

Brunei Darussalam's Opening Statement at the 54th Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, 22-30 September 2014, Geneva

Madam President,

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 commending you for your excellent stewardship and trust that the General Assemblies will be conducted smoothly in your good hands.

2. We would also like to congratulate the Director General for his re-election and his team for their great work in ensuring that WIPO and the international IP system continues to stimulate innovation and creativity in developing a balanced and accessible international IP system. We also thank the Secretariat for their excellent organisation of these series of meetings in this beautiful conference hall.

3. We also wish to record our full support for the statement made by the Representative of Singapore yesterday on behalf of the ASEAN member states.

4. Brunei Darussalam also wishes to record our appreciation to WIPO for the continuous support and assistance rendered to us over the years.

5. Madam Chair, the year 2014 has been a fruitful and successful one for Brunei Darussalam in the field of intellectual property. The changes that took place in Brunei Darussalam's intellectual property administration last year made this year very challenging for our office, but with great challenges come even greater successes.

6. With the successful deployment of WIPO's Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS) for trademarks in June this year, work quality and efficiency has significantly improved; turnaround time in receiving and processing applications has become shorter and the dissemination of notifications has become much quicker, providing the Brunei Darussalam Intellectual Property Office (BruIPO) with a large boost in efficiency.

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. This conducive IP environment will hopefully start to come to ripen as early as next year, with WIPO's assistance in our upcoming digitization project which aims to scan all paper-based IP documents to allow for online filing, online search and online status enquiries. Although a daunting task, with WIPO's support, we are confident that we will continue to constantly look for ways to improve Brunei Darussalam's IP administration.

8. Also as part of our never ending goal to improve Brunei Darussalam's IP regime, we are currently making the necessary preparation for the implementation of a plant variety protection system. This is in line with BruIPO's goal to house a full-fledged

intellectual property office in the future, providing protection for all forms of intellectual property under one roof.

9. With regards to Brunei Darussalam's commitment in realising the 2015 ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) aspiration through the implementation of the ASEAN IPR Action Plan 2011-2015, Brunei Darussalam fully intends to meet its target of acceding to the core international registration treaties by 2015. Brunei Darussalam has already acceded to the Patent Corporation Treaty in 2012 and The Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of designs in 2013. Brunei Darussalam also intends to become a party to the Madrid protocol by 2015. With support from WIPO in doing so, we are confident that we can achieve this goal and become one step closer to implementing the ASEAN IPR Action Plan 2011-2015.

10. Support from WIPO has certainly not been lacking in 2014, with twelve WIPO-sponsored events taking place in Brunei Darussalam. These activities have varied greatly, from training for our Trademark examiners to national technology management seminars for our research and development institutions to many more events organised in collaboration with WIPO that have been of great help and assistance to a wide and varied audience in Brunei Darussalam. Earlier this month, BruIPO hosted an enforcement seminar in cooperation with WIPO which was well received by the enforcement agencies. Next month, BruIPO will again collaborate with WIPO and the JPO to host the Sub-regional Seminar on Effective Utilisation of Trademark Classification Systems which will be held back-to-back with a training on the Nice and Vienna classification systems for BruIPO's trademark staff. We look forward to this upcoming events and the many more that will be hosted in the future.

11. The immediate way forward for Brunei Darussalam would be in the completion of Brunei Darussalam's National IP Policy which is currently in the process of being constructed with the support of WIPO. It is our hope that this document will allow for IP to be used to contribute to Brunei Darussalam's development goals in the coming years and ensure that we have a strategy that is far-reaching and all-encompassing, and one that also uses IP as a vital development tool.

12. To conclude, it is with many thanks to WIPO and its 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 next year. For the present, we look forward to having a fruitful and engaging General Assemblies.

Thank you Madam President.

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