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PREFACE

The production of the Asian edition of the *WIPO WTO Colloquium Papers* represents a significant milestone - it marks an important new direction for what has been an invaluable programme of collaboration between our two organizations. More importantly, it demonstrates the remarkable progress achieved in intellectual property (IP) scholarship across the Asian region in recent years, and the vital roles of IP teachers and scholars in building a knowledge base that is essential for effective policymaking in this challenging and fast-changing field.

In 2004, WIPO and the WTO launched a series of annual colloquia for teachers and researchers working on IP law and policy. The WIPO-WTO Colloquia form part of a strategy to build sustainable national capacity in developing countries and least developed countries for teaching and research in the field of IP. These countries have sought to apply the IP system ever more effectively as a tool for economic and social development, therefore they have had to build national expertise and bolster their own capacity to analyse complex legal and policy issues confronting the domain of IP today. The colloquia were conceived as a way of building self-sustaining policy knowhow, while simultaneously promoting cooperation and collaboration. Hence, our two organizations are responding to the growing demand to strengthen the distinct legal and policy expertise available in individual countries, while scholars and teachers have concurrently recognized the value of dialogue, the pooling of ideas and the sharing of experiences from different countries around the world.

This interest was developed in a period of unprecedented globalization of the IP system – a time marked by policymakers seeking to build their understanding of the practical possibilities for creating a balanced and effective IP system that can contribute to economic and social development. For many countries, these trends have sparked an intensive, wide-ranging process of inquiry about how to adapt and apply IP principles to ensure economic growth, sound public policy, and sustainable development, while recognizing the diversity of economic, social and technological settings, national developmental priorities, alongside legal and commercial systems. Through tackling the policy challenges faced by the IP system in different ways, countries are learning by doing, thereby producing an ever more diverse range of practical experiences that offer insights to others grappling with similar challenges elsewhere. Asian countries in particular have shown dynamism and diversity in the ways they have taken up the IP system as a means for economic and social development, with valuable lessons to be learned from this experience.

To promote such mutual learning and exchange of ideas, the WIPO-WTO Colloquium has, over the years, brought together an impressive array of scholars from across the globe, and has forged an alumni network that serves to maintain this dialogue and collaboration beyond the formal bounds of the colloquium programme itself. The colloquia have evolved as a clearing house of new ideas, new critical approaches and cutting-edge scholarship, with a unique focus on the developing world. In order to harvest the fruit of this scholarship, and to ensure the sustained impact and greater dissemination of this knowledge, the initiative to publish colloquium participants' papers in an edited, peer-reviewed academic journal, titled the *WIPO WTO Colloquium Papers* was taken in 2010. The *Papers* are published, under the guidance of an editorial board comprising senior international scholars and officials. The six editions of the *Papers* have confirmed the publication's status as an academic journal with a unique focus on emerging policy and legal issues within a wide range of jurisdictions across developing countries.

The success of the WIPO-WTO Colloquium- and the impossibility of meeting the overwhelming demand (applications numbering some eight times more than available places) – led to the proposal of regionally focussed versions of the colloquium. This enables a closer look at specific regional trends and strengthens the academic networks within a region. The first such regional exercise took shape as the WIPO-WTO Colloquium for IP Teachers and Scholars in Asia, which convened in February 2017 with the cooperation of the Singapore Management University. The WIPO-WTO Colloquium for Asia provided IP academics in the region with a greater understanding of current international developments in IP law and policy, particularly relevant to the Asian context. It also promoted cutting edge Asia-focused research; and served as a forum to strengthen collaborative networks and academic exchanges across the Asian region.

This volume is the outcome of the regional gathering. Its contents give a good measure of the intellectual depth, range and vitality of participants in the WIPO-WTO Colloquium for Asia who gave papers on diverse topics, ranging from a close analysis of legal issues to the interaction of IP with public policy questions, in addition to cross-border and trade-related issues of direct relevance to Asian countries today. Participants also explored new approaches to

teaching and training in IP law and its practice, in view of the far wider and more diverse constituency of IP education. The trend, while welcome in itself, is challenging for educators in the region.

All of us who have participated in the colloquium programme have benefited from the hard work and dedication of many colleagues within WIPO and the WTO Secretariat – notably, the WIPO Academy and the WTO's Intellectual Property, Government Procurement & Competition Division, with the invaluable support of the Institute of Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC). All have contributed valuably to the design and delivery of this programme, and their spirit of collegiality makes this not only a demanding programme, but also a pleasurable one.

We owe a particular debt of gratitude to the Editorial Board and the editors of this Asian edition of the *WIPO-WTO Colloquium Papers*, as they have been indispensable in ensuring that the *Papers* can be used as a trusted, academically sound and readable source of cutting edge IP scholarship from an impressive group of emerging scholars representing a variety of developing countries. They have also served to fulfil the intended contribution of the *Colloquium Papers* initiative towards the capacity building goals of the WIPO Academy and WTO's ITTC, by guiding emerging scholars, where needed, in sculpting their academic writing skills through a participative and interactive dialogue, thus enhancing the potential to add even more diverse perspectives to policy debates in a sustained and credible way. Finally, we record our deep appreciation for the contributions made by individual scholars to this edition of the *Papers*, and its preceding volumes, which we have come to know and respect for their contributions to policy and legal scholarship. We are sure that this active, informed and thoughtful participation in many of the key public policy debates of today will continue, thus exemplifying the important public service role performed by the scholarly community today.



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