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## 1. Japan copyright body courts anger by casting a wider net

**JASRAC HAS LONG  
EARNED NOTORIETY  
FOR WHAT CRITICS SEE  
AS STRONG-ARMED  
COLLECTION TACTICS**

*The Japanese Society for Rights of Authors, Composers and Publishers (JASRAC) sparked a public uproar in February when it announced it will start demanding that private music schools pay copyright fees.*

*The nation's largest copyright management agency says that when teachers play a song on the piano in front of their students without permission, they are committing a copyright violation.*

*JASRAC drew fire again in May when media reports surfaced alleging the organization had demanded that Kyoto University pay a copyright fee for posting online a congratulatory address written by professor Juichi Yamagiwa that included a line from Bob Dylan's classic song "Blowin' in the Wind." JASRA has long earned notoriety for what critics. [Read more](#)*

## 2. New WHO Essential Medicines List: Antibiotics, Hepatitis C, Leukaemia, TB

**ACCORDING TO A  
WHO PRESS RELEASE,  
THE UPDATED LIST  
ADDS 30 MEDICINES  
FOR ADULTS AND 25  
FOR CHILDREN**

*The World Health Organization's new list of essential medicines, those which should be available to everyone, anywhere, was issued today. To answer the rising concern about antimicrobial resistance, the antibiotics on the list have been divided in three groups, the last of which are to be used as a last resort. The list includes the first combination therapy to treat all six types of hepatitis C. However, no second line treatment for breast cancer has been added this year.*

*The Model List of Essential Medicines [pdf] issued today is the 40th edition, which "is an international blueprint for the most important medicines at our disposal to address global. [Read more](#)*

## 3. South Africa Cabinet Considers Draft IP Policy

**COMMENTATORS AND  
STAKEHOLDERS HAVE IN  
THE PAST COMPLAINED  
THAT THE PROCESS OF  
DRAWING UP THE  
DRAFT POLICY**

CAPE TOWN—The highest decision-making body of government has finally considered the much-anticipated draft intellectual property policy of South Africa.

Marumo Nkomo, director-legal, international trade and investment at the International Trade and Economic Development (ITED) at the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), confirmed that the document made it to Cabinet in March this year and Cabinet suggested some changes to it.

Cabinet is the highest decision-making structure of the South African government that discusses government business. [Read more](#)

## 4. IP5 to focus on patent harmonization

**THE GROUP PLEDGED TO  
STRENGTHEN ITS  
EFFORTS TO EXPLORE  
THE POTENTIAL FOR  
HARMONISATION IN A  
BID TO REDUCE  
WORKLOAD**

The world's biggest IP offices have pledged to focus on patent harmonisation and launch a collaborative pilot project under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

The heads of the five largest IP offices, known as the IP5, met on Thursday, June 1 at their tenth annual meeting.

In the meeting, the group said it would pursue efforts towards patent harmonisation of practices and procedures within the IP5.

The group pledged to strengthen its efforts to explore the potential for harmonisation in a bid to reduce workload and the costs for applicants filing their applications in multiple jurisdictions in parallel. The IP5—the European Patent Office, the Japan Patent Office, the Korean Intellectual Property Office, China's State Intellectual Property Office. [Read more](#)

## 5. Independent Survey confirms EPO No.1 for quality

**ALL THREE GROUPS  
RATED THE EPO'S QUALITY  
AND SERVICE TO BE  
THE BEST OF THE FIVE  
PATENT OFFICES SURVEYED**

*The success of the EPO's quality management strategy has been confirmed once again by the Intellectual Asset Management (IAM) magazine. The annual benchmarking survey, published last week, shows that the EPO is rated top among the world's five largest patent offices (IP5) for patent quality and service by the 800 patent professionals surveyed.*

*IAM readers were divided into three categories: corporate IP managers, executives working for non-practicing entities (NPEs) and private practice lawyers and attorneys. They were asked about various aspects of the work of the EPO, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Korean Patent Office (KIPO), the US Patent. [Read more](#)*

## 6. Australia Proposes New Risk-Based Approach to Medicine Variations

**TGA SAYS THAT SUCH A  
RISK-BASED APPROACH  
TO THE MANAGEMENT  
OF VARIATIONS TO  
MEDICINES, WHICH WILL  
BE ONLY FOR CHANGES**

*Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on Thursday released guidance on a plan to allow companies to make "very low risk" changes to registered medicines after submitting them to TGA and receiving an automated acknowledgement.*

*"These requests are known as 'notifications' but still require an application to the TGA," the regulator explained. "These lowest risk variations do not require evaluation but legally must still be approved by the TGA before implementation by the sponsor."*

