

General Statement

Iceland would like to thank WIPO for the continued support, from which Iceland continues to benefit from, especially in the field of Industrial Intellectual Property rights and Copyright. On the latest achievements Iceland would especially like to congratulate Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General and his team on the adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty last summer.

The importance of Agreements on registration systems continues to grow in Iceland. The importance and interest of the Madrid system has risen in the last few years, both in number of users of the system among the Icelandic applicants and also in number of Madrid registrations in Iceland. Iceland has already experienced a significant growth in the year 2013 and Madrid Registrations already form 65% of the total number of trademark applications in Iceland. The growth in number of applications and the possibility of processing the registrations by electronic means has strongly influenced the decision of the IPO to renew within the upcoming months its filing system and IPR registers, which at first will improve the services provided to applicants and holders of Trademark Rights, but later on all customers of the IPO.

The Patent Cooperation Treaty continues to be of high importance for the users of the patent system. The use of the system, however, by Icelandic applicants has unfortunately slightly diminished after the hit of the economic crises, but as the Icelandic economy gradually recovers, Iceland is optimistic that the number of applications will rise again.

The Hague system is furthermore very functional in Iceland and will most likely be more useful when the Republic of China becomes a member to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement. Iceland highly supports a Diplomatic Conference on Design Formalities to further strengthen the Hague system and make it work more effectively.

In 2012 a working group was formed in Iceland with the task to explore the possibilities of introducing legislation on Geographical Indication protection. The result of this work was a draft bill on GI protection, which is currently being reviewed by stakeholders.

IPR awareness and focus on enforcement issues is a constant task of the Icelandic Patent Office and the use of written material on Intellectual Property Rights provided by WIPO is very important for teaching and introduction thereof, both for students of all ages and for the industrial sector. The Icelandic Patent Office annually celebrates the World Intellectual Property day and last spring the focus was on the next generation. It was a well-attended one day event with great speakers discussing how they predict the future and the role of IPR in that regard.

Finally it is a great pleasure to inform that the Icelandic Government has officially taken the first steps in the preparation of a written national IP strategy. The information that WIPO provides on that issue, such as WIPO's Methodology and Tools for the Development of National IP Strategies is a great guidance for such an important task.

Iceland would like to thank the WIPO team for organizing this General Assemblies meeting in Geneva and congratulates Mr. Gurry on his great achievements within the Organization. We are looking forward to welcoming the WIPO delegation to our country scheduled this fall, introducing the general operations of the WIPO.