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STATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



WORLD INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

**SECOND INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON
CREATIVITY AND INVENTION – A BETTER FUTURE FOR
HUMANITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

organized by
the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

in cooperation with
the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of
the People's Republic of China

Beijing, May 23 to 25, 2002

OPENING ADDRESS

*by Mr. Martti Enäjärvi, Director General, National Board
of Patents and Registration of Finland, Helsinki*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I should like to thank the Government of the Republic of China – and the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of the People's Republic of China in particular – for making it possible to arrange this “Second International Forum on Creativity and Invention – A Better Future for Humanity in the 21st Century” here in China. I also wish to express my warmest thanks to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and all those within the WIPO staff who have taken part in the arrangements for this Forum. In this connection, I should like to remind you of the fact that the idea of arranging these Forums was originally conceived and the decision to realize them was taken by Dr. Kamil Idris, Director General of WIPO. This idea of his, which has now come true, is a characteristic example of how he through concrete action encourages the WIPO member countries to intensify their cooperation in the enhancement of creativity and inventiveness. This is something we especially appreciate.

We have been given a splendid opportunity to hold this meeting here in historic and beautiful Beijing. As we all know, since the early 1980s the People's Republic of China has built up a modern intellectual property system which is constantly being improved. The Chinese Patent Office or SIPO is also known for its active and effective work in the field of intellectual property. Over the decades, China has contributed in the most positive and vital way to the work done at WIPO. I should like to thank our Chinese hosts most warmly for that.

The goal of this Forum, like the first Forum which was held in Finlandia Hall, Helsinki, in October 2000, is to enter into as open and constructive as possible a dialogue on ways of promoting creativity and inventiveness in the world in order to ensure a better future for as many as possible. It is a well-known fact that intellectual property systems support these intentions in all parts of the world where they function well. Creativity and inventiveness in conjunction with intellectual property have laid the foundation for the well-being of industrialized countries, and at the same time they embody the hope for a better future in developing countries and countries in transition. When discussing these things we must, however, be realistic. It is worth keeping in mind that, at the same time as we talk about globalization, the promotion of international intercourse and commerce, cold facts tell us that there are for example three billion people in the world, about half of its entire population, who have never made or answered a telephone call. Differences in level of economic and technological development are still quite big, but we must not give in to despair. Instead, let us put our effort into striving for a better future. In that very respect creativity and inventiveness are of crucial significance to us.

With that in mind, let us start listening to today's introductions and panels. Indeed, rather than just listen, let us take an active part in the discussion if possible. The issues addressed here are important to us all and to a better future for mankind. I also hope that after this Forum has finished its work we, having drawn inspiration from the presentations, can take some concrete steps towards promoting this worthy cause in our home countries.

For my part, I wish this meeting every success and each of you all the best in your tasks.

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