

**General Statement of the Republic of Korea  
at the 57th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the  
Member States of World Intellectual Property Organization  
(WIPO) in 2017**

Thank you, Mr. Chair

I would like to offer my congratulations to you for being elected chair of this General Assembly. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Director General and the Secretariat for their unsparing effort for this meeting.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

As new technology, such as Artificial Intelligence and Big Data, rapidly advances, I believe that the field of IP needs to be preemptively prepared for the changing technological environment. We are at a crucial time to establish a virtuous cycle of IP where new technology can be sufficiently valued by providing strong and flexible protection and, as a result, innovation is further expedited.

However, recently, there is an evolving international proliferation of counterfeit goods, which has begun to display attributes of transnational organized crime. At WIPO in September, the Advisory Committee on Enforcement held discussions on “Institutional Arrangements Concerning Intellectual Property Enforcement Policies and Regimes to Address Online Infringements” in order to reinforce IP protection. I believe such discussions are occurring at a proper time. Likewise, we look forward to seeing more dynamic discussions on the issues of IP enforcement to continue in WIPO.

Meanwhile, if new ideas and technologies are not protected for the reason that there is no system in place, it is certain that innovation will be hindered. The world needs to consider methods of more flexible IP protection, such as systems which broadly prohibit activities that free ride on a third party's technologies and ideas.

The 4th Industrial Revolution, to be brought by new technology, is being discussed actively and globally. At the 7th ASEM Economic Ministers Meeting hosted in September by Korea, actions to initiate recognition of the 4th Industrial Revolution era were deliberated focusing on the diffusion of creativity and innovation. Moreover, a committee on the 4th Industrial Revolution was established under the President of Korea. It is our hope that the future of the new era brought by new technologies will be earnestly discussed in WIPO, as well as, ways to respond to it.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

Our delegation is of the view that the role of the Asia region needs to be strengthened in order to improve the services provided for IP users by WIPO.

I would like to mention that PCT applications contribute to 75% of the WIPO revenue, and, an impressive 44.6% of those applications came from Republic of Korea, China, and Japan. Furthermore, the portion of PCT applications filed in Asian languages is a considerable 42%. In other words, it is obvious that the Asia region plays a prominent role in the field of IP.

However, WIPO engages a disproportionately low number of personnel originating from Asian countries who have the capacity to process PCT applications in the original language. Consequently, this situation interferes with providing the best service to IP users.

Therefore, we believe that WIPO should reasonably consider how quality service for IP users can be improved and also the enduring performances of the Asian countries when determining WIPO's new External Offices and employment of WIPO personnel.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates:

Last but not least, our delegation believes that more effort is needed to bridge the IP gap among member states for the sustainable development of the IP system.

It is significant that WIPO performs various activities to expedite innovation. However, we believe it is also important to put effort into reducing the IP divide between developed and developing countries. Therefore, a balance between pursuing innovation and bridging the IP gap is needed.

Utilizing the Funds-in-Trust, the Republic of Korea has continuously supported development of appropriate technologies and brands for other countries. In April, these experiences were shared with developing countries at the "Heads of IP Offices Conference" held in Daejeon, Korea co-hosted by the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the WIPO. Around the same time, the "Inter-regional Training Workshop on Emerging Issues in Copyright and Needs for Updating Knowledge and Institutional Capacity" was also held in Seoul, Korea where 15 countries were in attendance, which contributes to strengthening the copyright capacity of each government.

The Republic of Korea has achieved considerable economic development by using IP. In this manner, we fully understand the needs of developing countries and the importance of IP for progress. We will remain fully committed to the responsibility of advancing the global IP community.

Thank you.