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1. Upgrading our Trade Marks Classification Search

**AUSTRALIA UPGRADED
TM CLASSIFICATION
SEARCH IS LAUNCHED
LATER THIS MONTH, USERS
WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY
REDIRECTED TO THE NEW
SEARCH**

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We are upgrading our Trade Mark Classification Search. The upgrade provides an improved user interface which is now consistent with our other trade mark tools, making it easier to use for our customers. The Trade Marks Classification Search provides a list of goods and services classes that you can choose for your trade mark. The database also includes a snapshot of the types of goods and services that fall in each class, i.e. 'class headings'. When the upgraded search is launched later this month, users will be automatically redirected to the new search. Regular users of this search function may like to update their favourites to the new URL. Trial the new Trade Marks Classification Search now available on our website: [Read more](#)

2. OAPI Enhances its Participation in TMclass and Joins DesignClass

**OAPI HAS ENHANCED
ITS PARTICIPATION IN
TMCLASS AND JOINED
DESIGNCLASS, ACCORDING
TO THE OFFICIAL
WEBSITE OF EUIPO**

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YAOUNDE, Cameroon - The African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) has enhanced its participation in TMclass and joined DesignClass, according to the official website of European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). OAPI will now use and accept the list of terms from the harmonized database of goods and services (HDB) in TMclass as well as the list of terms from the harmonized database of product indications (HDBPI) in DesignClass. Following OAPI's decision to use HDB and HDBPI there are now twelve (12) non-EU IP offices in TMclass and eleven (11) in DesignClass, which use and accept terms from these harmonized databases. The latest addition of OAPI in TMclass brings the total number of participating... [Read more](#)

3. Announcement of the usual characters accepted by the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (section 7 of the Trade Mark Ordinance)

**ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE USUAL
CHARACTERS ACCEPTED
BY THE GERMAN PATENT
AND TRADE MARK OFFICE**

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The usual characters accepted by the German Patent and Trade Mark Office include Latin characters, Arabic numerals and certain special characters. An exhaustive list (including Unicode) is available here: [pdf-Datei Übliche Schriftzeichen für Wortmarken](#).

The usual characters accepted by the German Patent and Trade Mark Office can be:-

- *Entered directly in the applications DPMAdirektWeb (without signature) and DPMAdirektPro (with a signature); or*
- *submitted to the DPMA in the paper-based application form for the registration of a trade mark in the register Antrag auf Eintragung einer Marke in das Register to... [Read more](#)*

4. EU confirms Uganda's intellectual property office as Africa's first trademark and design class system

**EUROPEAN UNION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANISATION CONFIRMS
UGANDA'S INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY OFFICE AS
AFRICA'S FIRST
TRADEMARK AND DESIGN**

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KAMPALA – Uganda has once again scored a first on the African continent. Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) officially joined the TMclass and DesignClass on 03rd August 2020, after confirmation by the European Union Intellectual Property Organisation (EUIPO). TMclass offers users the opportunity to search and translate goods and services to and from any of the 44 languages available, while the DesignClass enables search and translation of product indications in 28 languages. The EU trademark classification is a vital tool to support Ugandan enterprises doing business internationally and in the European Union. The system will enable full automation of the... [Read more](#)

5. USPTO fee changes effective October 2, 2020

**USPTO PUBLISHED
A FINAL RULE ON AUGUST
3, 2020 IN A FEDERAL
REGISTER NOTICE,
ANNOUNCING FEE
CHANGES THAT TAKE
EFFECT OCTOBER 2, 2020**

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The USPTO published a Final Rule on August 3, 2020 in a Federal Register Notice, announcing fee changes that take effect October 2, 2020. The Final Rule includes an approximate 5-10% increase to most fees impacted by the rule, with some larger increases, notably in issue and maintenance fees, maintenance late fees, and PTAB fees. Four fees were discontinued. For a full listing of fee changes, see the Table of Patent Fee Adjustments. There are new fees related to a surcharge for non-DOCX filings, effective January 1, 2022. Additionally, there is a new biennial registration requirement, effective Spring 2022. The new fees, additional requirements, and other topics such as the voluntary... [Read more](#)

