

OPENING REMARKS

**National Seminar on Awareness Building on
Copyright and Related Rights
6-7 November 2013.**

**Venue:
Radisson Hotel
Bandar Seri Begawan**

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Good morning

Mr Satoshi Tsuzuki, Deputy Director, International Affairs Division,
Japan Copyright Office (JCO), Agency of Cultural Affairs, Tokyo;

Mrs Gao Hang, Director, Copyright of Development Division, World
Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, on behalf of the Honourable Attorney General Datin Seri Paduka Hjh Hayati and the Solicitor General Puan Naimah Md. Ali, I would like to welcome you to this seminar and express our gratitude for you taking time to participate. I am confident the time you spend in attending will not be wasted.

I would like to recall our experience when the Copyright Order came into force in 2000. There was a wave of concern from vendors of CDs and consumers. Right holders too, were in a state of confusion as they wanted to know more of their rights and how to enforce them. At that time as you would all know, there were still shops selling infringing or pirated goods openly with little action from the right holders.

One of the reasons was that there was still minimal awareness of what intellectual property was and why it was important. Also being

a small jurisdiction, resources were limited. Moreover, there was still high demand for cheap, yet good quality pirated items. In many cases the quality may not be so good (cinema copy, people moving in front of the screen) but still very popular because it was cheap. (for price of a cinema ticket – whole family can watch)

That was 13 years ago. Since then a series of awareness programs, in the form of trainings, workshops, seminars and roadshows have been held domestically. The relevant stakeholders also attended such training and seminars overseas. These initiatives were not only undertaken by the Attorney General's Chambers but also in cooperation with other agencies as well. As a result we have experienced a lot of positive progress.

We are glad to note that in May this year Brunei Darussalam was removed from the USTR Special 301 Report, after being in the list since 2009. One of the reasons for the removal was that it was recognized that Brunei Darussalam made great efforts in enforcement of IP in the civil and criminal areas.

For example in 2012, AGC has managed to successfully obtain a conviction for the owner of the shop popularly known as “kedai komunis”, a leading seller of pirated CDs. We have also seen the serious and laudable efforts of the Municipal Department and other enforcement agencies in curbing the sale of pirated CDs& DVDs.

In addition to further enhance the protection of copyright and related rights, the Attorney General's Chambers is also in the process of amending our copyright laws, by providing for tougher penalties and enhance enforcement of these rights.

I am also told that in a recent study entitled “Foreign Direct Investment across APEC: Impediments and Opportunities for Improvement”, which was conducted by the APEC Business

Advisory Council, Brunei Darussalam was considered as a good protector of intellectual property.

These developments were made possible as more and more people are aware of the importance of intellectual property, in particular copyright and related rights.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The program before you covers a wide range of issues, from an overview of copyright to the importance of copyright and related rights for cultural and economic development, to learning the experience from Japan as well as discussing on strategies for development and implementation of copyright awareness building. From Brunei Darussalam's perspective, there will be a presentation on recent developments in this country as well as a presentation on economic contribution of copyright based industries.

I hope these sessions would further enlighten you and also encourage you to further consider ways of how we can move forward to further promote and protect copyright and related rights for our economic development.

The Malays have a saying – “Genggam bara api biar sampai jadi arang” which means that if a task is worth doing, then it has be completed even if it is hard or painful. Ladies and Gentlemen, we have started on this task and Insya Allah by working together we will complete it.

To conclude, I would like to thank the WIPO for its continuous support in our efforts to promote and protect intellectual property in Brunei Darussalam. I would also like to thank the Agency for Cultural Affairs Government of Japan for their support in organising this event. I would also like to extend my thanks to the officers and

staff of the Attorney General's Chambers, in particular, the International Affairs Division for the excellent arrangement of this event. Our gratitude is also extended to the presenters and to the participants for your attendance and support in our effort to increase more awareness in copyright right and related rights.

وبالله التوفيق والهداية ، السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته