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1. Visual search for TMview extended to Poland

**EXTENSION OF
THE TMVIEW VISUAL
SEARCH TO THE POLISH
PATENT OFFICE
FOLLOWS ITS EXTENSION
TO THE IP OFFICES**

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TMview's visual search facility, which allows users to search for trade mark images in the world's largest online trade mark database continues to grow. The Polish Patent Office made its trade mark images available to the visual search tool in TMview on 23 March 2020. The visual search facility, implemented on a pilot basis in 2017, enables to search for trade marks using images, further enriching TMview as a whole. The extension of the TMview visual search to the Polish Patent Office follows its extension to the IP offices of Austria, Benelux, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United King.... [Read more](#)

2. PPH pilot program between the Japan Patent Office (JPO) and the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO)

**PPH PILOT
PROGRAM BETWEEN
THE JPO AND
THE EURASIAN PATENT
ORGANIZATION**

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The Japan Patent Office (JPO) and the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) have been implementing the PPH pilot program since 15 February 2013. The JPO and the EAPO agreed to fully implement the PPH program from May 1, 2020. This agreement makes the PPH available on a permanent basis unless exceptional circumstances arise. The full implementation of the program involves no change in the procedure or requirements.

How to make a request— On August 1, 2015, regarding patent applications to JPO, a new procedure will commence which allows an applicant to apply for patent using "REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PATENT PROSECUTION HIGHWAY (PPH) PILOT PROGRAM" (PPH request form) instead of [Read more](#)

3. USPTO announces extension of certain patent and trademark-related timing deadlines under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

**CERTAIN PATENT
AND TRADEMARK-
RELATED DEADLINES
EXTENDED UNDER
CARES ACT**

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WASHINGTON - The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) today announced extensions to the time allowed to file certain patent and trademark-related documents and to pay certain required fees. These actions are an exercise of temporary authority provided to the USPTO by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) signed by President Trump on March 27. "Inventors and entrepreneurs are the lifeblood of our economy, and we recognize that many of them are having difficulty as a result of the effects of COVID-19," said Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office And... [Read more](#)

4. Copyright Office Announces Intended Practice Updates on Registration Modernization and Solicits Further Comment

**U.S. COPYRIGHT
OFFICE ANNOUNCES
INTENDED PRACTICE
UPDATES ON
REGISTRATION
MODERNIZATION AND
SOLICITS..**

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The U.S. Copyright Office has published a Federal Register notice announcing several intended practice updates to improve the efficiency of the copyright registration system and soliciting further comment on additional proposed reforms under consideration. This announcement follows an extensive public inquiry in which the Office sought input on potential regulatory and practice changes to accompany the Office's forthcoming modernization initiatives, including the deployment of a new Enterprise Copyright System (ECS). These updates will include new and improved application assistance tools, simplified registration application fields, and unified case numbers. The... [Read more](#)

5. Open for public consultation: EPC and PCT-EPO Guidelines

**EPO TODAY
LAUNCHED A PUBLIC
CONSULTATION ON ITS
GUIDELINES AND
INVITES INTERESTED
PARTIES TO PROVIDE
INPUT**

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The EPO today launched a public consultation on its Guidelines and invites interested parties to provide input. You can submit your comments in any one of the EPO's three official languages via an online form. The deadline for submissions is 15 April 2020. The Guidelines for Examination in the European Patent Office ("EPC Guidelines") and the Guidelines for Search and Examination at the European Patent Office as PCT Authority ("PCT-EPO Guidelines") give instructions on the practices and procedures to be followed in the examination of European and international applications and patents in accordance with the European Patent Convention and the Patent Cooperation Treaty and... [Read more](#)

6. EPO President Campinos: "Now is the time to make the UPP a reality"

**EPO PRESIDENT
ANTÓNIO CAMPINOS
SAID, "IP-INTENSIVE
INDUSTRIES
CONTRIBUTE 45% OF
GDP IN THE EU
ANNUALLY AND 39%
OF ALL JOBS**

