

PHILIPPINES

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WIPO Assemblies 2014

GENERAL STATEMENT

**Atty. Ricardo R. Blancaflor
Director General, Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines**

~~Mr. Chair~~; Director General Francis Gurry, Distinguished Delegates, on behalf of the Philippine government, we are pleased to join the 54th Assembly of the WIPO Member States, and we look forward to another fruitful gathering.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Director General Gurry on the well-deserved reelection. Rest assured of our continued support. We also commend the WIPO Secretariat for the excellent preparatory work.

The Philippines believes that in this era of globalization and the lightning advancement of technologies, intellectual property will take a bigger and a more crucial role in shaping the future, thus, much is expected from this august assembly. What we decide here will either strengthen or weaken the system that has fueled, and continuously fuels, man's creativity and innovation.

In the Philippines, the role of the IP system in the country's resurgence has become more apparent. Having the second fastest-growing economy in Asia now, the Philippines is tipped to be the next economic powerhouse in the region. An effective, dynamic and a more development-oriented IP regime will help ensure meaningful and inclusive economic growth for the country's growing population.

In recent years, the Philippines has made significant progress in improving the IP regime. Foreign governments and international institutions have begun to take notice of the positive changes that have taken place, and lauded the efforts of the country that paved the way for pioneering improvements not only in IPR enforcement but in other aspects of IP development as well.