6. September 1: TIPO introduces operational directions for third parties to participate in patent examination process

**TIPO INTRODUCES
OPERATIONAL DIRECTIONS
FOR THIRD PARTIES TO
PARTICIPATE IN PATENT
EXAMINATION PROCESS**

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TIPO has always strived for the highest standards when it comes to patent quality. As a further sign of this commitment, the office has been working on how to best encourage third parties to submit prior art concerning the patentability of an invention after the publishing of patent applications 18 months following the earliest effective filing date - this reflects similar measures adopted worldwide and serves to enhance the stability of patent rights. With the aforementioned goal in mind, TIPO has introduced the Operational Directions for the Processing of Third-Party Observations on Invention Patent Applications. It is hoped that the new directions, which were announced on August 25, 2020, and came into effect on September 1 of the same year, will clearly regulate public participation procedures. [Read more](#)

7. New initiatives to protect Indigenous Knowledge

**NEW INITIATIVES
TO PROTECT INDIGENOUS
KNOWLEDGE INCLUDING
ART, CULTURE, LANGUAGE
OR ADOPTING A SIMILAR
STYLE IS OFFENSIVE TO
ABORIGINAL..**

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The misuse of Indigenous Knowledge including art, culture, language or adopting a similar style is offensive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It can undermine cultural practices and affect the economic opportunities available for authentic products. If you are considering an IP application that uses something from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, community or nation, we encourage you to consider this new information about working respectfully with Indigenous Knowledge. While each situation will be different, there is a commonality in the importance of acting respectfully and with the consent of the Traditional Owner. Recognising the... [Read more](#)

8. WIPO Launches New Free Database of Judicial Decisions on Intellectual Property from Around the World

**WIPO TODAY
LAUNCHED WIPO LEX-
JUDGMENTS, A NEW
DATABASE PROVIDING
FREE-OF-CHARGE ACCESS
TO LEADING JUDICIAL
DECISIONS RELATED TO IP
LAW FROM..**

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The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) today launched WIPO Lex-Judgments, a new database providing free-of-charge access to leading judicial decisions related to IP law from around the world. As technological innovation often outpaces the ability of legislatures and governments to create new rules and regulations, courts across the world are increasingly facing common issues of a highly sophisticated nature. WIPO-Lex Judgments contributes to a greater overall understanding of how courts are handling these issues, by making available judgments - selectively curated by the relevant authorities in participating member states - that establish precedent or offer a persuasive interpretation of IP law in their jurisdiction. At launch, WIPO Lex-Judgments contained over 400 documents from.... [Read more](#)

9. BRICS Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Agree to Bolster Digital Cooperation

**CNIPA OFFICIAL
INFORMATION BRICS
HEADS OF INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY OFFICES AGREE
TO BOLSTER DIGITAL
COOPERATION**

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The BRICS countries agreed for the need to strengthen digital cooperation among member states and support for holders of intellectual property rights. The 12th Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Intellectual Property Offices was held online on August 26. CNIPA Commissioner Shen Changyu attended the meeting and delivered a speech. Dr. Shen Changyu introduced the measures CNIPA has taken against the raging COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that as the pandemic brought huge challenges to global public health, economic development and innovation, it was of great significance that the intellectual property offices of the BRICS countries work together, highlighting their commitment to providing quality service for users. The timely and eff.. [Read more](#)

10. Sweden ranks second in the world in innovation

**THIS YEAR'S REPORT
FROM WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANISATION PLACES
SWEDEN IN SECOND PLACE
AMONG THE MOST
INNOVATIVE COUNTRIES**

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This year's report from WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation) places Sweden in second place among the most innovative countries. The Global Innovation Index measures the ability of 131 countries to create a good climate for innovation. This is the second year in a row that Sweden ends up in the second best place in the ranking. - Sweden as a country consolidates second place in the annual survey of innovation globally, it is a good starting point to develop from. We continue to improve our overall ability to convert intangible assets into increased value, not least in the area of climate-smart environmental technology, says Peter Strömbäck, Director General of PRV, the Swedish Intellectual Property... [Read more](#)

11. India signs MoU with Denmark on Intellectual Property cooperation

**UNION MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
SIGNED A MOU IN THE
FIELD OF IP COOPERATION
WITH DENMARK'S DANISH
PATENT AND TRADEMARK
OFFICE**

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Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of Intellectual Property cooperation with Denmark's Danish Patent and Trademark Office, here on Saturday. According to an official release, the Union Cabinet in its meeting dated September 15, 2020 gave the approval for signing the MoU with Denmark in the field of Intellectual Property (IP) cooperation. The MoU aims at increasing IP co-operation between the two countries by way of exchange of best practices, experiences and knowledge on IP awareness among public, authorities, businesses and research and educational institutions of both countries. It also calls for collaboration in training programmes, exchange of... [Read more](#)