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The European Patent Office (EPO) strongly welcomes the announcement of the German government to continue its support for the introduction of the Unitary Patent system in Europe. In a statement made yesterday on the country's ratification of the Unified Patent Court (UPC) Agreement, German Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection Christine Lambrecht expressed her intention to "carefully evaluate the decision of the Federal Constitutional Court and examine possibilities to remedy the identified lack of form still in the current legislative period." Commenting on the statement, EPO President António Campinos said, "IP-intensive industries contribute 45% of GDP in the EU annually and 39% of all jobs. But sadly, we know that employment and growth are predicted to suffer bad... [Read more](#)

7. Official Notice of ex-officio extension for designated periods due to the effects of the COVID-19

**OFFICIAL NOTICE
OF EX-OFFICIO
EXTENSION FOR
DESIGNATED PERIODS
DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF
THE COVID-19**

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Official Notice of ex-officio extension for designated periods due to the effects of the COVID-19. Due to the domestic and international spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), there are concerns that applicants in the process of patents, utility models, designs and/or trademarks may not be able to abide the specified periods designated by the KIPO Commissioner, etc. as indicated in related legislations. As such, if the designated periods, enumerated in the appendix, ends on a date between March 31, 2020 – April 29, 2020, the deadline of such periods according to Article 15(2) of the Patent Act, Article 3 of the Utility Model Act (Article 15(2) of the Patent Act shall apply mutatis.... [Read more](#)

8. TIPO releases 2019 PPH program statistics

**IN RECENT YEARS,
THE NUMBER OF PATENT
APPLICATIONS HAS SEEN
A SIGNIFICANT
GROWTH, DUE TO RAPID
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENTS...**

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In recent years, the number of patent applications has seen a significant growth, due to rapid economic developments around the world. Thus, the globe's IP offices are all actively signing Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) programs to share examination results, thereby ultimately reducing the patent backlog. At this moment, TIPO has been in PPH cooperation with six countries: the United States (effective since Sept. 1, 2011), Japan (effective since May 1, 2012), Spain (effective since Oct. 1, 2013), South Korea (effective since April 1, 2015), Poland (effective since August 1, 2017), and Canada (effective since Feb. 1, 2018), to help applicants acquire patent examination results sooner. As of end of 2019, Taiwan-US and Taiwan-Japan appli... [Read more](#)

9. Relief Available to Patent and Trademark Applicants, Patentees and Trademark Owners Affected by the Coronavirus Outbreak

**PATENT AND
TRADEMARK
APPLICANTS, PATENTEES
AND TRADEMARK
OWNERS AFFECTED BY
THE CORONAVIRUS
OUTBREAK**

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) considers the effects of the Corona virus outbreak that began in approximately January 2020 to be an "extraordinary situation" within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.183 and 37 CFR 2.146 for affected patent and trademark applicants, patentees, reexamination parties, and trademark owners. Patent-Related Correspondence - Petitions to Revive:- For patent applicants or patent owners who were unable to timely reply to an Office communication due to the effects of the coronavirus outbreak, which resulted in the application being held abandoned or the reexamination prosecution terminated or limited the.. [Read more](#)

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10.COVID Strategy: IPOPHL shifts to online-only services, postpones hearings, deadlines

**COVID STRATEGY:
IPOPHL SHIFTS
TO ONLINE-ONLY
SERVICES, POSTPONES
HEARINGS, DEADLINES**

In line with the community quarantine measures in force across Luzon, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) issued last March 16 a memorandum circular through which it suspends manual filings for protection of intellectual property until April 14, 2020. However, the Office would like to assure that its workers, most importantly its customer service providers and information and technology infrastructure managers, will continue regular operations through a work-from-home arrangement to ensure smooth implementation of its online services. "IPOPHL is closely watching developments to guide us in effectively protecting our employees, our top priority... [Read more](#)

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11. Notice from the European Patent Office dated 15 March 2020 concerning the disruptions due to the COVID-19 outbreak

**EPO DATED 15
MARCH 2020
CONCERNING THE
DISRUPTIONS DUE TO
THE COVID-19
OUTBREAK**

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1. In view of the problems caused by the disruptions due to the COVID-19 outbreak, attention is drawn to the general legal remedies provided for under the European Patent Convention (EPC) and under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in cases of non-observance of time limits and, in particular, to the application of Rule 134(2) EPC in accordance with this Notice, as well as the possible application of Rule 134(5) EPC and Rule 82quater.1 PCT.

