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## 1. Collaboration with WIPO Japan Office

**JPO IN COLLABORATION  
WITH THE WIPO JAPAN  
OFFICE, WILL CONTRIBUTE  
TO IMPROVING THE  
CONVENIENCE OF THE IP  
SYSTEM ACROSS THE  
WORLD**

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*The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), headquartered in Geneva, has an external office in Japan. The Japan Patent Office (JPO), in collaboration with the WIPO Japan Office, will contribute to improving the convenience of the IP system across the world.*

### **WIPO External Offices:**

*WIPO has external offices in seven countries worldwide, liaising with local organizations, promoting IP awareness, and disseminating WIPO's services, tools, and platforms. WIPO also provides capacity building and technical assistance based on the needs of the area-of-responsibility. WIPO External... [Read more](#)*

## 2. International Search Reports by the JPO under PCT (16 Feb. 2021)

**INTERNATIONAL  
SEARCH AT THE JPO IS  
BENEFICIAL FOR PCT USERS  
AT HOME AND RESIDING  
OVERSEAS AS WELL!**

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*The JPO is contributing to the PCT System as the third-largest issuer of International Search Reports (ISRs).*

*As a competent International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority, we prepare and issue ISRs and IPERs either in Japanese or in English. We perform international search within the prescribed timeframe (deadline compliance rates 99.8%), at reasonable search fees (JPY 156,000 for English ISR as of January 2021), and also with very favorable quality evaluation. International search at the JPO is beneficial for PCT users at home and residing overseas as well!*

*Schedule of PCT Fees at the JPO - This article is only for applicants who filed international applications under.. [Read more](#)*

## 3. China National IP Administration (CNIPA) Extends Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program with Austria and Germany

**A JOINT DECISION OF  
THE CNIPA AND THE AU  
PATENT OFFICE, THE CHINA  
-AUSTRIA PPH PILOT  
PROJECT WILL BE  
EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER  
FIVE YEARS...**

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*According to a joint decision of the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and the Austrian Patent Office, the China-Austria Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot project will be extended for another five years from March 1, 2021, until February 28, 2026. The PPH enables accelerated examination of Chinese patent applications based on an allowance of an earlier-examined patent application. The relevant requirements and procedures for submitting PPH requests in the two offices remain unchanged. The China-Austria (regional) PPH pilot program was launched on March 1, 2013, and was extended three times in 2014, 2016 and 2018. This follows on the January... [Read more](#)*

## 4. Agreement on access to PatSearch reached with the Office of Tajikistan

**NATIONAL CENTER  
FOR PATENTS AND  
INFORMATION (NCPI)  
SIGNED A MEMORANDUM  
ON PROVIDING ACCESS TO  
PATSEARCH**

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*On February 3, 2021, Rospatent and the National Center for Patents and Information of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan (NCPI) signed a Memorandum on providing access to PatSearch, the patent information search system of Rospatent. PatSearch is a professional search system designed for experts of the Federal Institute of Industrial Property (FIPS). The system provides an extended set of functions, allowing to search by titles of protection of the PCT minimum countries, CIS countries, WIPO, EPO, ARIPO and OAPI. Since 2018, PatSearch utilizes artificial intelligence to conduct searches, providing the examiner with Rel... [Read more](#)*

## 5. Enforcement of IP Rights in Africa

**WEB SERIES  
WILL BE PRESENTED  
LIVE OVER THE COURSE OF  
SIX WEEKS, STARTING  
ON FEB. 25, 2021**

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*Africa and its growing middle class remain a center of attention for intellectual property (IP) right holders and their representatives. Enhanced dialogue involving all stakeholders in Africa on the enforcement of IP rights is critical. With this web series, we will be fostering learning and dialogue on IP enforcement issues. This series will be presented live over the course of six weeks, starting on February 25, 2021. This six-part series opens with an overview session focusing on the current economic climate, factors contributing to counterfeiting, and the robust anticounterfeiting activities taking place across Africa. Subsequent sessions will provide more detailed ana... [Read more](#)*

## 6. Patent Commercialization Gains Momentum During Past Five Years

**CHINA IS IMPROVING  
THE EFFICIENCY OF IP  
TRANSFER AND  
COMMERCIALIZATION  
AND UPGRADING THE  
IP OPERATION SERVICES,  
SUPPORTING...**

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*The realization of patents value in China is being accelerated during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020) thanks to a refined IP benefit sharing mechanism and budding IP commercialization platforms. Improvement of quality and efficiency of patent commercialization work is constantly a boost to the Chinese economy. According to the latest statistics, the number of patent transactions of all purposes including transfer, licensing and pledge financing during the 13th Five-Year Plan period logged at 1.386 million, two and a half times over the previous five years (also dubbed as the 12th Five-year Plan period) and at an compound annual growth rate of 23.7%, up nine per cent over the rate of the 12th. Patent pledge financing amounted to 470.5 billion yuan, 3.1 times over the... [Read more](#)*

## 7. Patent Term Extension in China

**THE 4TH AMENDMENT  
TO THE CHINA PATENT  
LAW ADOPTED IN OCT.  
2020 INTRODUCED A  
BRAND-NEW PATENT  
TERM EXTENSION**

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*The Fourth Amendment to the China Patent Law ("Amended Patent Law") adopted in October 2020 introduced a brand-new Patent Term Extension (PTE). In China, since 1993 the term of a patent for invention (equivalent to utility patent) has been 20 years. The Fourth Amendment to the China Patent Law ("Amended Patent Law") adopted in October 2020 introduced a brand-new Patent Term Extension (PTE). According to the Amended Patent Law, PTE allows extension of the 20-year term of a patent related to a new pharmaceutical product approved for marketing in China to compensate for unreasonable curtailment of the effective patent term as a result of the mar... [Read more](#)*

