

**General Statement of Japan at the 58th Series of Meetings of the
Assemblies of the Member States of World Intellectual Property
Organization (WIPO) in 2018
Version as Delivered**

At the outset, Japan would like to extend our sincere condolences to Viet Nam, on the passing president Tran Dai Quang.

Let me express our appreciation for the efforts of the WIPO General Assembly Chair, the Vietnamese Ambassador Duong Chi Dung, DG Francis Gurry and his team at the Secretariat. I would also like to thank WIPO staff for their work on preparing the exhibition “Celebrating the 10th anniversary of Japan Funds-in-Trust for Africa & LDCs,” to be inaugurated tomorrow. I hope to welcome many of you at this event.

This year of course marks PCT’s 40th anniversary. If we trace back another century, it was at the Paris Expo when concern over protection for the inventions on display led to the Paris Convention and eventually, to WIPO.

WIPO is unique among international organizations in being almost entirely self-funded through the services it provides. We, member states have a responsibility to encourage and support WIPO in continuing to improve its services from a user perspective, and becoming a real model for other international organizations in terms of user-friendliness.

Our IP offices place the same emphasis on user-friendliness.

There are of course many different types of users. Take startups, for example. They don’t have the luxury of people, money, or time. Very few of them have IP expertise. Therefore, services that startups find easy to use will be easy for everyone to use.

Thus, the JPO has recently been focusing on supporting startups.

To meet their needs for speed, In July this year, we introduced a fast-track patent examination service that returns a first response in 20 days with a total pendency of two months and a half.

We followed this in August by setting up a design-driven management organization to make the JPO interface more start-up-friendly. We see great potential in design thinking as an effective means of more accurately gauging the needs of new types of “customers” and revisiting how we operate to meet those needs.

The JPO is also improving services for global users.

An invention is virtually guaranteed a patent in Japan, once it has received recognition of patentability in an ISR, which, by the way, we draw up in English. Going ahead, our plan is to link ISRs and domestic examinations to boost that likelihood to 100 percent. We also look for ways to reduce the cost of translating the necessary documents into Japanese.

This combination of ISR recognition and patent acquisition in Japan, then linked internationally via the PPH, will significantly enhance the JPO's capacity to serve as a global patent gateway.

In closing, I'd like to return to the topic of expos. Japan is bidding to host the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, and your support for that bid would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.