

**Japan's Interventions at WIPO**  
**Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)**  
**Twenty-sixth Session**  
**July 26 to July 30, 2021**

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| <b>Agenda item 3: General Statements</b> |
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Thank you, Madam Chair.

The delegation of Japan aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B.

At the outset, this delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Chair for all of the hard work performed to make this session of the CDIP a success. This delegation would also like to commend the Secretariat for its efforts in arranging this meeting under the difficult circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We will be actively involved and engaged in WIPO's efforts to overcome this challenging situation.

Since 1987, each year, the government of Japan has made voluntary contributions to WIPO for its development initiatives in the field of intellectual property. This year, Japan contributed 4.7 million Swiss francs.

Making effective use of these voluntary contributions, which are called the Funds-in-Trust Japan Industrial Property Global (FIT Japan IP Global), Japan has been implementing a variety of programs to assist developing countries all over the world in the field of industrial property. The Japan Patent Office (JPO) has invited more than 1,800 trainees since 1996, from 61 countries and four regional IP offices. In addition, JPO has sent more than 400 of its own experts to 38 countries since 1987. The work plan includes workshops and seminars, and support for the IP offices to either launch or upgrade their IT infrastructure.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to highlight some activities conducted through the FIT Japan IP Global.

Firstly, FIT Japan IP Global has been used to help WIPO's activities involved with implementing the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

For example, FIT Japan IP Global was used to finance master's degree programs in IP, with the collaboration of WIPO, ARIPO, and OAPI at Africa University in Harare, Zimbabwe and the University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon. About 30 students from ARIPO and OAPI member countries attend the programs each year, and FIT Japan IP Global provides scholarships to about 12 students each year. So far, 189 persons have graduated from the programs and they are actively contributing to advancing IP in their respective countries. We believe these programs are helpful for ARIPO and OAPI member countries because, they can turn out future leaders who will be responsible for their national, economic, science and technology policies from the aspect of intellectual property.

Furthermore, WIPO has conducted feasibility studies on staff training for the Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC), established by WIPO, for the purpose of improving access to information on intellectual property in developing countries. In 2020, two, regional, online meetings for member states of the ARIPO and ASEAN were held to discuss the further development of the regional TISC network based on the results of the feasibility studies. We think that these meetings will help improve the functions of TISC, which provides innovators with access to locally based, high-quality, technology information and supporting innovators who provide services for exploiting their potential and for creating, protecting, and managing their intellectual property rights.

Secondly, FIT Japan IP Global has also been used to help activities on IP and development in the area of digitization.

FIT Japan IP Global has been used to help digitize national IP data in several countries since 2017. For example, they help digitize IP documents in Botswana, Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and OAPI in 2020. We believe that high-quality digital IP data of national IP rights makes the IP office administrations in these countries more functional and allows the users to manage their applications more efficiently.

In the field of copyrights, Japan has been supporting the development of the culture and contents industry in the Asia and Pacific region, by establishing copyright systems and developing human resources. Under the FIT Japan IP Global, Japan has been conducting various activities such as organizing seminars and symposia, sending copyright experts overseas, and welcoming more than 390 trainees from 29 countries.

Next, we would like to touch upon WIPO GREEN, which is mentioned in the working documents CDIP/26/3.

JPO joined WIPO GREEN as a partner in February last year. JPO has been supporting activities of the WIPO GREEN in cooperation with the WIPO Japan Office, while utilizing FIT Japan IP Global. From last year on as a partner, JPO would like to contribute more proactively to activities of the WIPO GREEN. We look forward to working with many of the partners.

We would like to take this opportunity to mention JPO's efforts in promoting WIPO GREEN. JPO has launched an introductory page (<https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/news/kokusai/green.html>)

for WIPO GREEN. On this page articles are posted that describe some activities by partners from Japan. Twenty-nine partners from Japan have joined WIPO GREEN, and their activities can be viewed. We believe that this information is helpful for future activities, and for those considering joining the WIPO GREEN as partners. It is helpful also in terms of people's using WIPO GREEN to find people interested in green technologies. We hope that this page will lead to further advance WIPO GREEN activities.

In addition, the JPO has started to support Acceleration Project in Latin America utilizing FIT Japan IP Global from this year. The JPO's interest is to produce concrete best practices and present them to the world. And then, this brings more attention to WIPO GREEN, increases the number of participating companies, produces more best practices, and enables WIPO to achieve the SDGs. This is what we believe to be the ideal approach. We hope that this support will further encourage the matching of green technologies to needs in Argentina, Brazil and Chile, which are targets of the Acceleration Project, and which produce best practices.

Furthermore, last month JPO jointly with WIPO held a symposium on WIPO GREEN's initiatives that facilitate the advancement of green technologies around the world. By having facilitating valuable discussions with users and the WIPO at the symposium, the JPO did its part to help solve environmental issues, which require making effective use of intellectual property. The documents and archived video are available on the JPO website ([https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/news/kokusai/seminar/wipo\\_green.html](https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/news/kokusai/seminar/wipo_green.html)).

Lastly, we would like to share some updates on IP advantage, which is about the Creative Economy, the topic of Agenda Item 6 in this meeting.

We believe IP Advantage, which is a collection of successful cases in which IP was utilized, is effective in the context of development. In 2008, JPO and the WIPO Japan Office initiated a project under the then Japan Funds-in-Trust, which is the predecessor of FIT Japan IP Global. The project involves the WIPO Japan Office's collecting, creating, and sharing stories on successful intellectual creation and entrepreneurship. The initiative eventually evolved into the "IP Advantage Database", a collection of over 200 case studies. Since some of the cases added are about the Creative Industry, which is the topic of the "IP and Development" agenda in this meeting, we would like to mention one of them.

This story describes the initiative by a Japanese retail company "Fast Retailing". Fast Retailing not only designs, manufactures, distributes, and sells a wide array of apparel, they also focus heavily on their branding for not only establishing consumer awareness but also to gain loyalty. The Fast Retailing Group understands the importance of providing each of their brands with the appropriate level of protection. They believe that registering their brands as trademarks under the IP system is the best way to effectively protect their investment in branding, goods, and even specific services. The Group actively strives to secure trademark protection in countries where new stores are opened or where manufacturing partnerships are established. In such cases where there is a high demand for trademark registrations in multiple jurisdictions, the WIPO Madrid System offers a cost-effective way for them to apply for trademark protection by filing a single international trademark application. As the Group further grows and becomes evolved in new and existing markets, a solid branding strategy and well-structured system for international trademark protection are musts. The convenient and cost-effective procedures under the WIPO Madrid System provide the necessary means for companies looking to achieve such goals.

Japan recognizes the importance of conducting development activities effectively and efficiently, in line with the objectives of WIPO, to protect IP. Going forward, the government of Japan, in cooperation with WIPO, is committed to further improving its cooperative initiatives to ensure that FIT Japan IP Global is used even more efficiently and effectively.

I thank you, Madam Chair.