

# Current status of the preparation for the accession to the Madrid system of Lao PDR



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## Presentation

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- Strategy
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- Conclusion

## Introduction

Lao PDR is one country who has not yet joined the Madrid System, but we have commitment to be member by the year 2015 , because our main goal beside this is expecting to be member of WTO by the year of 2013 while we will export Lao products to world market that reflect to our preparation to join the Madrid System for the international trademark protection . Because the Madrid System is a Facilitating for trademark protection in export markets through a simple, expeditious and cost-effective procedure .

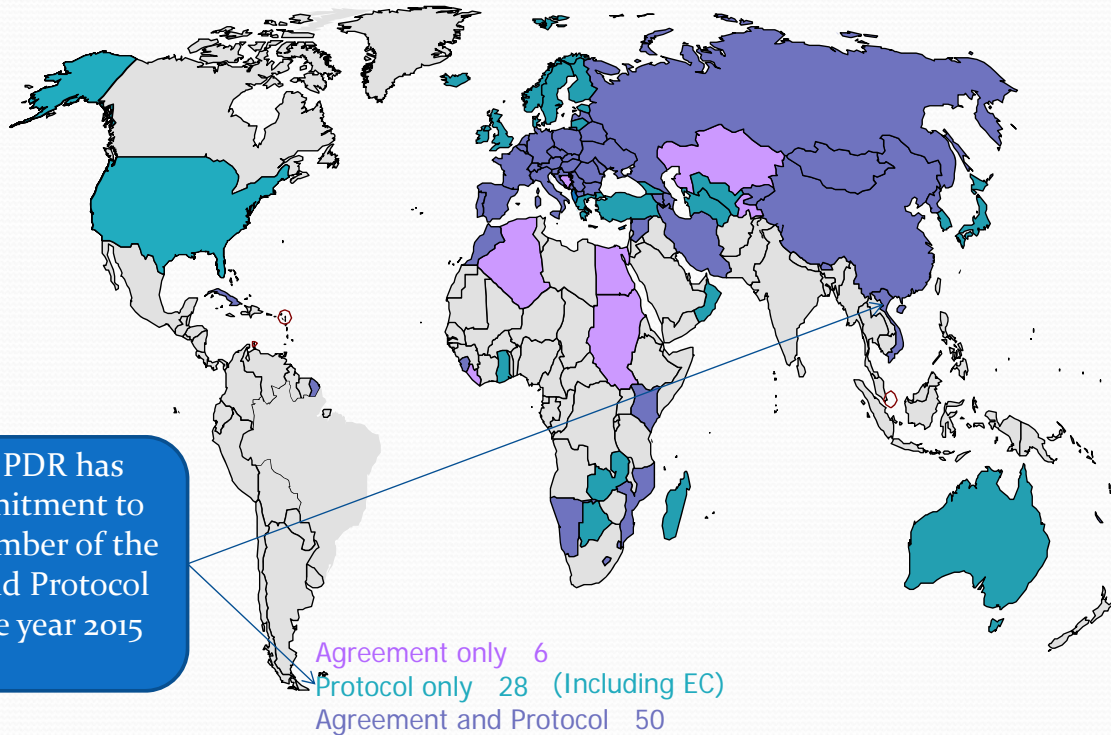
## Background

Lao PDR is one of the 186 WIPO members who respect and protect IP issues:

- Initiate with IP activities since 1992.
- Member of WIPO in 1995
- ASEAN Working Group on IP Cooperation in 1997
- Paris Convention on protection of Industrial Property in 1998
- Patent Cooperation treaty (PCT) in 2006
- Berne Convention being member from 14/03/2012

 Only Madrid Protocol expecting to be Member in 2015

# Madrid Union – 84 Members



## IP STRATEGY

- Strengthen and harmonize IP legislation to comply with TRIPS agreement and other Conventions that Lao PDR is bound, so as to facilitate Lao PDR accessing to WTO member by the year 2013 and Madrid System by the year 2015.
- Use IP system to stimulate and promote trade, investment, technology transfer and R&D in the country
- Respect and Protect IP right owners by law to encourage inventiveness and creativeness of human mind
- Combat the IP rights Infringement and illegal business practices.
- Cooperate and Seek to join WIPO treaties

## Effort toward the accession the Madrid System

- National Laws & Regulations

The Lao amended IP Law which is approved by the Lao National assembly in 20 December 2011 is being the IP legal system in Lao PDR expecting to comply with TRIPS agreement and Madrid System

