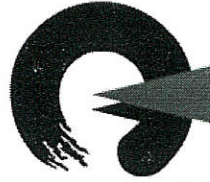


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General Statement

by

Kim Youngmin

Commissioner

Korean Intellectual Property Office

On the Occasion

of

the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

September 22, 2014

Geneva

Switzerland

1. Introduction

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Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair.

I would like to extend you my heartfelt congratulations on being elected chair of this assembly. *(Under your expert leadership, I believe this year's series of meetings will lead to highly beneficial outcomes.)*

This is my first opportunity to congratulate you in person, Dr. Francis Gurry, on being appointed to a second term as Director General of WIPO. On behalf of the Republic of Korea, I commend you on the success of your first term. Your integrity and IP expertise will serve WIPO well in dealing with critical issues faced by the international IP community.

2. Evaluation of WIPO Activities

Mr./Madam Chair and distinguished delegates:

Allow me to share my views and suggestions regarding such major WIPO issues as international norm-setting, IP services, and the development agenda.

Regarding international norm-setting, I believe that the IP community must work to develop and improve it in order to provide applicants and users with a high-degree of value.

That is why we deposited the instrument of accession to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement in March to ensure the highest quality service, then signed the Marrakesh Treaty in June to strike a balance between the use and protection of IP. We hope that our efforts will lead to other IP norm-setting activities and bring about immediate and positive results.

Secondly, regarding IP services, our delegation believes that External Offices must live up to the public's perception of them as hubs of cutting-edge customer support provision. As the Republic of Korea has often stated, we are strongly invested in this matter. We look forward to seeing this issue further addressed in an appropriate, constructive, and progressive manner.

Thirdly, I would now like to mention our efforts to bridge the IP divide that exists among the various member states.

As a former recipient of foreign aid, the Republic of Korea uniquely understands the plight of struggling economies, which is why we strive to help them reach their full potential.

Over the past decade, the Republic of Korea has helped build the capacities of various IP offices and increase global awareness of IP by contributing a total of around 10.8 million Swiss francs to the Korea Funds-In-Trust program at WIPO.

This year marks the 10th anniversary. I believe our cooperative activities throughout the past decade have been timely and effective. Rest assured of our commitment to narrowing the IP divide and assisting in the capacity-building of member states.

3. Republic of Korea's Recent Developments

Mr./Madam Chair and distinguished delegates:

Last but not least, regarding the Republic of Korea's national strategy for achieving an IP-based creative economy, I would like to highlight some recent our major developments.

To boost the securitization of IP rights and foster quick start-ups based on innovative ideas, the Republic of Korea is currently working to widen the range of potential beneficiaries eligible for IP-based financing.

In the meantime, the Republic of Korea has implemented a new government policy called “Open Government 3.0,” which enables the public to easily access and utilize government information, for example, IP documents or works owned or created, commissioned by the government, in order to create new values. *(Also, we have actively taken a lead in implementing regulatory reforms that aim to remove unnecessary obstacles to innovation and economic growth.)*

Regarding IP prosecution, we further enhanced our examination system in order to facilitate the creation of high-quality IPRs by introducing positive examination service, which helps applicants acquire high-quality patents by boosting interactive communication with examiners regarding the proper scope of the inventions and a collective examination system, in which multiple applications related to a single product can be examined simultaneously

4. Closing

Mr./Madam Chair and distinguished delegates:

Although faced with new challenges in this modern age of uncertainty, the international IP community has successfully cooperated to develop and improve international IP systems. The Republic of Korea is eager to lend its full support to WIPO by collaborating further with our fellow member states.

I believe that such collaboration is key for getting us through the current economic storm.

Thank you.