

GENERAL STATEMENT FROM BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Thank you, Madam Chair,

1. It is a great privilege and honour for me to make this statement on behalf of the Brunei Darussalam Delegation. We would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chair of the WIPO General Assembly and on the election of your vice-chairs.
2. We would also like to congratulate the Director General, Dr Francis Gurry and his team for their great work in ensuring that WIPO and the international IP system continues to stimulate innovation and creativity and in developing a balanced and accessible international IP system. We also commend Dr Gurry for the significant part that he plays in enhancing WIPO's role as facilitator of international IP forums and as a provider of IP services. We also thank the Secretariat for their excellent organisation of these series of meetings.
3. Brunei Darussalam also wishes to record our appreciation to WIPO for the continuous support and assistance rendered to us over the years.
4. We also wish to record our full support for the statement made by His Excellency, the Permanent Representative of Singapore on behalf of ASEAN member states.
5. Madam Chair, the year 2013 has been a fruitful and successful one for Brunei Darussalam in the field of intellectual property. For one, we are now one step closer to achieving our goal of establishing a full-fledged national IP office in Brunei Darussalam with the recent establishment of the Brunei Intellectual Property Office (BruiPO) under the Brunei Economic Development Board with support from the Attorney General's Chambers. With the recent absorption of the Registry of Trademarks, BruiPO is now currently an office responsible for intellectual property namely, patents, trademarks and industrial designs with the hope of also administering a plant variety protection system by the start of next year.
6. With the eventual completion of the reorganisation of intellectual property administration in Brunei Darussalam, the hope is that we can better manage policy coordination and increase the overall efficiency of IP administration in the country. We also hope that this greater coordination will allow us to leverage on the use of IP as a tool for economic growth.
7. To accompany this revamp of the Brunei Darussalam's intellectual property system, as always, WIPO has provided us with continuous support thus allowing for an improved and more dynamic IP infrastructure in Brunei Darussalam. In collaboration with the Brunei Intellectual Property Office (BruiPO), WIPO has recently helped to organise a workshop and national training on the PCT as well as an on-the-job training for patent examiners at BruiPO. In addition, WIPO also sent

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a Follow-up Mission on Integrated Management of IP Administration and a Preliminary Mission on the Development of a National IP Strategy whilst also helping us to implement an automated industrial property system through the deployment of a technical evaluation mission on IPAS. On this note, we are pleased to announce that BruIPO has automated its business processes with respect to patents and industrial designs with the full deployment of IPAS on 12 September. More recently, BruIPO has collaborated with WIPO to conduct a Training of Trainers Program on the Effective Use of IP by the business community, a program aimed to help the development of SMEs in Brunei Darussalam by enhancing their knowledge on the use of IP as a business tool.

8. Through these missions, WIPO has helped to fulfil one of its strategic goals, namely that of coordinating and developing a global IP infrastructure. Meanwhile, the offices responsible for intellectual property in Brunei have also played their due part in fulfilling another of WIPO's strategic goal that of building respect for IP. In conjunction with World IP day this year, the Brunei Intellectual Property Office (BruIPO) embarked on a schools' outreach program throughout the country to promote intellectual property rights protection whilst also hosting a successful and well-received video competition in collaboration with Telekom Brunei and the US Embassy in Brunei Darussalam where contestants were asked to construct a video highlighting the importance of the different forms of IP protection.

9. With regards to Brunei Darussalam's commitment in realising the 2015 ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) aspirations through the ASEAN IPR Action Plan 2011-2015, as mentioned earlier, Brunei Darussalam will accede to the Hague Agreement for the International Registration of Industrial Designs this week, making us the second ASEAN Member country to accede to the international system after Singapore. I would like to thank the Hague Registry of WIPO that has assisted us in the accession process as well as our ASEAN counterparts, whose valued opinions and support has helped to make Brunei's accessions to WIPO-administered treaties possible.

10. It is with many thanks to WIPO and their continuous support that I can say that Brunei Darussalam has had a year of many accomplishments in the field of IP, hopefully with many more to come in the near future. Given these rapid developments, we would be honoured to host a visit by the Director General to Brunei Darussalam soon. For the present, we look forward to having a fruitful and engaging General Assembly.

Thank you Madam Chair.

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Director
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