

5th ASEM IPR Working Group Meeting - Bangkok June 30th, 2006

Geographical Indications

Final Joint Co-chairman Statement

Following the resolution of the 5th ASEM Economic Ministerial Meeting, promoting GI protection in the world specially in Asia and Europe, Thailand and France as co facilitators of ASEM working group on IPR organize a meeting on GI in Bangkok on June 30th.

During this meeting, participants from Asian countries, EU member states and EC have a fruitful dialogue on legal, organisational, marketing and cooperation aspects.

They note with appreciation the progress of the implementation of GI in Asian countries.

Participants concluded that GI is a tool for rural development, the development of authentic high quality products with a close tie between the product and its region of origin which is well controlled and protected to the benefit of producers and consumers.

Participants call for ASEM partners to strengthen their cooperation to exchange their experiences in order to improve the development, implementation, and protection of GIs.

They particularly stressed the key points as follow:

- 1) **Geographical indications protection in Europe and Asia:** they put an emphasis on the importance of GI protection which is seen as a marketing tool and customary preservation as well as control on environmental impact. To support the above activities, they showed their interests on exchanging information on law and regulations and the list of GI as well as experiences in using GI system to create marketing opportunities.
- 2) **International aspects on the extension of Geographical Indication protection:** they expressed the need to facilitate the protection of GIs at the international level and they agree, to this end, to support the progress of negotiations or consultation under the TRIPS Council of the WTO.
- 3) **Valorisation of the products and the territories for sustainable rural development and control organization:** they realised that the control of GI is important as the compliance with the requirement would be beneficial to both producers and consumers.
- 4) **Geographical Indications promotion and possible joint initiatives:** they emphasized the need to strengthen their cooperation to promote GI particularly by setting up cooperation between professional organizations of both countries in charge of the management of a GI in the field of implementation control, management, protection. They also encourage producers of both EU and Asian countries to develop synergy on marketing GIs products common to both EU and Asian.

Participants thank Thailand for hosting this 5th meeting of the Working Group on Intellectual Property.

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