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01. China and Norway Extend PPH Pilot Program

**FOR ANOTHER FIVE
YEARS FROM APRIL
1, 2023 TO MARCH
31, 2028**

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The China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and the Norwegian Industrial Property Office (NIPO) have jointly decided to extend their Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program for another five years from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2028. The established Guideline of CNIPA-NIPO PPH Request remains controlling the pertinent requirements and procedures governing applicants' PPH requests at the two offices.(Translated from CNIPA Website Chinese Version)....[Read more](#)

02. Asian Language Translations in PATENTSCOPE

**THOSE TRANSLATION
OPTIONS ARE
AVAILABLE IN
PATENTSCOPE USING
WIPO TRANSLATE**

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*In PATENTSCOPE, it is now possible to translate patent documents:
from Chinese into Korean
from Chinese into Japanese
from Japanese into Chinese
from Japanese into Korean
from Korean into Chinese
from Korean into Japanese*

Until now, translations in those different language pairs required the use of English as a go-between, leading to potential errors and inaccuracies in the final translation. However, with this new system, translations are made directly from one language to another, improving accuracy and reducing the likelihood of mistakes.

Those translation options are available in PATENTSCOPE using WIPO Translate in the result list and in different parts of the patent documents, and as a stand-alone tool[Read more](#)

03. The Copyright Office Issues Guidance Regarding Works Produced by Generative AI

IMPROVEMENTS IN COMPUTER PROCESSING AND STORAGE CAPABILITIES

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On March 16, the Copyright Office published guidance in the Federal Register relating to works produced at least in part by generative artificial intelligence (AI). This is the latest in a series of policy decisions and statements that the Office has made to applicants attempting to register such works.

While AI has been a viable technology for decades, improvements in computer processing and storage capabilities of the last 15 years have enabled the rise of machine learning, a branch of AI in which a computer system can be trained on a large amount of data in order to "learn" underlying patterns within....[Read more](#)

04. CNIPA and EAPO Extend PPH Pilot Program

DECIDED TO EXTEND FOR AN INDEFINITE TIME PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 2023

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The China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) have jointly decided to extend their Patent prosecution highway (PPH) pilot program for an indefinite time period from April 1, 2023.

Benefiting from the addition of PCT-PPH to the existing PPH program according to the extended pilot program, patent applicants from both sides may file a PPH request with CNIPA or EAPO by quoting the work results from the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) international stage. The updated CNIPA-EAPO PPH Guideline remains controlling the pertinent requirements and procedures governing applicants' PPH requests at the two offices....[Read more](#)

05. Unitary Patent System enters into force on June 1, 2023

**UNIFIED PATENT
COURT WILL START ITS
OPERATION ON JUNE
1, 2023**

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The biggest change to patent law in Europe will start on June 1, 2023, introducing the unitary patent system, as a single approach to patent registration and protection across more than 24 European member states (currently 17 unitary patent states). Simultaneously with the unitary patent system, the unified patent court will start its operation on the aforementioned date, as a centralized forum for the litigation of European patents, including the unitary patents and classic European patents.

Initially, the European Patent Office (EPO) will start granting unitary patents providing uniform patent protection in all participating member states. This will pave the way for applicants who wish to obtain protection in multiple European countries...[Read more](#)

06. Revision of Examination Guidelines for Patent and Utility Model in Japan

**MINOR REVISIONS
HAVE BEEN MADE**

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Since the Partial Revision of the Patent Act and Other Acts (Act No. 42 on May 21, 2021) has come into force (the Act's effective date : April 1, 2023), "requirements for reinstatement of rights, such as patent rights, which are lost due to the failure to comply with prescribed time limits" have been relaxed from "having legitimate grounds" to "not being intentional". Due to this enforcement, minor revisions have been made in the Examination Guidelines for Patent and Utility Model (hereinafter, the "Examination Guidelines").

The revised Examination Guidelines has been effective on and after April 1.

