

# 2022 JOINT DECLARATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COOPERATION

*Adopted in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 14 November 2022*

**WE**, the Heads of Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Intellectual Property Offices of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States (AMSs) collectively note the importance and benefits of close cooperation developed and implemented between the two sides in the field of Intellectual Property (IP) since 2018. We reaffirm our willingness to continue to exert utmost effort to further enhance our close ties in the years to come.

**WE** particularly acknowledge that supranational challenges, such as the latest COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, climate change, and inequality, are increasingly threatening the world's sustainable growth, public well-being and prosperity; these challenges are what the UN has worked to address through its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since 2015. We also acknowledge that creativity and innovation serve as key driving forces in the achievement of these SDGs.

**WE** share the view that creativity and innovation can be further facilitated by establishing a robust IP ecosystem, and with that in mind, we agree to work together in the following specific areas.

- **Improvement of IP Education Infrastructure:**

Age-appropriate, customized and high-quality IP education to effectively nurture IP talents

**WE** are cognizant that having a sound IP education infrastructure will lay a foundation for a robust IP ecosystem. We also recognize that providing quality IP education to diverse groups of people is critical to effectively nurturing competent IP talents and professionals who will lead innovation in the future.

**WE** will therefore cooperate for age-appropriate, customized quality IP education in the ASEAN region that can best cater for a wider range of age groups, from children, student, adult through to professionals in collaboration with the ASEAN IP Academy.

- **Advancement of IP System:**

Well-functioning IP system for new technologies

**WE** acknowledge that the emergence and continual development of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, and Metaverse, have sparked global discussions on having a proper IP system for those technologies.

In this context, we recognize that it is imperative to have an advanced IP system that is nimble, effective and future proof in the era of 4IR, as it will eventually contribute to the successful establishment of a robust IP ecosystem.

**WE** thus agree to seek and implement active cooperation to advance our IP system; and as one way of doing so, agree to establish a regular communication platform between the two sides which will enable continuous exchange of information about examination and IP policy and development of effective cooperation agenda.

On November 14, 2022 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, the Heads of KIPO and the Intellectual Property Offices of AMS achieved a consensus on the importance of SDGs realization and the role that IP plays in achieving them, and thereby reaffirm to continue with our constructive engagement and mutual cooperation.