

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM'S OPENING STATEMENT
58th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
24 September – 2 October 2018
Geneva, Switzerland

Mr President,

1. Brunei Darussalam would like to join others to express our condolences to you and the people of Vietnam over the passing of President Tran Dai Quang. Mr. President, at the outset, it is with great privilege to deliver this statement on behalf of the Brunei Darussalam delegation. Brunei Darussalam would like to join the previous speakers in commending you for your excellent stewardship of the proceedings and we are confident that the General Assemblies will be well conducted under your leadership.

2. Brunei Darussalam also wishes to express and note our appreciation to WIPO for the continued support and assistance extended to us over the past year. We would also like to congratulate the Director General, Dr Francis Gurry and his team for the continued good work in ensuring that WIPO and the international IP system continues to evolve as an enabler for innovation and technological progress. We also thank the Secretariat for their excellent organisation of these series of meetings.

3. We would also wish to record our full support for the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the ASEAN Member States and associate ourselves with the Asia Pacific Group`s statement.

4. Mr President, 2018 has brought a continuation development of Brunei Darussalam`s IP infrastructure, development which could not have been achieved without the support of WIPO. Brunei Darussalam has continued efforts to strengthen services towards a model that promotes IP accessibility and convenience.

5. With the completion of the WIPO-supported digitisation project, Brunei Darussalam now has its own public search platform powered by WIPO Publish which can be accessed from the Brunei Darussalam IP Office (BruIPO) website (<http://ipsearch.bruipo.gov.bn>). This significant milestone has enabled BruIPO to publish its data online and has helped BruIPO to manage and store all its IP data.

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6. In addition, WIPO has supported BruIPO in the implementation of the Madrid System by providing technical assistance in streamlining its business flow to enable it to process international applications efficiently; as well as providing on-the-job training and promoting the international system to local businesses.

7. To continue upon the themes of increasing efficiency and providing the best service possible, Brunei Darussalam continues in its efforts to streamline office processes in order to provide the best possible service to utilisers by implementing an e-Filing system for IP applications using WIPO File. The online filing link and e-payment gateway are live for testing and customisation, and is planned to be launched in April 2019 in conjunction with the World IP Day celebration.

8. To accompany this increase in office management efficiency, Brunei Darussalam continues to use work-sharing initiatives in order to increase our examination efficiency. Brunei Darussalam avails itself to the use of tools provided in WIPO's Global Brand Database (GBD) in order to provide a more meticulous and thorough trade mark examination. Our work-sharing initiatives also extend to the world of patents which sees us as the first ASEAN PatentScope Coordinator with the latest adaptation of the ASEAN PatentScope work-sharing platform.

9. Mr President, the last few years have indeed been progressive for Brunei Darussalam and also for all our fellow ASEAN Member States. Brunei Darussalam has seen a steady growth in the creative industry and this is evident in the number of rising local IP applications. I believe that we can do more to help our MSMEs, and the creative and innovative sector, in utilizing the IP system effectively and creating a better understanding of its relevance in society.

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10. In addition to the above, a number of forthcoming areas of cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and WIPO have been identified in the upcoming year, such as implementation of the recommendations under the Resource Management Diagnostic of our IP Office, assistance in activities under the Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs), launch of e-Filing using WIPO FILE, follow-up training on the Madrid System and sub-regional seminar on PCT. Most of the cooperation activities are carefully designed to address the priority IP needs of Brunei Darussalam and will undoubtedly contribute towards Brunei Darussalam's national development and economic goals.

11. Mr President, support from WIPO in 2018 has continued to be constant and ever-evolving. The support is always adapting to the needs of the small office that we have in Brunei Darussalam and for this we would like to express our gratitude to WIPO and we look forward to further collaborations and WIPO's invaluable support in activities under the **ASEAN IP Rights Action Plan 2016-2025** of which we are country champion.

12. To conclude, it is with great pleasure that I laude the year 2018 as one of advancement in the field of IP in Brunei Darussalam; advancement that has been realised with the help and support of WIPO. We hope to accelerate our advancement in the year 2019 and to utilise IP as a tool for growth and development of Brunei Darussalam.

Thank you.

Pg Hj Mohd Hasnan Bin Pg Hj Ali Hassan
Permanent Secretary (Industry) & Registrar of Trade Marks,
Patents, Industrial Designs and Plant Varieties
Ministry of Energy, Manpower and Industry
24 September 2018