12. The 1st Japan-India IT Experts Meeting Held

**1ST JAPAN-INDIA
IT EXPERTS MEETING WAS
HELD BETWEEN THE JPO
AND THE OFFICE OF THE
CGPDTM OF INDIA, VIA
VIDEO CONFERENCE**

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On August 26, 2020, the 1st Japan-India IT Experts Meeting was held between the Japan Patent Office (JPO) and the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks (CGPDTM) of India, via video conference. This meeting had been agreed to set up at the 3rd JPO-DPIIT Review Meeting held in November last year. In the meeting, the two offices agreed to share information and experience about information system of the intellectual property offices aiming to improve the system of both offices through the framework of the Japan-India IT Experts Meeting. The two offices also introduced their organizational structures of IT departments and exchanged views on the organization configuration and development system. [Read more](#)

13. Singapore Retains Top Spot As Asia's Most Innovative Nation

SINGAPORE HAS RETAINED ITS OVERALL TOP RANKING AS ASIA'S MOST INNOVATIVE NATION IN THE LATEST GII RELEASED BY THE WIPO, CORNELL UNIVERSITY & INSEAD

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Singapore, 3 September 2020 – Singapore has retained its overall top ranking as Asia's most innovative nation in the latest Global Innovation Index (GII) released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Cornell University & INSEAD. It has held this position since 2014.

2. The GI ranks world economies according to their innovation capabilities. Consisting of roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs and outputs, the GI aims to capture the multi-dimensional facets of innovation.

3. Singapore continued to top the Innovation Input Sub-Index1 and maintained its 15th position in the Innovation Output Sub-Index2. Singapore also ranked number 1 (from 36th... [Read more](#)

14. UKRAINE AMENDS INDUSTRIAL DESIGN LAW

AMENDMENTS TO THE UKRAINIAN INDUSTRIAL DESIGN LAW ENTERED INTO FORCE ON AUGUST 16, 2020, AS PART OF A SET OF LAWS INTENDED TO IMPLEMENT..

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Amendments to the Ukrainian industrial design law entered into force on August 16, 2020, as part of a set of laws intended to implement the requirements set out in the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, synchronize local legislation with that of the EU and ensure legal and linguistic consistency of legal acts regulating intellectual property rights in Ukraine. The amended industrial design law introduces individual character (along with novelty) as a new registrability requirement, creating a twofold criterion, common in the EU, which each industrial design should meet in order to enjoy protection. A design will be deemed as having individual character if the overall impression it creates on the informed user is different from the overall imp... [Read more](#)

15. Accession of The Republic of Mauritius to the Lusaka Agreement

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS DEPOSITED ITS INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION TO THE LUSAKA AGREEMENT OF DECEMBER 9, 1976 ESTABLISHING THE ARIPO..

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The Republic of Mauritius deposited its Instrument of Accession to the Lusaka Agreement of December 9, 1976 establishing the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) with the Director General of ARIPO on September 25, 2020.

In accordance with Article XVI (3) of the Lusaka Agreement, the Republic of Mauritius becomes a full member of ARIPO as of this Twenty-Fifth Day of September, Two Thousand and Twenty.

The accession of The Republic of Mauritius to the Lusaka Agreement brings the total number of ARIPO's Member States to 20. [Read more](#)

16. China's First COVID-19 Virus Vaccine Patent Granted to CanSino Bio

CNIPA GRANTED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 WHAT MAY BE THE FIRST PATENT COVERING A VACCINE FOR THE COVID-19 VIRUS

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The China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) granted on September 11, 2020 what may be the first patent covering a vaccine for the COVID-19 virus. The patent published under number CN111218459B. The Institute of Military Medicine, Chinese Academy of Military Sciences in conjunction with CanSinoBIO, a Chinese vaccine maker, filed application CN202010193587.8 on March 18, 2020 and is entitled "A new recombinant coronavirus vaccine using human replication-deficient adenovirus as a vector." The patent is based on research earlier published in the Lancet showing their Ad5 vectored COVID-19 vaccine "is tolerable and immunogenic at 28 days post-vaccination." Per the Wall Street Journal, China's... [Read more](#)