

**Brunei Darussalam's Opening Statement at the 55th Assemblies  
of the Member States of WIPO  
5-14 October, Geneva**

Mr 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. Brunei Darussalam also wishes to record our appreciation to WIPO for the continuous support and assistance rendered to us over the years. In particular, we would like to congratulate the Director General, Dr Francis Gurry 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.

3. Mr President, the year of 2015 brought with it, a myriad of developments in the field of IP for Brunei Darussalam, many of which could not have been achieved without the unwavering support of WIPO. Brunei Darussalam has started to move away from an office that is simply developing new systems of IP towards one that is concentrating upon utilization of IP and many of our developments this year provide evidence to this.

4. To begin our journey towards becoming an office that encourages better utilization and exploitation of IP, we first of all had to have the right policies in place to govern this. With the assistance of WIPO, Brunei Darussalam has drafted and adopted its first National Intellectual Property Strategy (NIPS) which serves as a policy paper that aims to help Brunei Darussalam achieve its development goals through greater utilization of IP. Some of the themes of the National IP Strategy include, greater promotion of innovation, advanced public awareness strategies as well as looking at the commercialization of IP; themes that serve as a great mark of Brunei Darussalam's development in the field of IP, as it was only just over 3 years ago that we did not even have a standalone patent law in the country.

5. To accompany this shift towards looking at IP as a tool for development, Brunei Darussalam has spent a great part of 2015 planning for the setup of our first Technology Innovation Centers (TISCs). It is our hope that these centers will serve innovators and researchers alike, to expose them to the technology trends that are taking place whilst providing them with a center where they carry out all their IP-related research and development. With the assistance that WIPO continues to provide us in this particular field, it is our hope that we will have our first Technology Innovation Centers set up before the end of 2015.

6. Continuing upon this theme of moving towards an office that is attempting to provide a more sophisticated and improved service, Brunei Darussalam has continued in the year 2015 to improve the backend services whilst making plans for the future on improving the frontend. BrulPO has been using the IPAS system since 2013 with continuous support

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from WIPO, with our office experiencing significant improvements in efficiency and turnaround time of applications as a result of this. In line with this desire to improve efficiency and convenience, BruIPO is also working closely with WIPO towards achieving a paperless system for IP applications in Brunei Darussalam, with the WIPO EDMS and WIPO Digitization projects leading this particular charge.

7. Brunei Darussalam has also begun to look at work-sharing initiatives in 2015 as a way to streamline our office process for examination. Earlier this year, BruIPO joined the WIPO Global Brand Database (GBD) and we hope to become a depositing member of WIPO Case in the near future.

8. Also as part of our never ending goal to improve Brunei Darussalam's IP regime, we have now had our plant variety protection system adopted, moving us closer to achieving our goal of having a fully-fledge IP office that encompasses all forms of intellectual property under one roof.

9. With regards to Brunei Darussalam's commitment in realizing 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 IP treaties by the end of this year. 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 for trademarks within the coming months. 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 in 2015 has continued to be transformative and always-evolving. It is support that has adapted to the needs of a small IP office such as Brunei Darussalam that continues to grow and continues to have new goals with every new calendar year. We are grateful for this support and look forward to many more collaborations in the future, with the more immediate ones being the finalization of the implementation of Brunei Darussalam's Technology Innovation Service Centers as well as the movement of Brunei Darussalam towards a digitized, paperless office.

11. 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 advancements in the field of IP and we look forward to continue the momentum in 2016, to become an IP office that serves our country as best it can and an office that will contribute to the continued development of our nation.

Thank you.

**Ms Shahrinah Yusof Khan**

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