



Welcome address of Mr. Michal Svantner, Director,
Department for Transition and Developed Countries,
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), I have the pleasure to express my warmest congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 2017 World Intellectual Property Day (IP Day).

IP plays a very important role in the modern world, it helps to improve and make our lives easier. IP creates a safe investment environment and provides legal frameworks for commercialization of research results. And nowadays it is not only a key aspect for progress and economic development – it also helps us to tackle shared global challenges.

We started to celebrate this day 17 years ago, when the WIPO Member States decided to mark April 26, 1970, the day the Convention establishing WIPO entered into force, as the World IP Day. This year the World IP Day's theme is "*Innovation – Improving Lives*". Innovation is a driver for economic growth that has no limits. Innovation facilitates the progress, pushes the boundaries of possibilities and creates unprecedented new capabilities.

I am pleased to note that Ukraine has excellent achievement in the global innovation system – it has moved up in the Global Innovation Index from 64th to 56th in 2016. This is the highest ranking Ukraine has ever attained, led by an improvement in the relevant spheres of innovation policy in the country. I believe that among other factors enabled this achievement there was the development of the national IP system in Ukraine and the efficient work and active involvement of the State Intellectual Property Service of Ukraine (SIPSU) and the Ukrainian Intellectual Property Institute (Ukrpatent).

The innovation development would not be possible without creative minds and outstanding input of many creators, authors of inventions, innovators. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere congratulations to all Ukrainian creators, inventors, innovators and IP specialists and wish them all success in their endeavors.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and curves, representing the name Michal Svantner.

Michal Svantner
Director
Department for Transition and
Developed Countries
World Intellectual Property Organization