination Training (RPET) Mentoring program with the assistance of IP Australia. The IPOPHL takes pride to be one of the first patent offices to pilot the competency-based training program to the new recruits in 2018.

As we continuously enhance our training infrastructure, we endeavor to develop a learning management system based on Moodle. We are fortunate to have partnered with WIPO on this Moodle project. We are

maintaining a local Moodle site at IPOPHL, which is accessible through the internet via Virtual Private Network (VPN). I am confident that we can further enhance our overall quality framework as we implement a Moodle-based LMS.

As a committed partner in enhancing the competencies of patent examiners, we express our willingness to share our experiences and extend support and assistance, within our capacity, to other medium and small size patent offices, which will embark on a similar endeavor.

To close, IPOPHL would like to encourage WIPO to continue implementing and supporting activities by member states to improve the coordination of patent examiner trainings. IPOPHL stands a ready partner to support WIPO on this and similar initiatives and undertakings.

Thank you and I wish everyone a productive side event.

I look forward to meeting everyone personally in the near future.