

Kingdom of Cambodia

Nation Religion King



**Opening Speech delivered by
H.E Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce
On World Intellectual Property Day**

Phnom Penh, April 26, 2016

- Excellency **WILLIAM A. HEIDT**, the U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia,
- Excellency **GEORGE EDGAR**, the EU Ambassador to Cambodia,
- Excellency **KUMAMARU YUJI**, the Japan Ambassador to Cambodia,
- Excellency **SOM SOKUN**, Secretary of State of Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and Deputy Chairman of National Committee for Intellectual Property Rights,
- Excellency, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Today, it is my great honor and pleasure to welcome you all to the World Intellectual Property (IP) Day.

Every April 26, members of World Intellectual Property Organization celebrate World IP Day to reflect the importance of innovation and creativity of the human being and the role of intellectual property in our daily life. Some Member States organize either exhibitions or the intellectual property workshop so as to raise awareness of the intellectual property among students, academic researchers and general public.

This year's theme is "Digital Creativity: Culture Reimagined". Cultural works such as films, TV, music, books, art, and video games can now be accessed and consumable far beyond boundaries across the world. The digital technologies have made it easier for artists and creators to express their creativities and to collaborate across culture. Reimagining Culture – to create the intellectual creativities, there are many challenges, so to keep artists and creators in creating their works, incentives need to be provided. It is necessary to have a flexible, adaptive intellectual property system that can ensure that the artists and creative industries in our digital universe are properly paid for their works.

Excellency Ambassadors, Excellency, Lok Chom Teav, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Day by day, the world changes and moves forward very fast; therefore, each country must keep abreast of the latest developments. To catch up with the situation, Cambodia has adopted the Copyright Law in 2003 which extends the rights of authors, performers, phonogram producers

and broadcasters to control works in relation to digital content and the use of works on the Internet. The Royal Government of Cambodia has always placed Intellectual Property as one of the important key sectors. We are now studying to join more WIPO Treaties. I would also like to recall one of our successful achievements in Intellectual Property in December 2015, the National Committee for Intellectual Property Rights led by Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts organized a tribute concert for the legendary Cambodian singer Sin Sisamut “Time To Give Back”, which was aimed at providing (financial) support to the families of Mr. Sin Sisamuth and of Mrs. Ros Sereysothea, other artists living in hardship, and the Kantha Bopha and Preah Ang Duong Hospitals and to promote public awareness of the benefits of IPR protection in Cambodia.

Excellencies, Lok Chom Teav, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a marvelous day. We have a great honor to have H.E. Ambassador of the United State of America, H.E. Ambassador of the Delegation of European Union, and H.E. Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia with us today to celebrate the World IP Day. This is the third time we organize this event in order to express Cambodia’s commitment and attention to IP sector, which is deemed by the world as a main part for the national growth and development. In a few minutes, we will have a series of presentation from different perspectives made by our honorable guest speakers from the Japan Patent Office (JPO), Deputy Commissioner Masayuki Koyanagi, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), EU Regional Intellectual Property Attaché, the EU-ASEAN Project on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (ECAP III), the Motion Picture Association of America, the American Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia (AmCham).

Excellencies, Lok Chom Teav, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I would like to take this opportunity to touch a little bit on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, which has some impact on Cambodia IP system. TPP establishes strong protections for patents, trademarks, and copyrights, which establish standards that build on the existing international intellectual property agreements, including 1. the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), 2. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Copyright Treaty, 3. WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, and 4. Patent Cooperation Treaty. Therefore, Cambodia needs to observe closely on the TPP development and ensure our trading catch up the trend.

Finally, I would like to give more time to our great speakers to express their impressions of the World IP Day. *At the same time, participants will have a chance to get the movie ticket for the latest Hollywood movie for this evening from Westec Media Limited (WML) to Legend Cinema. I now declare World IP Day open from now on.*