

## **JOINT STATEMENT**

### **SEVENTH ASEAN-JAPAN HEADS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICES MEETING KANAZAWA, JAPAN**

#### ***ASEAN and Japan Seal Commitment to Advance Further Cooperation and Forge an Enhanced Cooperative Framework on IP***

1. The Intellectual Property Offices of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam ("AMS IPOs"), and the Japan Patent Office ("JPO") (collectively "Partners") held their Seventh Heads Meeting on 15 May 2017 in Kanazawa, Japan.
2. The Partners acknowledged the opportunities presented by the Seventh Heads Meeting which was convened close on the heels of the endorsement of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025 Consolidated Strategic Action Plan, and in the same year that ASEAN is celebrating the historic milestone of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding.
3. The Partners reaffirmed the important contribution of intellectual property in achieving socio-economic development goals, encouraging technology transfer, stimulating innovation and promoting creativity.
4. The Partners recognized the contribution that the ASEAN-Japan Cooperation has made so far in the field of IP, sharing a common recognition about the importance that ASEAN-Japan cooperation plays in advancing IP.
5. The Partners agreed on initiatives to achieve streamlined examination procedures and practices, create/improve quality management systems, share examination results, strengthen IP enforcement including collaboration with IP enforcement agencies, accede to international IP instruments, enhance capacity building, effectively utilize IP and raise awareness on IP, as these will enable them to address the challenges of a continuously evolving IP ecosystem.
6. The Partners adopted the AMS IPOs-JPO IPR Action Plan 2017-2018, taking into consideration the initiatives that have been set for the next ten years that reflect the AEC 2025 Consolidated Strategic Action Plan, including the ASEAN IPR Strategic Plan 2016-2025. In addition, they emphasized that implementing the AMS IPOs-JPO IPR

Action Plan 2017-2018 would enhance their respective intellectual property infrastructures and platforms all the more.

7. The Partners confirmed their commitment to continue and strengthen their long-standing partnership through dialogue in Meetings of the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC) and in the ASEAN-Japan Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Meetings.