

Inside this Issue

<u>WIPO to introduce accelerated examination for Industry 4.0 related patents</u>	2
<u>ASEAN: Recent changes to the patent procedures in Vietnam</u>	2
<u>EPO fee reduction takes effect as of 1 April 2018</u>	3
<u>Japan: Revisions to the Trademark Examination Manual</u>	3
<u>Vietnam streamlines copyright rules with new legislation</u>	4
<u>EUIPO launches project to boost IP in Southeast Asia</u>	4
<u>Taiwan IP Office Moves Beyond Politics To Forge Links With Other IP Offices, Enforce IP Rights</u>	5
<u>Ratification of the 1999 Act: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</u>	5
<u>Membership on the Rise: Afghanistan Joins the Madrid System</u>	6
<u>Madrid Protocol Concerning the International Registration of Marks Change in the Amounts of the Individual Fee: Cambodia</u>	6

1. KIPO to introduce accelerated examination for Industry 4.0 related patents

KOREAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE TO INTRODUCE ACCELERATED EXAMINATION FOR INDUSTRY 4.0 RELATED PATENTS

The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) is planning to offer an accelerated examination option for applications related to the "Fourth Industrial Revolution". This expedited examination will be available for inventions in seven core technological fields such as artificial intelligence, internet of things, 3D printing, autonomous vehicles, cognitive robotics, Big Data and cloud computing.

This new expedited examination would reduce the pendency period from currently 16.4 months to only 5.7 months and is planned to be introduced within the first half of 2018. [Read more](#)

2. ASEAN: Recent changes to the patent procedures in Vietnam

ASEAN: RECENT CHANGES TO THE PATENT PROCEDURES IN VIETNAM

In January 2018, an amendment of the implementing regulations of the Law on Intellectual Property entered into force. Some of the most notable new features include the following:

- Removal of the 6 months grace period for late PCT national phase entries: national phase entries after the 31-month-deadline not permitted any more.*
- Extension of time limits to respond to office actions, e.g. from 2 to 3 months for responses to a preliminary rejection and from 1 to 3 months for the fee payment after the grant decision.*
- Extension of time limits in case of "force majeure", e.g. additional 6 months for filing the examination request after expiry of the original 42-month-deadline. [Read more](#)*

3. EPO fee reduction takes effect as of 1 April 2018

**THE EUROPEAN PATENT
OFFICE ANNOUNCES
THAT FEE REDUCTIONS
FOR PATENT
APPLICATIONS ENTERED
INTO FORCE ON 1 APRIL
2018**

The European Patent Office announces that fee reductions for patent applications entered into force on 1 April 2018. The measures will lower a number of costs in the patent application and examination process, and help reinforce a more business friendly approach in support of innovation. Acting on a proposal of the European Patent Office, the Administrative Council of the European Patent Organisation, had approved the fee reduction for patent applications in December 2017.

The EPO's mission is to support innovation, competitiveness and growth through a commitment to high quality and efficiency," said EPO President Benoît Battistelli. "A carefully [Read more](#)

4. Japan: Revisions to the Trademark Examination Manual

**JPO ANNOUNCED IN
MARCH THAT SOME
REVISIONS WOULD BE
MADE TO THE
TRADEMARK
EXAMINATION**

*The Japan Patent Office (JPO) announced in March that some revisions would be made to the Trademark Examination Manual on 2 April, 2018. **Main points** of the revision are as follows:*

- 1. Changing the criteria for issuance of an office action relating to intention of use.*
- 2. Revision of the examination criteria for non-traditional trademarks (To make the practice more clear).*
- 3. Revision of treatment of the marks consisting of signs with historic, cultural or traditional value.*
- 4. Revision of the requirement to be an applicant of a regional collective mark.*

Among these four, the first will have the biggest [Read more](#)

5. Vietnam streamlines copyright rules with new legislation

VIETNAM STREAM- LINES COPYRIGHT RULES WITH NEW LEG- ISLATION

Vietnam has introduced new copyright legislation today, with one practitioner in the region saying it is intended to simplify the country's provisions relating to copyright applications.

Speaking to WIPR, Son Doan, an IP attorney practising in the Vietnam office of IP Max, explained that Decree 22/2018/ND-CP includes a number of measures for implementing and supplementing the country's IP laws. [Read more](#)

6. EUIPO launches project to boost IP in Southeast Asia

EUIPO HAS LAUNCHED A FOUR-YEAR PROJECT WHICH AIMS TO STRENGTHEN IP RIGHTS SYSTEMS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) has launched a four-year project which aims to strengthen IP rights systems in Southeast Asia. Based in Bangkok, Thailand, IP Key Southeast Asia (IP Key SEA) will focus on increasing legal transparency, predictability and certainty for IP owners in the region.

It's one of three EU-funded projects dedicated to IP that are being implemented by the EUIPO, together with IP Key China and IP Key Latin America. [Read more](#)

7. Taiwan IP Office Moves Beyond Politics To Forge Links With Other IP Offices, Enforce IP Rights

TAIWAN IP OFFICE MOVES BEYOND POLI- TICS FORGE LINKS IP OF- FICES ENFORCE IP RIGHTS

TAIPEI, Taiwan — *The building is impressive. Taiwan's intellectual property office, located in the Dan-an district of Taipei, deals with patents, trademarks, designs, and utility models. Not being a recognised member of the United Nations, Taiwan cannot access the World Intellectual Property Organization treaties, in particular the Patent Cooperation Treaty.*

However, Taiwan is dedicated to enforcing IP rights, and entertains agreements with several IP offices in the world, including China, which is Taiwan's major trading partner. [Read more](#)

8. Ratification of the 1999 Act: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

HAGUE AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE IN- TERNATIONAL REGIS- TRATION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS

On March 13, 2018, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland deposited with the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) its instrument of ratification of the Geneva (1999) Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs.

The instrument of ratification was accompanied by the following declarations:

- 1. The declaration referred to in Article 4(1)(b) of the 1999 Act, whereby international applications may not be filed through its Office; [Read more](#)*

9. Membership on the Rise: Afghanistan Joins the Madrid System

AFGHANISTAN'S ADOPTION OF THE MADRID PROTOCOL, THE LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS ARE THE ONES WHO ARE BOUND TO BENEFIT THE MOST.

On March 26, 2018 the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol, making Afghanistan the 101st member of the Madrid System. The Protocol will enter into force for Afghanistan on June 26, 2018. Starting June 26, local brand owners in Afghanistan can begin using the Madrid System to protect their marks in the 116 territories of the System's other 100 members by filing a single international application and paying a single set of fees. Membership in the Madrid Union will offer these enterprises a direct pathway to the country's top export destinations, including India and Turkey. With the Madrid System's [Read more](#)

10. Madrid Protocol Concerning the International Registration of Marks Change in the Amounts of the Individual Fee: Cambodia

MADRID PROTOCOL CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF MARKS. CHANGE IN THE AMOUNTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL FEE

The Government of Cambodia has notified to the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) a declaration modifying the amounts of the individual fee payable with respect to Cambodia under Article 8(7) of the Madrid Protocol. In accordance with Rule 35(2)(b) of the Common Regulations under the Madrid Agreement and Protocol, the Director General of WIPO has, after consultation with the Office of Cambodia, established the following new amounts, in Swiss francs, of the said individual fee:

This change shall have effect on May 21, 2018. [Read more](#)