

## **TRACIT and the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines partner to address counterfeiting and piracy**

**15 November 2023, Manila** – Today, the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) to strengthen collaboration between the two organizations.

The MOU was signed in Manila during the 2023 Intellectual Property Enforcement Summit, hosted by IPOPHL. It establishes a framework for cooperation between the Participants in the domain of IPR protection and enforcement.

*“The true strength of any partnership lies in the collective spirit of collaboration. This MOU is a reminder that when organizations with a common purpose come together, their collective efforts can lead to far-reaching positive outcomes,”* said Louis Bonnier, TRACIT Director of Programs. *“This partnership between IPOPHL and TRACIT is a powerful testament to the shared recognition of the critical role that IPR protection plays in fostering innovation, creativity, and economic growth.”*

During the Summit, TRACIT presented its latest report [Fighting Fakes, Contraband and Illicit Trade: Spotlight on the Philippines](#). The report assesses the nature and extent of illicit trade in the Philippines, analyzes the government's ongoing initiatives to tackle the issue, and puts forward a set of practical recommendations for effective solutions. The report highlights how the IPOPHL plays a pivotal role in driving collaboration among government agencies and private sector stakeholders to bolster the protection of IPR rights in the country. In addition to developing and implementing policies, the agency takes an active approach to establishing new enforcement standards and advocating for amendments to the IP Code.

*“Tackling a multifaceted problem like illicit trade requires approaches that build on opportunities for domestic coordination and international cooperation, and that involve both public and private sector actors,”* said Mr. Bonnier. *“I would like to thank IPOPHL for its commitment to IPR protection and enforcement, and I very much look forward to our future collaboration.”*

**About TRACIT:** The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) is an independent, private sector initiative to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and mobilizing businesses across industry sectors most impacted by illicit trade.

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