

General Statement by Japan at the 59th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2019
Version as Delivered

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of Japan, I extend my gratitude for your dedicated work as the chairman of the General Assembly, and also I express my appreciation to Director General Francis Gurry and the Secretariat for their efforts in holding these Meetings.

Today, our society is in the midst of a transformation that comes only once in a century. We are experiencing rapid advances in Information and Communication Technologies. With these changes, WIPO is expected to take the lead in encouraging innovations based on emerging technologies such as the IoT and AI. WIPO is to be the driving force to enhance people's lifestyles everywhere.

Furthermore, Japan wants WIPO to advance innovations in developing countries by promoting advanced technologies, achieving SDGs, and correcting social disparities.

WIPO can do it because it was created based on inherent functions built in its objectives. They are: to provide international filing services, expand the global IP infrastructure, and lead in designing the IP system for a new generation.

Innovators and creators throughout the world are WIPO's users, so WIPO should encourage their activities. Now, WIPO just launched a new IP Portal. Japan welcomes such efforts to improve services from the standpoint of users.

Here, I would like to talk about Japan's initiatives regarding our expectations for WIPO.

Japan responded to the need to appropriately protect new technologies. Japan developed a new patent classification for IoT and published patent examination case examples on AI. This November, we will host an international symposium on AI inventions in Tokyo.

In further developing the IP infrastructure, Japan has been supporting developing countries for 30 years through the WIPO Japan Fund. One recent achievement is the branding of Taita baskets made in Kenya. This was mentioned at an event held during the last Assemblies. In addition, a new branding project was launched in Botswana.

This year, by increasing the Japan Fund, the whole world and not only specific regions is now eligible for support.

In 2018, we carried out cooperative activities with Botswana, Cambodia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Rwanda, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe, welcoming trainees and sending our IP experts to them. I was quite impressed with the enthusiasm of the trainees. Japan will continue to conduct cooperative activities hand-in-hand with numerous countries.

Japan looks forward to further development of WIPO.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.