INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW TEACHING IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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First of all, allow me to extend my deep gratitude, on behalf of the office of invention of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to the World Intellectual Property Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, who have actively worked for the organization of the Regional Symposium on Intellectual Property Law Teaching in Asia and Pacific, and to the State Education Commisssion (SEC) of the People's Republic of China who has contributed greatly to the Symposium.

Now I touch upon the operations in our country concerning intellectual property law and research. The teaching and research of intellectual property law plays an important role in the social development. Our beloved instructor comrade Kim Jung Il said: "The human history is one created by the great masses of the people." The modern science, technology and culture achieved by human society up to date are the achievements through labor created by the great masses of the people. Human genius is the outcome of its brain, and is the source of the treasures created by mankind. Therefore, the operations of the teaching and research on intellectual property law can put into full play the creativeness of the great masses of the people, thus enabling the masses to understand the achievements of ideology, technology and culture of mankind, so that those achievements can be legally protected and serve the social development.

Since liberation in 1945 of our country, under the dear teachings and wise leadship of the great leader of our country comrade Kim Il Song and under the enthusiastic guidance of our beloved instructor comrade Kim Jung Il, the great masses of the people has for the first time become the real masters of our country in the history of 5000 years of our country. We have laid down the legal basis of intellectual property law, established the system of awarding and registering by the country, inventions, technological innovations, trade marks and industrial designs, and solved the material-technical conditions. It is provided in article 60 of the socialist consitution of our country, in terms of intellectual property: "Citizens shall have the freedom of their scientific, cultural and artistic activities. The State gives legal protection for technological innovators and inventors." The regulations concerning inventions and technological innovations promulgated in 1986 on the basis of the "regulations concerning trade marks and industrial designs" (1983) has laid down some specific measures of implementation and is our guide.

The operation of teaching and research of intellectual property include teaching in the institutions of higher learning of our country, the regulations governing the invention and technological innovations, industrial property law and international treaties. Some of the specialized educational institutions and research institutes carry out further studies on industrial property problems.

We do our teaching and research on industrial property law in a regular education system, and we attach importance to social education and dissemination. The office of inventions trains the staff of the State Council, the Committees, the Ministries and the Science Commissions of central and various local governments, and consequently those staff hold fixed term training for the staff of the cooperative companies, factories and other enterprises. They also carry out various kinds of activities. For example, we teach industrial property law to university professors and personnel of science and technology organizations from all over the country, in the Great Hall of the People. We also carry out such activities in the Alliance of Science and Technology Laborers and of the Socialist Laboring Youth and other social organizations. I would like to stress here that the international training activities of the World Intellectual Property Organization is of great help to the industrial law teaching and research in various countries.

We hope that the operations of teaching and research on intellectual property law should first of all focus on education. At the same time a correct understanding must be established for the relationship between the law and the great masses of the people. We also attach special importance to the integration of legal education and practice.

We keep close link between the legal theories and the explanations of legislation in the teaching of industrial property law on the one hand, and the scientific and technological problems urgently needing solution in the national economic development on the other, thus enabling the educated to apply in a lively way his knowledge in his practice.

The patent and trade mark agencies of Pyongyang and all localities serve to solve disputes arising from application, registration and investigation of the technical documents. They also help inventors and the applicants for the implementation of the patent law and trade mark law. Now the 320,000 scientific and technical personnel, specialists, and many of the workers, have an understanding to some extent of the industrial property law. They can solve many scientific and technical problems. Their inventions and technical innovations have brought about tremendous economic benefits to the country. They play a great role in the struggle for the modernization of the national economy to realize the 3rd seven-year plan. They are playing a vital role in the struggle to realize the complete victory of socialism as early as possible.

Apart from the above points, the specialists in industrial property law are making their efforts to solve the problems relative to the industrial property legislation, disputes, arbitration, nationality, and international treaties, and their interrelations. They also devote themselves to the teaching, the teaching material and the teaching method.

I believe that many subjects discussed in this symposium would be of great help to our work, meanwhile, I am sure it will play a great role in intellectual property law and research, its future development, and the strengthening of international cooperation in this field.

Finally, I extend once again my sincere thanks to the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, ladies and gentlemen, and our Chinese comrades who have contributed greatly to the organization and smooth carrying out of the symposium.

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