



## Brief Updates in the Singapore Intellectual Property Landscape

### *The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) is now part of the Global Patent Prosecution Highway (“GPPH”) Network*

Commencing from 1 November 2014, IPOS joins the GPPH network and is a participating office of the GPPH pilot programme. Under the GPPH pilot, a request for accelerated examination of a patent application in Singapore can be made by relying on the national search and examination results of another GPPH participating office or international search and/or examination results under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) established by any of the other GPPH participating offices.

The GPPH serves to streamline and harmonise Patent Prosecution Highway (“PPH”) guidelines used by GPPH participating offices, and to-date, there are 19 such offices in total.

With the new GPPH participation, the former bilateral PPH pilot programmes with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Japan Patent Office and the Korean Intellectual Property Office would cease to exist.

Nonetheless, IPOS maintains its PPH pilot programmes with the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of the People’s Republic of China, Instituto Mexicano de la Propiedad Industrial (IMPI) of the United Mexican States and Deutsche Patent-und Markenamt (DPMA) of the Federal Republic of Germany.

### *Economical, Efficient, Electronic: The new fully integrated e-services portal, IP<sup>2</sup>SG by the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)*

IP<sup>2</sup>SG went online on 19 February 2014 and in its first phase was only applicable for patent applications. Now, IP<sup>2</sup>SG has been extended to trade mark and registered designs applications, as well as to hearings before IPOS.

The expected key changes (in phases) pursuant to the implementation of IP<sup>2</sup>SG are as follows:-

1. **Electronic filing:** All forms may now be filed electronically, making it easier and more convenient for users to transact with the Registry.
2. **A less-administrative process:** Certain forms have been removed, and users can simply write in without filling up a form. On the other hand, related forms have also been merged into a single form to minimise confusion.
3. **Lower administrative fees charged:** A significant number of forms and/or transactions are now cheaper to file.



4. **Introduction of Common Forms:** These forms will replace the current Registry-specific forms which are common to trade marks, patents and registered designs. They will either be known as “CM” (which stands for “Common” and is applicable to Registry-related transactions) or “HC” (which stands for “Hearings Common” and is applicable to dispute resolution matters).

For more details on the practical usage of IP<sup>2</sup>SG, please visit the following link:-  
<https://www.ip2.sg/RPS/WP/UserManual.aspx>

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*This article is intended to highlight the inclusion of Singapore in the Global Patent Prosecution Highway Network, and is not intended to be comprehensive nor should it be construed as legal advice.*

*Should you have any queries as to how this may affect your business, please do not hesitate to email us.*