Due to the enforcement of Patent Act revised in 2021, minor revisions have been made in the Examination Guidelines....[Read more](#)

7. Reminder: USPTO transitioning to electronic patent grants occurring April 18

**NOTIFY THE PUBLIC
WHEN THIS TRANSITION
PERIOD WILL END**

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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office announced earlier this year in a press release that we are implementing electronic patent issuance in the form of electronic patent grants (eGrants). This new method helps inventors access their newly-granted patents the same day we publicly issue them via Patent Center, while simultaneously minimizing paper waste and potentially reducing patent pendency. All patents issued on April 18, 2023, and forward will be issued as eGrants. During a transition period, patentees will also receive a ceremonial paper copy in the mail. Certified copies and presentation copies will still be offered for a fee through the USPTO Certified Copy Center. After the transition period, a selection of patent grant copies, including the ceremonial copy, will be available.....[Read more](#)

8. Design Patent Protection for Computer Generated Icons and Graphical User Interfaces

**DESIGN PATENTS CAN
BE OBTAINED FOR
COMPUTER
GENERATED ICONS**

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Recent patent cases have made it more difficult to obtain utility patent protection for some of the functional aspects of computer software. One way to, at least partially, overcome this is to consider design patent protection for computer generated icons and certain aspects of the graphical user interface (GUI) elements of a computer program. Strategic use of design patents can be an important part of an overall patent strategy. It should be noted, however, that design patents are not meant as a replacement for utility patents, but rather, as a supplement to them.

t a high level, a "utility patent" protects the way an article works and is used. In contrast, a "design patent" protects[Read more](#)

9. The Executive Yuan Approves the Partial Draft Amendments to the Patent Act and the Trademark Act

**AMENDMENTS WILL
REDUCE THE TIME AND
COST OF PATENT OR
TRADEMARK REMEDIES**

Partial draft amendments to the Patent Act and the Trademark Act aimed at re-establishing an efficient and professional remedy system for patents and trademarks passed in the Executive Yuan on March 9, 2023. The amendments will reduce the time and cost of patent or trademark remedies, facilitate early resolution to disputes, and create a friendlier IP environment for industry development. A mechanism to manage trademark agents and ensure greater protection for trademark applicants has also been set up. A summary of the key points of the draft amendment are as follows:

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- 1. Partial Draft Amendments to the Patent Act and the Trademark Act to Re-establish a Remedy System:*
- 2. Amendment of Certain Articles of the Trademark Act with Regards to Regulating Trademark Agents...[Read more](#)*

10. JPO exchanged Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property with Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Bangladesh

**EXCHANGED THE
MEMORANDUM OF
COOPERATION (MOC)
IN THE FIELD OF IP**

On April 26, 2023, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio had a summit meeting with H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at Tokyo, Japan. This is in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of Bangladesh last year.

Along with this, Mr. HAMANO Koichi, Commissioner of Japan Patent Office (JPO) and Ms. Zakia Sultana, Secretary of Ministry of Industries, Bangladesh exchanged the MOC in the field of IP.....[Read more](#)

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11. China: The New Draft Trademark Law Increases Requirements for Recognition of Well-Known Status

**PROPOSING
AMENDMENTS TO
THE PROCESS FOR
DETERMINATION OF
A TRADEMARK'S
STATUS AS WELL-
KNOWN**

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The recently published Draft Amendment to the Chinese Trademark Law is proposing the introduction of important changes to the current trademark system in China. In addition to introducing tighter filing requirements and proof of use to combat trademark theft (see my prior blog), it is proposing amendments to the process for determination of a trademark's status as well-known. Given that recognition of well-known status plays a critical role in trademark prosecution matters such as opposition and invalidation proceedings, these changes are of great importance to right holders.

The Draft Amendment to the Trademark Law (Article 18) finally codifies the established practice that well-known status is neither a one-time decision by a higher administrative body (as it used to be before 2009) nor a permanent state....[Read more](#)