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01. South Korea, Cambodia sign MOU in IP cooperation

**THIS IS TO
STRENGTHEN
COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES IN THE
TRADEMARK SECTOR**

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The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) has recently announced that it had inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with President Yoon Suk Yeol and Prime Minister Hun Manet of Cambodia on extensive cooperation in the intellectual property sector. The MOU called for the exchange of trademark data, experiences and know-how in each area, including education and training, IP protection, trademark evaluation and digitization, and education. The MOU also stated that Korea and Cambodia will work together in areas such as trademark review, intellectual property education and IP informatization.... [Read more](#)

02. JPO-KIPO Examiner Exchange Program Held

**THE JPO WILL
CONTINUE TO
COOPERATE ON
PATENT EXAMINATION
WITH THE IP OFFICES
OF OTHER COUNTRIES**

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*On May 20 to 24, 2024, the Japan Patent Office (JPO) held an *Examiner Exchange Program with the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO). The JPO has continued Examiner Exchange Programs with the KIPO since 2000. This year, we conducted an in-person program by dispatching a JPO examiner to KIPO. In the program, one JPO examiner and one KIPO examiner deepened understanding of each Office's examination practices by discussing cross-filed patent applications in optical devices (electroluminescent light sources) and by exchanging information on prior art search methods and systems and operation of examination standards. The JPO will continue to cooperate on patent examination with the IP Offices of other countries. The Examiner Exchange Program is designed to foster a relationship of trust and deepen mutual understanding between the examiners of the JPO and an overseas IP Office and to promote mutual use of prior art search results..... [Read more](#)*

03. Promoting Diversity and Inclusion (10 June 2024)

"DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TEAM" COMPRISED OF CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS WAS FIRST LAUNCHED IN 2023

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To promote innovation, it is important to leverage the diversity of human resources including women and youth. Based on this idea, there has been a growing trend in recent years to promote diversity and inclusion (D&I) in the field of IP.

At the JPO, "Diversity and Inclusion Team" comprised of cross-organizational members was first launched in 2023. The team has helped the development of positive career visions through interviewing IP specialists and compiling a collection of messages. In addition, the JPO has engaged in international collaborations with USPTO, WIPO and other IP Offices to help establish a global network in the field of D&I [Read more](#)

04. PPH pilot with Chile launched

IT ENTERED INTO FORCE ON 1 JUNE 2024 AND WILL RUN FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, ENDING ON 31 MAY 2027

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The European Patent Office (EPO) and National Institute of Industrial Property of Chile (INAPI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot programme on 11 July 2023. It entered into force on 1 June 2024 and will run for a period of three years, ending on 31 May 2027 with the possibility of adapting en route based on mutual consent.

The EPO's PPH portfolio

This is an addition to the EPO's current PPH programmes established with:

- *the IP5 offices (the grouping of the world's five largest IP offices, made up of the European Patent Office (EPO)*
- *the Japan Patent Office (JPO),*
- *the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO),.... [Read more](#)*

05. A successful start for the Unitary Patent

**HAPPY FIRST
BIRTHDAY, UNITARY
PATENT SYSTEM!**

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The Unitary Patent system has seen a successful start, completing Europe's single market for technology. One year on from the system's launch, over 28 000 requests for unitary effect have been filed and the EPO has registered more than 27 500 Unitary Patents. This means that almost one in four granted European patents has been converted into a Unitary Patent. There was a particularly strong uptake of the new system in Europe, with 64.2% of the proprietors of Unitary Patents based in the EPO's 39 contracting states. Proprietors based in the US accounted for 16.1%, China for 6.0%, Japan for 3.8% and the Republic of Korea for 3.3%. Smaller European companies and startups showed high interest, with 35.5% of all Unitary Patents in Europe in 2023 alone..... [Read more](#)

06. Romania to join Unitary Patent system on 1 September 2024

**EUROPEAN PATENTS
TAKING UP UNITARY
EFFECT FROM 1
SEPTEMBER WILL
AUTOMATICALLY
COVER ROMANIA**

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Romania will join the Unitary Patent system with effect from 1 September 2024. This follows the deposit of its instrument of ratification of the UPCA on 31 May 2024. All European patents taking up unitary effect from 1 September will automatically cover Romania. The number of EU Member States participating in the Unitary Patent system will therefore increase to 18, covering an additional market of some 19 million people. "Completing its ratification process on the eve of the first anniversary of the Unitary Patent system demonstrates the Romanian government's awareness of the benefits of the new patent system for the country's innovating businesses", said EPO President António Campinos.....[Read more](#)

07. Historic global agreement: genetic resources and traditional knowledge

**THE TREATY WILL
REQUIRE PATENT
APPLICANTS TO
DISCLOSE THE SOURCE
OF GENETIC
RESOURCES**

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A landmark new treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and associated Traditional Knowledge will provide recognition of Indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge in the international intellectual property system for the first time. The treaty will require patent applicants to disclose the source of genetic resources – such as plant varieties or extracts such as tree bark – and associated traditional knowledge in their applications.

The historic treaty was concluded on 24 May 2024 at the World Intellectual Property Organization diplomatic conference in Geneva, Switzerland, with our representatives playing a key role in the concluding negotiations. We welcome this achievement, which is the result of more than 20 years of advocacy and hard work from many people, including First Nations Australians..... [Read more](#)

08. Revised practice on designs applied to buildings or structures

**EFFECTIVE
IMMEDIATELY, THE
OFFICE TAKES THE
POSITION THAT
BUILDINGS AND
STRUCTURES**

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The Canadian Intellectual Property Office is introducing a change in practice with respect to industrial designs applied to buildings or structures. Previously, the Industrial Design Office (the Office) was of the view that designs applied to buildings or structures were not registrable as they were not considered to be finished articles to which a design could be applied. Effective immediately, the Office takes the position that buildings and structures, including those constructed on site, may be acceptable finished articles to which a design can be applied. Following a comprehensive [Read more](#)

09. USPTO and the UK IP office agree to collaborate on policies related to standard essential patents

**THE AGREEMENT WILL
REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR
FIVE YEARS FROM THE
DATE OF SIGNING**

Two offices look to improve transparency in the fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory licensing of technical interoperability standards June 6, 2024. A new memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed on June 3, 2024 by Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and USPTO Director Kathi Vidal and the Chief Executive Officer of the United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) Adam Williams provides a framework for collaboration between the two offices on policies relating to standard essential patents (SEPs). SEPs are patents that have been declared essential to a given technical standard. As part of the standards-setting process, patent owners may agree to license SEPs on fair..... [Read more](#)

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10. China Launches Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)

**SINCE THE LAUNCH OF
THE FIRST PPH PILOT,
CNIPA HAS ESTABLISHED
PPH COOPERATION
WITH PATENT EXAM'
AGENCIES IN 32
COUNTRIES OR REGIONS**

Applicants can request accelerated examination in China when a corresponding ARIPO patent application has one or more claims that are determined to be patentable by ARIPO. Note that applicants do not need to be Chinese or African applicants, only that they have an ARIPO patent application. Similarly, Chinese applicants can request accelerated examination in ARIPO when a Chinese application has one or more claims are determined to be patentable by CNIPA. Since the launch of the first PPH pilot in November 2011, CNIPA has established PPH cooperation with patent examination agencies in 32 countries or regions.... [Read more](#)

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