

General Statement by Japan at the 62nd Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2021

First of all, the delegation of Japan would like to express our gratitude to the Chair of the General Assembly and the Secretariat for their dedication and efforts in organizing the General Assembly of Member States under the difficult circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Japan would like to congratulate Director General Daren Tang on the smooth launch of the new administration after assuming his new position.

Firstly, Japan supports the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) to be discussed at this Meeting. This delegation looks forward to the mission outlined in the MTSP being accomplished, and taking the lead in creating a global IP Ecosystem in order to encourage innovation.

The updated Mission, Vision and Values (MVV) is recently released by the Japan Patent Office (JPO). This delegation believes that it shares the same views as the WIPO's mission. Because, it is designed to promote innovation based on jointly working with all stakeholders involved in the IP Ecosystem. The common keywords among them are "IP ecosystem", "promote innovation", "stakeholders" and "future". In order to achieve WIPO's mission, Japan will continue to support its activities.

Secondly, Japan also attaches great importance to WIPO's activities on developing IP infrastructure. Proceeding steadily with developing this infrastructure worldwide is necessary for WIPO to achieve its vision of "a world where innovation and creativity from anywhere are supported by intellectual property, for the good of everyone". Japan looks forward to WIPO's further conducting activities on developing IP infrastructure at all IP offices. Japan will continue to support WIPO's initiatives for developing IP infrastructure, by making the same voluntary contributions that it has made for more than 30 years.

We hope WIPO promotes innovation based on emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). We hope these technologies will help build a prosperous future for the world in the years to come. To this end, it is essential for WIPO to lead international initiatives to ensure that IP systems are appropriately responsive to technological advancements, and for WIPO to more actively create a landscape that can ensure the appropriate protection and use of IP so that everyone in all Member States can equally enjoy the benefits from innovations.

In addition, enhancing user convenience is essential when it comes to developing the IP Ecosystem. For example, it would be desirable to further expand communication between WIPO and its users in order to reflect their opinions into WIPO initiatives. Listening to their opinions would also enable us to make both the international application system and the information provided by WIPO more user-friendly. Since Japan has the world's leading international applicants, this delegation believes that Japan can significantly contribute to improving WIPO's initiatives by receiving input from those users through the WIPO Japan office, for instance.

To further develop the IP ecosystem, it is imperative to broaden the user base by supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and startups, and therefore, Japan expects WIPO to increase support for SMEs and startups.

The JPO has been providing various types of support to SMEs, start-ups, universities, and others, so as to help them make use of IP. By taking advantage of the professional knowledge and experiences that the JPO has accumulated, we would like to collaborate more closely with WIPO and other IP Offices to solve issues, in order to further develop the IP ecosystem.

Thirdly, responding to COVID-19 is also an essential issue. With major transformations taking place in our economy and lifestyles due to COVID-19, new demands such as digitalization are emerging. Therefore, innovation must play a significant role in expanding new businesses to meet these needs.

This delegation expects WIPO, as the only UN entity dedicated to IP, to be involved in discussions that promote innovation for new businesses. In addition, we hope that WIPO, in collaboration with not only Member States but also other UN agencies such as the WTO and WHO, will provide users support that relieves their hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, we are facing many global challenges such as global warming. Japan believes that it is crucial for IP to address these challenges, and strongly supports WIPO in its efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Fourthly, Japan has high expectations for WIPO GREEN, a platform that promotes the use of green technologies. To further develop this platform, we must increase the number of users by creating best practices and sharing them with others.

Japan has the largest number of WIPO GREEN users and partners in the world, and thus can contribute significantly to its development.

As one of WIPO GREEN's partners, the JPO has not only expanded the WIPO GREEN network in Japan by working together with the WIPO and stakeholders around

the world but also assisted its activities by making use of our voluntary contributions. The JPO held an international symposium on WIPO GREEN in June. Japan will continue to work in cooperation with WIPO and other member states in addressing global challenges.

In order for Japan to achieve the world's fastest and highest quality examinations, the JPO has been conducting prior art searches within the registered search period and implementing initiatives that ensure timely examination, such as the Accelerated Examination System and the Super-accelerated Examination System. In addition, the JPO has continued to promote quality assurance in examinations, and established high-quality rights by conducting Interview Examinations and Cross-sectional Examinations on IP Portfolios. Furthermore, the JPO has responded flexibly to changes in the environment by establishing online interview examinations and telework environment for examiners and administrative judges.

Japan plans to distribute information about IP at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka.

Finally, Japan wishes the WIPO community a successful year ahead and looks forward to working with all our partners to co-create inclusive, balanced, and vibrant global IP ecosystem.