



03 May 2017

**Atty. Anselmo B. Adriano**

Chairman  
Optical Media Board  
No. 35 Scout Limbaga St.  
Barangay Laging Handa  
Quezon City 1103

**Attention: Atty. Victor Luis Q. Padilla**

Dear Chairman Adriano:

For the fourth consecutive year, the Philippines has been kept out of the USTR 301 Special Watch List. This latest development is a testament that the Philippines has sustained the reforms it initiated to provide the most adequate and effective level of protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

Your agency's contribution to the IP enforcement activities as a member of the National Committee on Intellectual Property Rights (NCIPR) is undoubtedly a critical factor in the country's continued success in the field of IPR enforcement. It is also an indication of the harmonious working relationship among the members of the NCIPR, a strategic partnership that has been cited by other countries as a best practice as our collaboration provides a holistic government approach to the challenges of curbing IPR violations. In 2016 alone, the combined efforts of the NCIPR members resulted in the seizure of counterfeit and pirated goods with a total estimated value of Php 6.2 Billion.

It is worthy to note that the April release of the Special 301 report with a positive rating for the country is a significant highlight and culmination of the very first National Intellectual Property Rights Month after President Rodrigo Duterte signed Proclamation No. 190, s. 2017 declaring April of every year as the National IPR Month.

We trust that these two encouraging developments will further inspire us, particularly your IP enforcement group, to keep up the good work and sustain our efforts to strengthen the intellectual property system in the country. Please accept our sincere congratulations and deepest appreciation to your agency and the men and women behind this.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to a Conference of the Heads of the NCIPR member-departments/agencies and a press conference in June in time for the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IP Code. We will coordinate with your office on the final date of the high-level event.

For easy reference, you will find the link to the USTR report and Proclamation No. 190 via the following links:

<https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2017/april/ustr-releases-2017-special-301-report>

[http://www.ipophil.gov.ph/images/2017Uploads/News/Proclamation\\_190\\_Declaring\\_April\\_of\\_Every\\_Year\\_as\\_National\\_IP\\_Month.pdf](http://www.ipophil.gov.ph/images/2017Uploads/News/Proclamation_190_Declaring_April_of_Every_Year_as_National_IP_Month.pdf)

Once again, congratulations and thank you!

Yours sincerely,

**JOSEPHINE RIMA-SANTIAGO, LL.M**

Director General

**Republic of the Philippines  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE**

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