2. As the state in which the European Patent Office is located the Federal Republic of Germany, like many other Contracting States, is experiencing restrictions on the movement and.... [Read more](#)

12. BREXIT and the protection of EU trade marks and Community industrial designs

**EU TRADE MARKS
AND COMMUNITY
INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS
WITH VALID
PROTECTION RIGHTS**

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On 31 January 2020 at midnight Central European Time under the agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (2019 / C 384 I / 01) [1] , Great Britain ceased to be a member of the Union European Union. The entry into force of the agreement thus marks the beginning of a transitional period, which lasts until the end of December 31, 2020. This situation entails a number of changes, also affecting issues related to EU trade marks and Community industrial designs. EU trade marks and Community industrial designs with valid protection rights - From the end of.. [Read more](#)

13. Business continuity and the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak

BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) OUTBREAK

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We are open for business IP Australia - continues to provide its services. We are making changes where needed to ensure we comply with COVID-19 restrictions. For example, we are now conducting our hearings by video conferencing, telephone or written submissions. We understand that the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak may impact the ability of applicants and their representatives to process applications. Further information for applicants is provided below. IP Australia has adopted working arrangements to ensure the safety of our staff. We are committed to processing your requests and responding to your enquiries as usual during this time. As the COVID-19 situation is... [Read more](#)

14. Appended Table 1 and 2 of the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Design Act

APPENDED TABLE 1 AND 2 OF THE ORDINANCE FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THE DESIGN ACT

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When filing an application for design registration, an applicant needs to state the article to the design, the usage of the building to the design or the usage of the graphic image to the design in the column of [Article to the Design] (Article 6 (1)(iii) of the Design Act). In making a statement in the column of [Article to the Design], the applicant also needs to find the term that suitably represents the article, the usage of the building or the usage of the graphic image to be filed among the "Classification of Articles" as provided by an Ordinance of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Article 7 of the Design Act). "Classification of Articles" is listed in the column of the "Classification of Articles" of Appended Table 1 of the Ordinance for Enforcement... [Read more](#)

15. Switzerland sets a new record for European patent applications

**PATENT APPLICATIONS
ORIGINATING FROM
SWITZERLAND FILED
WITH THE EPO
INCREASED BY 3.6% TO
REACH A RECORD HIGH
OF 8,249**

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In 2019, the number of patent applications originating from Switzerland filed with the European Patent Office (EPO) increased by 3.6% to reach a record high of 8,249 (2018 – 7,961). These figures can be found in the EPO's Patent Index 2019, published today. The increase in applications from Switzerland last year was more than three times higher than the EU average of 0.9%. In 2019, Switzerland also filed a record number of patent applications per capita. For the first time, there were almost 1,000 applications (988) per million inhabitants. This figure was 884 in 2017. The 2019 statistic places Switzerland well ahead of the other countries. Sweden took second place with 433... [Read more](#)

16. BULGARIA: New Trademark Law Brings Significant Changes

**BULGARIA'S
NEW TRADEMARK
LAW CAME INTO
FORCE ON DECEMBER
17, 2019**

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Bulgaria's new trademark law came into force on December 17, 2019. It transposes the European Union Trade Marks Directive 2015/2436 (the Directive) and includes many substantive and procedural changes, including the following:

- The graphical representation requirement no longer exists. Applicants can now claim sound, hologram, position, pattern, motion, multimedia, or other signs that can be reproduced on the trademark register.*
- Among the new absolute grounds for refusal or invalidation are trademarks that cannot be registered pursuant to the EU legislation protecting the names of wines, traditional specialties guaranteed, or trademarks that consi... [Read more](#)*

17. Extension of time for filing document relating to trademarks

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FILING DOCUMENT RELATING TO TRADEMARKS

In view of the concern raised by the stakeholders relating to submission of document in time in prevailing conditions, attention has been drawn towards Sec. 131 of the Trade Marks Act, 1999 and Rules 109 & 110 of Trade Marks Rules, 2017 in regard to extension of time.