*TGA says that such a risk-based approach to the management of variations to medicines, which will be only for changes that do not impact the quality, safety or efficacy of a medicine, will reduce regulatory burdens on industry, reduce unnecessary assessment work for TGA and allow for variations. [Read more](#)*

## 7. Bacteria used as factories to produce cancer drugs

**WE HAVE DEVELOPED TOOLS WHICH WILL ALLOW THE PROTEINS FROM PLANTS THAT PRODUCE THESE COMPOUNDS TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THE BACTERIAL MOLECULAR MACHINERY**

*Researchers at the Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Biosustainability in Denmark have developed a method of producing P450 enzymes - used by plants to defend against predators and microbes - in bacterial cell factories. The process could facilitate the production of large quantities of the enzymes, which are also involved in the biosynthesis of active ingredients of cancer drugs. P450 is the name of a type of cytochrome, a specialised enzyme. These are used by plants to synthesise chemical compounds with many different functions, but their main use is in defending against herbivores, insects and microbes.*

*"These powerful compounds can be used as active ingredients in drugs for treating diseases such as cancer. [Read more](#)*

## 8. Bosnia and Herzegovina joins Designview

**DESIGNVIEW IS NOW AVAILABLE IN 35 LANGUAGES WITH THE ADDITION OF THE BOSNIAN LANGUAGE**

*As of 12 June 2017, the Institute for Intellectual Property of Bosnia and Herzegovina (IIP-BIH) has made its industrial design data available to the Designview search tool.*

*The integration of IIP-BIH is a concrete result of the EUIPO's International Cooperation framework in collaboration with its international partners.*

*With IIP-BIH on board, Designview now contains data from 55 offices. With the addition of more than 700 designs from IIP-BIH, Designview now provides information and access to almost 10.4 million designs in total.*

*Designview is now available in 35 languages with the addition of the Bosnian language.*

*Since the introduction of Designview. [Read more](#)*

## 9. Caribbean Regulatory System Begins Recommending Generic Drugs

**THE RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH FOLLOW APPROVAL FROM WHO, INCLUDED EMTRICITABINE/TENOFOVIR AND TENOFOVIR TABLETS,**

*The Caribbean Public Health Agency/Caribbean Regulatory System (CARPHA/CRS) last month kicked off its work advising Caribbean countries' governments by assessing and recommending four generic HIV treatments.*

*The recommendations, which follow approval from WHO, included emtricitabine/tenofovir and tenofovir tablets, also known as generic versions of Viread and Truvada (a generic of which also recently won US FDA approval).*

*The regional initiative is meant to help Caribbean states perform key regulatory functions and is a collaboration between the Caribbean . [Read more](#)*

## 10. US Supreme Court: No Six-Month Wait for Biosimilars after FDA approval

**UNANIMOUS RULING ON THE NOTICE OF COMMERCIAL MARKETING WILL HELP EXPEDITE PATIENT ACCESS TO LIFE-ENHANCING TREATMENTS**

*The US Supreme Court on Monday ruled unanimously that biosimilar companies will not have to wait an additional six months after US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval before launching their new biosimilars.*

*The case, pitting biologics manufacturer Amgen against Novartis subsidiary and biosimilar manufacturer Sandoz, attempted to clarify what's known as the biosimilars "patent dance," which is the process by which companies must exchange and figure out the patent situation of a biologic and proposed biosimilar before the biosimilar comes to market.*

*One of the major questions the court discussed in April and sought to answer was whether biosimilar companies. [Read more](#)*

## 11. The Brazilian PTO (BRPTO) issues Normative Instruction #02/2017 on the automatic admissibility of PCT national phase applications

**THE AUTOMATIC ADMISSIBILITY OF PCT NATIONAL PHASE APPLICATIONS AIMS AT SOLVING PART OF THE BRPTO'S HUGE BACKLOG**

*The BRPTO published today, June 6, 2017, Normative Instruction #02/2017 which establishes that PCT applications that entered the Brazilian national phase between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2016, and which have not undergone admissibility examination yet, shall be automatically admitted by the BRPTO.*

*The automatic admissibility of PCT national phase applications aims at solving part of the BRPTO's huge backlog, which currently stands at circa 80,000 applications pending admissibility examination. The admissibility decisions. [Read more](#)*

## 12. Colombia joins TMview

**THIS LATEST EXTENSION BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFICES PARTICIPATING IN TMVIEW TO 58**

*As of 19 June 2017, The Colombian Superintendence of Industry and Commerce (SIC) has made its trade mark data available to the TMview search tool.*

