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Dr. Anthony M. Penaso, Caraga State University (CSU) President, joined all other University Presidents during the National Workshops organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL) held last February 29 to March 1, 2016.

Dr. Penaso was also accompanied by Engr. Jeffrey T. Dellosa, Director of the Technology Development, Transfer and Licensing Office (TDTLO). The national workshops were divided into two-day sessions: Seminar-workshop entitled the "National Workshop on Increasing the Capacity and Pace for Technology Scouting, Absorption, Adaptation Through a "Hub and Spoke" Structure (IP Hub)" during the first day and was held at the University of Sto. Tomas (UST) in Manila last February 29, 2016 and the second day was on the "National Seminar on Patents and Innovation" held at the SMX Aura Convention Center.

The IP Hub Project "seeks to harness the potential synergies of the different training opportunities from WIPO for universities and research institutions in the developing countries such as the Philippines to achieve a more cumulative and sustainable impact on beneficiary countries". The Project seeks to coordinate training and other activities based on needs prioritization in countries relating to technology development and commercialization to enhance coherence.

Among those speakers were:

- Andrew Czajwoski, Head of the Innovation and Support Office of WIPO. He gave a talk on "Innovation and Technology Support Offices - Past, Present and Future".
- Yumiko Hamano, Partner, ET Cube International. Her talk was on the "Role of the University in the Innovation Ecosystem and in Building a Sustainable and Effective IP Hub".
- Ms. Carmen Peralta, Director IV, Documentation, Information and Technology Transfer Bureau, IPOP HL. She gave her talk on "ITSO: Past, Present and Future".

Several important personalities from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) were the speakers of the one day seminar intended for the head of the colleges and universities to gain better perspective on patent and innovation.

Atty. Josephine R. Santiago, LL.M., Director General of the IPOP HL gave her welcome address along with Mr. John Sandage, Deputy Director General of Patents and Technology Sector of WIPO.

Among the speakers and talk given during this seminar were:

Talk 1: The Patent System as a Tool for Promoting Innovation. Speaker: Mr. Marco Aleman, Acting Director, Patent Law Division of WIPO

Talk 2: Trends and Figures on Patent Filings/Grants on Innovation. Speaker: Atty. Allan B.

Gepty, Deputy Director General, Advocacy, Policy and International Relations, IPOPHL.

Talk 3: Innovation in the Philippines. Activities of the IPOPHL to Support Inventors. Speaker: Dr. Danilo Largo, Director for Research and ITS Manager of the University of San Carlos (USC) and Mr. Ace Acosta, Senior Technology Transfer Officer and ITS Manager, University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman

Talk 4: The experience of Philippine Universities and Research Centers on Getting Benefits from Patents. Speaker: Mr. Corey Salsberg, Head, International IP Policy, Novartis Internatinal AG, Base, Sqitzerland, Member of the IAP Steering Committee

Talk 5: The Importance of IP for Business Development. The Right Holder's Perspective. Getting Patents to Innovation. Speaker: Mr. Alvaro Correa, Partner, Baker- McKenzie, Member of the IAP Steering Committee

Talk 6: The role of the patent attorney- The strategy to define the most suitable IP category and when and where to file. There is place for Pro Bono on IP? Mr. Andrew Czajkowski, Head, Innovation and Technology Support Section, Global Infrastructure Sector, WIPO

Talk 7: Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISC) - Project and the value of the Patent Information

The national seminar also included the launching of the Inventor Assistance Program (IAP) in the Philippines with Mr. Aleman sharing his thoughts on the IAP program. Atty Santiago, Mr. Sandage, Mr. Partner and Mr. Salsberg also gave their remarks on the IAP.

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