## 8. Draft Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Gazette of India on 09/02/2021

**IPO HAS PUBLISHED  
DRAFT RULES TO AMEND  
THE PATENTS RULES &  
OBJECTIONS/  
SUGGESTIONS, IF ANY, MAY  
BE ADDRESSED TO  
SACHIN.D@GOV.IN WILL BE  
CONSIDERED**

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*G.S.R. 106(E).—The following draft rules to further amend the Patents Rules, 2003 which the Central Government proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred by section 159 of the Patents Act, 1970 , are hereby published as required by sub-section (3) of the said section for the information of all persons likely to be affected thereby, and notice is hereby given that the said draft rules will be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of thirty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette of India, in which this notification is published, are made available to the public; Objections or suggestions, if any, may be addressed to the Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi... [Read more](#)*

## 9. European Cooperation: new online services in Lithuania

**EUROPEAN COOPERATION  
PROJECT ECP1, HAS  
IMPROVED THE E-FILING  
AND E-SERVICES TOOLS  
WITH THE REGISTER OF  
LEGAL ENTITIES AND THE  
REGISTER OF ADDRESSES**

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*The State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania (SPB), with the support of the EUIPO's European cooperation project ECP1, has improved the e-filing and e-services tools available for its users. It did so by integrating these tools with the Register of Legal Entities and the Register of Addresses. The front office platform, available via the SPB website, now allows Lithuanian users filing applications and requests electronically, to automatically retrieve addresses and company data from the official Register of Legal Entities and the Register of Addresses. With this new feature, users will be reducing potential misprints and human errors when filing applications in the front office, avoiding this way... [Read more](#)*

## 10. The Polish Patent Office changes its policy on patentability of software, biotech and pharma

**THE POLISH PATENT  
OFFICE (PPO) CHANGES ITS  
POLICY ON PATENTABILITY  
OF SOFTWARE, BIOTECH  
AND PHARMA**

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*Despite the Polish Law on Industrial Property (LoIP) being almost fully harmonized with the European Patent Convention (EPC), until very recently the Polish Patent Office (PPO) has been reluctant to follow completely the EPO's policy on the patentability of the most controversial inventions: computer implemented inventions (CIIs), certain biotechnological inventions, and medicinal products' further medical uses. In 2020, however, the PPO substantially changed its policy on these issues. According to the amendment of the LoIP of 16 October 2019, which has been in force since 27 February 2020, in order to meet the requirement of technical character it is no longer necessary for an invention to have a direct effect on the tangible world. Another amended rule reads that CIIs and other sol... [Read more](#)*

## 11. Partnership between India and Denmark has commenced

**THE HIGH-PROFILED  
GREEN STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIP IS NOW  
MOVING ON TO THE NEXT  
LEVEL THROUGH A NEW  
COLLABORATION TO  
PROTECT IPR.**

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*The high-profiled green strategic partnership between India and Denmark is now moving on to the next level through a new collaboration to protect intellectual property rights. As part of the green partnership which Denmark entered into with India in September last year, the Indian authorities, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Patent and Trademark Office have launched a new project. The aim of the collaboration is to assist the Indian authorities in raising the level of quality management, to exchange technical case processing practices, and awareness activities within the field of IPR. "Many businesses are ready to access the Indian market. Therefore, we consider the.. [Read more](#)*

## 12. Introducing the eHague Gateway – Your Central Point of Reference for Hague System Online Services

**PUBLISHED A  
NEW ONLINE GATEWAY TO  
ACCESS EXISTING ONLINE  
SERVICES FOR FILING IR  
DESIGN AND RENEWING  
REGISTRATIONS.**

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*We have recently published a new online gateway – eHague – providing you with centralized access to our existing online services for filing international design applications and renewing registrations. This new gateway is just the beginning of a much wider user-focused project, paving the way towards the modernization and streamlining of our online services and a greatly enhanced customer experience.*

### **How to access eHague -**

*The new eHague gateway is directly accessible from:*

- 1. the Hague System homepage, replacing previous individual links to eFiling and eRenewal; and*
- 2. the main MENU of the WIPO IP Portal, with or without login, under 'Designs > File & Manage'. [Read more](#)*

## 13. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan Joins the Madrid System

**PAKISTAN IS THE  
108TH MEMBER OF THE  
MADRID SYSTEM, THE  
PROTOCOL WILL ENTER  
INTO FORCE FOR THE  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PK  
ON MAY 24, 2021**

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On February 24, 2021, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol with WIPO's Director General, making it the 108th member of the Madrid System, which now covers 124 countries. The Protocol will enter into force for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on May 24, 2021. Starting May 24, 2021, local brand owners in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan can begin using the Madrid System to protect their trademarks in the 123 territories of the System's other 107 members by filing a single international application and paying a single set of fees. With its straightforward designation process, foreign comp... [Read more](#)

## 14. Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs

**THE HAGUE  
AGREEMENT CONCERNING  
THE IR OF INDUSTRIAL  
DESIGNS BY THE GREAT  
BRITAIN AND NORTHERN  
IRELAND TO THE  
TERRITORY OF THE  
BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY**

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Extension of the ratification of the Geneva Act (1999) of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the territory of the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

1. On December 23, 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as "the United Kingdom") deposited with the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) a declaration stating that the United Kingdom's ratification of the Geneva Act (1999) of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs shall be extended to the territory of the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

2. In accordance with Article 30(1)(ii) of the 1999 Act.. [Read more](#)