*The integration of SIC is a concrete result of EUIPO's International Cooperation framework in collaboration with its international partners.*

*This latest extension brings the total number of offices participating in TMview to 58, and with the addition of almost 700,000 trade marks from Colombia TMview now provides information and access to more than 43.8 million trade marks in total.*

*Since the introduction of TMview on 13 April 2010 the tool has served almost 31.3 million searches from 157 different countries, with visitors from Spain, Germany. [Read more](#)*

## 13. The Brazilian PTO (BRPTO) issues Rule #193/2017 on expedited analysis of patent applications filed under the PCT

**THE SOLE PARAGRAPH OF ARTICLE 3 ESTABLISHES THAT NO SUPPLEMENTARY SEARCHES SHALL BE CARRIED OUT**

*The BRPTO published today, June 13th, 2017, Rule #193/2017 which establishes the use of prior art search reports issued by International Searching Authorities (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authorities (IPEA), hereinafter "reference of-fices" (Annex I), for patent applications filed under the PCT Agreement.*

*According to Article 3 of Rule #193/2017, prior art search reports, statutorily established by Article 35(1) of the Brazilian Patent Statute (Law #9,279/96), for patent applications claiming priority of an earlier. [Read more](#)*

## 14. Thailand Patent Registry Set to Enforce Modified Examination Procedures and Increase ASEAN Cooperation

**DIP PREDICTS THAT THE TIME TAKEN TO CARRY OUT EXAMINATION OF APPLICATIONS WILL BE CUT IN HALF WHEN COMPARED TO THE CURRENT EXAMINATION PROCEDURE**

*Throughout 2017 so far, the government in Thailand has been signalling its intention to revamp the country's patent system to provide a more efficient standard of service to applicants and inventors.*

*In February, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O Cha pledged to urgently deal with a problem: around 20,000 domestic and international patent applications made to the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) were still awaiting decision. After holding a meeting of key stakeholders in government bodies including the DIP and those in the food, health, pharmaceuticals, technology and trade industries, the government announced its intention to issue a Section 44 order focused upon speeding up all patent examination. [Read more](#)*



## 15. Turkey: Changes To Patent Requirements Regarding Declaration Of Use And Compulsory Licences

**THE NEW CODE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY EXTENDS THE GROUNDS FOR REQUESTING COMPULSORY LICENCES BY INTRODUCING THREE NEW GROUNDS**

*The new Code of Industrial Property 6769, which repealed the previous decree-laws on patents, utility models, trademarks, designs and geographical indications, entered into force on January 10 2017 and introduced the following changes.*

*Requirement of use*

*Article 130/2 of the Code of Industrial Property introduced the application date as an alternative date for patent use. Under the code, the statutory period for using a patent is three years from the publication of the granting decision or four years from the application date, whichever is later. [Read more](#)*

## 16. EPO clarifies practice in the area of plant and animal patents

**IT CONTAINS AN IMPORTANT PRECISION TO PATENTING PRACTICE AT THE EPO PROVIDING MORE CLARITY AND LEGAL CERTAINTY FOR USERS OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT SYSTEM**

*On a proposal of the European Patent Office its Administrative Council took a decision to amend the relevant Regulations in order to exclude from patentability plants and animals exclusively obtained by an essentially biological breeding process.*

*The proposal from the EPO took account of a Notice of the European Commission from November 2016 related to certain articles in the EU Directive on biotechnological inventions (98/44/EC).*

*This Directive was implemented in the EPO's legal framework in 1999. The Directive excludes essentially biological processes from patentability but does not provide for a clear exclusion for plants or animals obtained from such processes. However, in its Notice the Commission clarified that it was the European legislator's intention to exclude not only processes but also products obtained by such processes. [Read more](#)*

## 17. China: Change of publication day at SIPO

**THE NEW CODE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY EXTENDS THE GROUNDS FOR REQUESTING COMPULSORY LICENCES BY INTRODUCING THREE**

*According to an official notice, the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) has changed the frequency and the weekdays for publication of its patents, utility models and designs: As of 6 June 2017, laid-open patent applications, granted patents, registered utility models and designs are published twice a week, on Tuesday and Friday. Legal status information is also released on these days. Previously, SIPO published this information once a week, on Wednesday.*

*The existing principle for numbering the issues of the official gazette will be continued. An additional "01" or "02" will be added to the gazette numbers to indicate the different publication day of the corresponding week. SIPO's official gazettes can either be downloaded as individual PDF files or searched in a database on the Chinese website. [Read more](#)*