



G7 Heads of IP Office Conversation

Joint Statement

We, the Intellectual Property Offices operating in the Group of Seven (G7) countries, participated in the Intellectual Property Heads of Office Conversation 2023 organised by the Japan Patent Office (JPO) in metaverse format on 15th December 2023. On this occasion, we continued the discussion on international cooperation in intellectual property (IP) that was initiated in 2021 by the Intellectual Property Office of the United Kingdom (UKIPO), and continued in 2022 by the German Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ) and the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA).

We recognise that an effective international IP ecosystem is necessary to incentivize innovation and creativity, which drive social and economic development worldwide. To accelerate innovation and creativity, a strong and active engagement is required not only from existing stakeholders within the IP ecosystem, but also from a wide range of additional actors, who can benefit from IP. It is also important to continuously improve the IP system so that it can respond to the latest challenges, such as IP issues in the new digital contexts, including the metaverse.

Diversity and Inclusion

We recognise the significance of building an environment that makes IP systems more accessible to all segments of society, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), start-ups, education organisations, youth, women and members of other underrepresented groups in our respective countries.

We also recognise the importance of international cooperation, including in education, outreach and awareness raising activities, to increase understanding of the crucial role that IP plays in innovation and creativity among innovators and creators in all segments of society.

We appreciate the work that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is doing to contribute to improving public understanding of IP worldwide and explaining the benefits that IP can bring to communities and all segments of society. We will work constructively with WIPO to encourage all segments of society to participate in the IP ecosystem through a wide variety of initiatives.

We will continue to work to share our experiences and practices in promoting diversity and inclusion for a more inclusive global IP ecosystem.



Protection of IPRs in New Digital Contexts

We will work in our respective countries and collaboratively toward addressing IP issues including enforcement and infringement arising in new digital contexts such as the metaverse in order to protect creators and innovators.

To this end, we will continue to work to foster collaboration with national and international stakeholders, including WIPO, to exchange and promote best practices and identify approaches that can address the challenges of IP enforcement and infringement not only in off-line markets but also in online markets, including new digital contexts.

In this regard, we will also cooperate further to raise consumers' awareness on the risks related to counterfeiting and piracy in the new digital contexts, including the metaverse, to protect them from harm resulting from the purchase of infringing products and access to pirated content.