Accordingly the applicant can file request for extension of time (now or after situation becomes normal) and such request will be consider by the Registrar in accordance to law. [Read more](#)

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18. CNIPA Releases 2019 China Patent Investigation Report

RECENTLY, CNIPA PUBLICLY RELEASED THE "2019 CHINA PATENT INVESTIGATION REPORT"

Recently, China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) publicly released the "2019 China Patent Investigation Report". The Report shows that China has achieved new results in increasing the cost of infringement and optimizing conditions for doing business, and enterprises' strong demand in hardening the groundwork for IP protection; patent use is running smoothly and the awareness of patent landscaping is generally sharp; More than 90% of the patentees recognize the legal role and significance of the patent invalidation procedure; more than 80% of the patentees believe that the implementation of the national IP strategy has improved China's comprehensive competitiveness. The Report also pointed out that China's IP devel... [Read more](#)

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19. INNORPI Tunisia now aligned with CP3

**INNORPI HAS
PUBLISHED A PRACTICE
PAPER CONCERNING
THE EXAMINATION OF
ABSOLUTE GROUNDS
FOR REFUSAL AS
FIGURATIVE TM**

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The National Institute of Standardization and Industrial Property of Tunisia (INNORPI) has published a practice paper concerning the examination of absolute grounds for refusal as regards figurative trade marks with purely descriptive words/expressions. The INNORPI is at the forefront of non-European IP offices in finding common grounds with the criteria listed under the Common Communication on the Common Practice of Distinctiveness (CP3) — Figurative Marks containing descriptive/non-distinctive words. The publication of this practice paper is a result of the joint collaboration between the INNORPI and the EUIPO, within the framework of its international coo... [Read more](#)

20. Panama joins TMclass and DesignClass

**DIRECTORATE
OF THE INDUSTRIAL
PROPERTY REGISTRY OF
PANAMA (DIGERPI) IS
PART OF THE TMCLASS
AND DESIGNCLASS
TOOLS**

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As of 16 March 2020, the General Directorate of the Industrial Property Registry of Panama (DIGERPI) is part of the TMclass and DesignClass tools. DIGERPI uses and accepts the list of terms from the harmonised database of goods and services (HDB) in TMclass as well as the list of terms from the harmonised database of product indications (HDBPI) in DesignClass. Following DIGERPI's decision to use HDB and HDBPI, there are now eight non-EU IP offices in both TMclass and DesignClass that use and accept terms from these harmonised databases. The latest addition of DIGERPI in TMclass brings the total number of participating national and regional intellectual property offices, including ARIPO, OAPI, WIPO and EUIPO, to 77. As for DesignClass, there are now 33 IP offices in the tool. TMclass offers users the ability to.. [Read more](#)

21. Examination Guidelines for Design

**EXAMINATION
GUIDELINES APPLIES TO
DESIGN APPLICATIONS
WITH FILING DATE ON
AND BEFORE
MARCH 31, 2020**

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The Examination Guidelines for Design aims to ensure consistent interpretation and implementation of the Design Act in design examination. It already existed around 1930 as a document titled "Design Examination Arrangements." In June 1968, the "Examination Guidelines for Design" was published to respond to the Design Act as revised in 1959, and has been used for over 30 years while undergoing slight additions and modifications from time to time. Subsequently, a drastic revision was made to the Design Act in 1998 and, further, some provisions were revised in 1999. With regard to interpretation and implementation of the revised provisions, efforts were made to ensure consi.. [Read more](#)

22. Mexico Joins the Hague System

**MEXICO IS THE
FIRST SPANISH-
SPEAKING COUNTRY
IN LATIN AMERICA TO
JOIN THE HAGUE
SYSTEM**

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On March 6, 2020, the Government of Mexico deposited its instrument of accession to the Geneva Act (1999) of the Hague Agreement with WIPO's Director General Francis Gurry. Mexico is the first Spanish-speaking country in Latin America to join the Hague System and becomes the 64th member of the 1999 Act and 74th member of the Hague Union. The 1999 Act will enter into force in Mexico on June 6, 2020.

As of June 6, 2020, companies and designers from Mexico can begin using the Hague System to protect their industrial designs in the Contracting Parties to the 1999 Act of the Hague Agreement. That translates to protection in the territories of up to 89 countries through a single international application and set of fees. Local and foreign companies and designers can.. [Read more](#)