WELCOME REMARKS

by

Dr. R.S. Agarwal,
Deputy Director,
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

Honourable Shri M.K Kaw, Secretary Ministry of Human Resources and Development, Mr. Sinjela, Director, WIPO, Worldwide Academy, Mr. Bela Banerjee, Joint Secretary Ministry of HRD, Mr. Pushpendra Rai, WIPO, distinguished participants of this international conference, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of WIPO, Government of India, Ministry of HRD, and IIT Delhi, it is my proud privilege to extend a very warm and cordial welcome to you all. Particularly our guests who have arrived from different continents of the world. Traditionally, a study of intellectual property rights was not considered important the world over. However, for the past five decades the global context of organisation, industrial enterprise and conducting trade and business has radically changed particularly after the formation of WTO. In the present day world it is intellectual wealth of a country that is most important and to be able to take advantage of this, the rights over intellectual property have to be claimed and protected in accordance with the internationally well acceptable IPR protection regimes. The awareness about the need and significance of patenting has been extremely low in India not only in the lay public but even among the researchers, engineers and technologists, who create the intellectual property.

The output of scientific research in India has mostly found place in academic research journals and not in the patent documents. Although this provides intellectual satisfaction to the academia and also significantly adds to the wealth of literature, it neither generates resources nor pays for the cost of R&D. In the present era of economic liberalisation and globalisation where there is a resource crunch for non-commercial R&D it is important that all scientists, engineers and technologists must be well aware of various aspects of IPR such as how to go about patent search, how to read patent documents, and exploit the knowledge contained in these documents.

The knowledge of other aspects of IPR like industrial design, trademarks, copyrights are equally important. Indian institute of Technology, Delhi is one of the sixth institutes of technology created as centres of excellence for advanced teaching training, research and development in science and technology in India. IIT Delhi was established in 1961, and declared as a institute of national importance under the Institute of Technology Act, 1963. It was accorded the status of deemed university with powers to decide its own academic policies to conduct its own examinations and award to its own degrees. The Institute has thirteen academic departments, nine research centres, there are about four thousand exceptionally brilliant students pursuing their studies in science and

technology and management, for the degrees of B.Tech, M.Tech, M.Scs, MBAs, MS, PhD, there are about four hundred fifty gifted and dedicated faculty members who are sincerely involved in research, teaching and other related academic activities.

The Institute is also actively involved in collaborative programmes for research and development internationally and nationally. At present a large number of collaborative research projects are in operation with premier institutions in UK, USA, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Japan, Germany and many other countries.

Soon after announcement of new industrial policy of India in 1991 IIT Delhi took initiative in September 1992 towards organisation of a workshop on patenting. For the IIT Delhi faculty members this was the first step in the direction of educating and making the IIT Delhi faculty aware of various aspects of intellectual property rights. This was followed by organisation of workshop on patents and copyrights in July 1993, for faculty of all IITs, and IIS Bangalore. In September 1994, the Institute organised workshop on management and enforcement of intellectual property rights in SMEs. In November 1994 workshop on IPR was organised for IIT Delhi students. Subsequently many more workshops and seminars have been organised by the IIT Delhi in the area of IPR, such as patenting of traditional items, trade marks, and its implementation, importance and utilisation of copyrights registrations, India's copyrights Acts, etc.

We have also academic programmes at IIT, one three cadet course on management of intellectual property rights have been developed in IIT Delhi and is being taught to the post-graduate as well as under-graduate students of the Institute for the past three years. Recently one more two-credit course on intellectual property rights had been developed exclusively for the undergraduate students.

The early initiative on IPR education at IIT Delhi have resulted in processing filing and defence of large number of IPR applications. IIT Delhi has two units, one industrial research and development and another is the foundation for innovative technology transfer, which they are responsible for the industry interaction. All IPR applications are processed through these two units. About hundred and ten IPR applications have been processed, filed, defended since 1997. These include forty-five patent applications in India one international patent application, fourteen design application and forty-eight copyrights. IIT Delhi is probably the first institute to have announced its well drafted official IPR policy because of the early IPR initiatives the Institute has been able to transfer a number of technologies to the industry during the past some years.

In view of the importance of IPR in the context of technology research and teaching, IIT Delhi has recently created an IPR resource cell in this Institute. The main objectives of this IPR Cell is to strengthen the IPR education, training activities within, as well as outside the Institute. We propose that this IPR Cell may be converted to the

nodal centre for organising IPR education training activities. A proposal has been submitted to the Ministry for this purpose.

We are very happy to associate in this organisation of this international conference on intellectual property education, training at New Delhi during these three days. On behalf of government of India, IIT Delhi, WIPO I once again extend a very warm and cordial welcome to all the delegates of this important conference and hope that all of you will take good memories and mindset enriched with the importance of intellectual property education and training.

On behalf of IIT Delhi and on behalf of Prof. Sirohi, Director IIT Delhi, I would like to extend our gratitudes to Shri M.K. Kaw, Secretary Ministry of Human Resource and Development, who has been instrumental in taking major initiatives towards modernisation of India's education systems and incorporating IPR education in academic institutions. I would also like to extend a very special welcome to Mr. Sinjela, Mr. Pushpendra Rai and Mrs. Gao Hang, who have come from WIPO, Geneva to extend WIPO's technical cooperation and for this international conference. Once again I welcome you all. Thank you very much.