

PRESS RELEASE

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Intellectual Property Rights of Indigenous People Highlighted by PH in Asia Pacific Meeting



Delegates from 40 countries in the Asia Pacific gather for a photo opportunity during closing ceremonies



From left to right: Mr. Frederic Perron-Welch, Ms. Fei Jiao, Ms. Tana McCauley, IGC Chair Lily Claire Bellamy, Mr. Wend Wendland (IGC Bureau chief), and Vice Chair Felipe Carino of the Philippines.

May 2023, Bali, Indonesia – In support of the adoption of a landmark treaty on intellectual property rights of indigenous people and local communities over their traditional knowledge (TK) and genetic resources (GR), delegates from 40 Asia Pacific economies led by Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) Chair Lily Claire Bellamy of Jamaica and Vice-Chair Felipe Carino III of the Philippines, supported by the host, Government of Indonesia, Mr. Edward Kwakwa and Mr. Wend Wendland of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), gathered for three days to achieve consensus and build common understanding around the critical areas of the draft treaty which will be submitted for a Diplomatic Conference in 2024.

The draft treaty on GR and Associated TK carries the substantive articles of the Chair's text on Genetic Resources (GR) and Associated Traditional Knowledge (ATK) which was drafted

after the decision by Parties in the WIPO Assemblies in 2022 approving the holding of a diplomatic conference in 2024.

In her opening remarks, Chair Bellamy praised the work of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and IGC, and the work of the Parties in the IGC that will have an inter-generational impact on the livelihood of and achieve access to benefits to millions of people.

In his closing address to the delegates, Vice Chair Cariño, who chaired the discussion on Database and Information systems article, recognized the remarkable work of the IGC in WIPO and underscored the objectives of the meeting, as well as the importance of holding discussions in a constructive manner pursuant to a trust building process. He highlighted the common understanding achieved by delegates in the past days which showed points of convergence on critical areas of the text that can facilitate negotiations through the adoption of a cohesive regional position in the Special Session.

The regional meeting held for ASPAG is part of a series of regional meetings as a mechanism to catalyze and identify convergence and narrow the gaps in relation to the draft text among Parties in WIPO.

The Philippines assumed the position of Vice Chair in the IGC for the 2022-2023 biennium to highlight the importance placed by the country on intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples and local communities who are marginalized and who possess limited protection against misappropriation over their own TK and traditional cultural expressions (TCE) in a global marketplace, and to promote access to economic benefits and intellectual property rights arising from the use of TK in a manner that is equitable, adequate, and fair. **END**