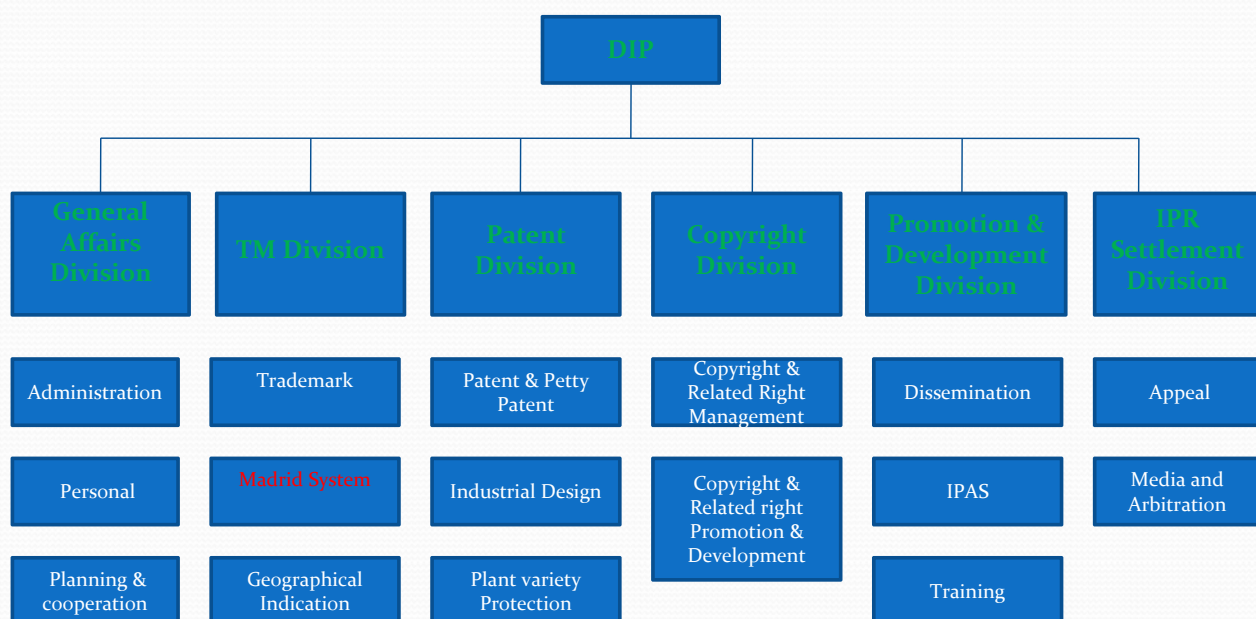
- Organization

To be established as Department of Intellectual Property ( DIP ) under the Ministry of Science and Technology ( MOST )

- Preparation

Research and Study the need and Necessary of Madrid System after WTO

## Organization Chart of DIP



## SOME ADVANTAGES and DIFFICULTIES

### National System

- many procedures
- many forms
- many languages
- many fees
- many currencies
- many registrations
- many modifications

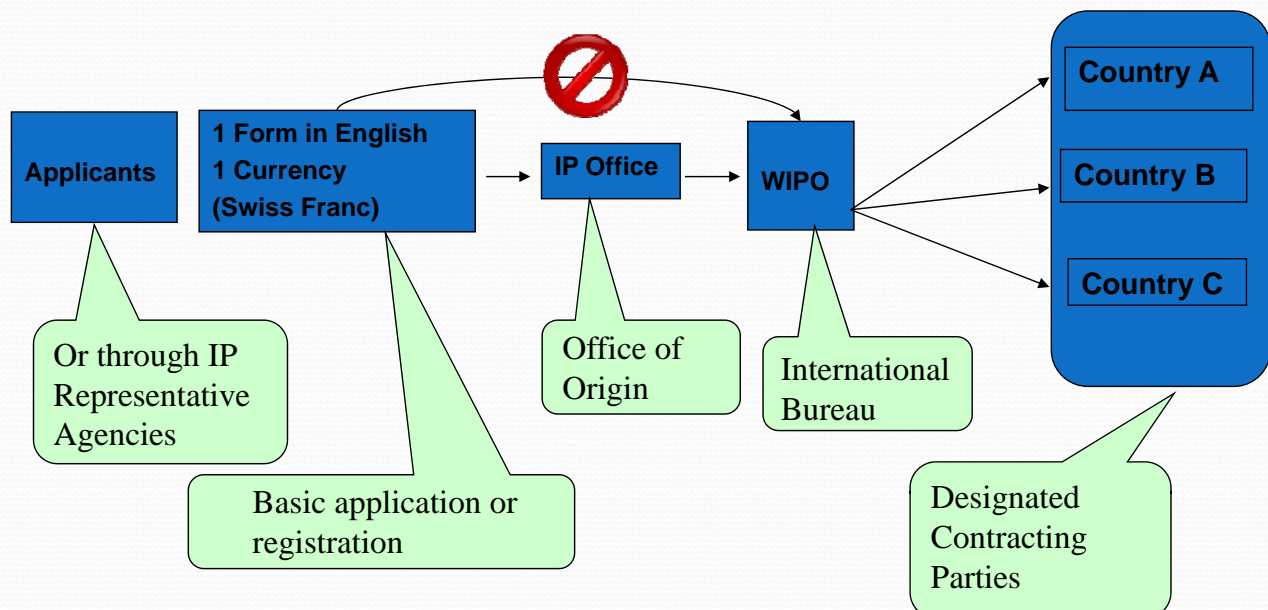
### Madrid System

- one procedure
- one form
- one language
- one set of fees
- one currency
- one registration
- one modification

### DIFFICULTY

The impact on the work process and work flow dealing with their implications and requirement concerning to ICT facilities

## Madrid Protocol Filing




Representative if any



## Conclusion

Lao PDR is still not yet joining have been interested to join to Madrid Protocol, but we should study to better understanding of the Madrid System and its costs and benefits to country's economies.

As for DIP who is the focal point for IP issue, we are trying in our effort to access to the said system. Hopefully, by this Program , I will report the real advantage and difficulty of the Madrid system and experience learned from JPO today to my high Authority for their consideration of accessing to the Madrid System in the near future.



**Ending**, I wish to thank WIPO as well as JPO for giving Lao participants opportunity to attend this important and useful workshop in beautiful city Tokyo .



**Thank you**

**Ratsamy PHANTHAVONG**

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