



Speech of Dr. Wassim Harb
Founder/ General Supervisor of ACRLI
During the opening session of the Lebanese Workshop on "Intellectual
Property"
Hotel Royal Palace - Date 19/12/2009.

**Your Excellency the Minister of Justice and the sponsor of this meeting,
Professor Ibrahim Najjar**

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to welcome you on behalf of the Arab Center for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity, appreciating your participation in the work and the sessions of this scientific meeting. I am confident that your discussions and debates will generate ideas and instructions that will enable the development of a road map towards reforming and modernizing the legal environment that serves the various IPR components and elements.

Intellectual property means: the literary, artistic, commercial, industrial and IT property and other acts related to the intellectual creativity which contributes to the progress and development and creates job opportunities and areas of investment that enables economic prosperity and development at various levels.

Legal environment does not only imply the laws and legislations that organize and govern intellectual property with its various components. It also includes the procedures and administrative regulations and methodologies at the level of registration and safeguarding property rights, in accordance with internationally established standards or at the level of IP protection either by preventing its infringement or by prosecuting and arresting the violator and paying compensation for the IPR owner.

Your Excellency, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. As everyone knows this necessitates a catalyst, efficient, fair, and effective human element both at the level of the human body in charge of registration, protection and prosecution, or at the level of the judicial authority.

There is no need to mention the finest of experts involved in the various components and elements of intellectual property both economically and in terms of development and progress, and certainly participants will further enrich us with their ideas to this end.

I would just note that ACRLI gives this sector a great importance for two main reasons:

First: To complete and fill the legal gaps governing this sector in response to one of the rule of law principles that necessitates the existence of laws as a substantive objective requirement for the establishment of the rule of law.

Second: to provide all capacities that would promote human efficiency and integrity from the staff member in charge of safeguarding IP to the prosecutor all the way to the judiciary, the protector and guardian of rights and the priest in charge of safeguarding the rule of law Temple.

ACRLI is implementing this activity within the context of a broader project implemented with the support of the Middle East Partnership Initiative MEPI. The project aims at strengthening the legal environment with a view to promote and develop commerce and business in four pilot Arab countries: Tunisia, Lebanon, UAE and Yemen.

From this platform, I salute all those who contributed, whether directly or indirectly, in the success of the Center's mission including national writers and local and international consultants and researchers.

Indeed, they are a selection of high-quality performers, whether in terms of studies that has been prepared for this purpose or field investigations carried out via communicating with decision-makers from public and private sectors involved in providing a business and investment enabling environment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to express my hope that your discussions here are fruitful, reiterating ACRLI's gratitude for the kind patronage and for your intellectual participation and contribution. I also wish you personally to accept ACRLI's request to become our friends and allies and contribute to establishing the rule of law and protecting its pillars in Lebanon.

Thank you.