

GENERAL STATEMENT
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Department of Intellectual Property, Lao PDR

59th
Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
30 September 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

H.E. Duong Chi Dung, Chairman of the 59th General Assembly
H.E. Mr. Francis Gurry Director General of WIPO
Honorable Delegates,

On behalf of the Delegation of Lao People's Democratic Republic, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to His Excellency Duong Chi Dung on your excellent chairmanship that led the 58th General Assembly a great success last year and I firmly belief that with your rich experience, diplomatic skills and able guidance, once again this session of Assemblies will be a greater success.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my delegation's appreciation for the comprehensive report by Director General Francis Gurry on WIPO's accomplishments over the past year. We stand ready to work with WIPO and all member states in order to advance our common goal in striving for the development of a balanced global intellectual property system that enables all countries to benefit, fostering their respective socio-economic development.

Like other LDCs, our national economy has traditionally been reliant on natural resources and labor-intensive industries. However, Lao PDR is implementing forward-looking policies to modernize its economy and to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain and big data, which would not only have an impact on the IP system but also on our life. Accordingly, the Government is putting

emphasis on intangible assets, advanced technology and research and development to drive our economy in the future for sustainable growth and development. In this connection, with the support of WIPO the Department of Intellectual Property had worked closely with relevant stakeholders in developing the National IP Development Strategy of Lao PDR from now up to 2025 and the Vision up to 2030. Furthermore, following the recommendations made by the Resource and Management Diagnostic Report for DIP, we are streamlining our domestic legislations to be more in line with international standards, providing stronger protection and facilitating the IP registration as we have recently promulgated the 3rd revision of the IP Law and now preparing for all implementing regulations. At the same time, we have worked very hard to fully achieve the goals in the hope of developing human resources and infrastructure in the area of IP, achieving better management and administration of IP rights in providing convenient and fast access to services as we are launching an E-filing system by the end of this year. All of these positive developments would not have been possible without the valuable technical assistance and valuable advice by WIPO.

We are also enhancing public awareness and promoting effective use of IP system to support an increase of trade and business competitiveness particularly for SMEs by implementing the Project on Enabling IP Environment (EIE Project) for branding of local products.

Our Delegation notes the good progress of the work done in WIPO in the past year, and we are pleased that Lao PDR has continuously benefited from the technical assistance provided to developing and least developed Member States in order to further strengthen our capacities to benefit from the IP system.

Mr. Chairman,

It is our great honor to be able to receive DG Francis Gurry to Laos for our World IP Day Celebration in April next year, as his presence is very important to our Government and would undoubtedly contribute to further enhancement of IP system in Lao PDR. This year, I was also honored to have a chance to welcome Deputy Director General Wang Binying and her delegation to Lao PDR to share the valuable lessons on IP Development at the International Level which helped raised the importance of IP work among the government agencies in Lao PDR.

Consistent with our goal to utilize the IP system to enhance innovation and research, we are also working with WIPO to establish a national network of the Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISCs) in Lao PDR in the near future. On the international treaty accessions, we have taken an initiative to accede to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications and our efforts to accede to the Hague Agreement, WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, WIPO Copyright Treaty, Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances and the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks continue in order to allow our local businesses to explore markets outside our country and to encourage foreign businesses to invest in product development by providing them easier access to our IP system and our market. We also intend to explore how to implement mechanisms to protect genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions of Lao PDR.

With that note, my delegation wish success to this year's General Assemblies and I thank you for kind attention, Mr. Chairman!