

Patent information from the ASEAN region

Session 3: Philippines, Vietnam and Myanmar





Vietnam





Vietnam: General overview

Basic data

- Inhabitants: 97,8 million, density: 132.1/km² (16)
- First millennium AD Chinese "division"
- First monarchy 10th century French colony 19th century
- Proclamation of Independence 1945, 1st Indochina War
- 1954: split of the country, Vietnam War,
- 1976: Reunification as communist state under unitary socialist government

Economy

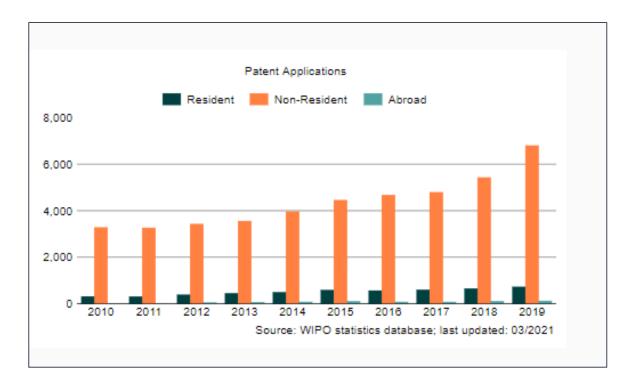
- GDP/capita (PPP): USD 3.498 (115th worldwide), "among fastest-growing countries", problems like corruption, pollution, poverty, poor human rights records
- Export dependent: agricultural products (cashew nuts, black pepper, rice, coffee), tourism,
- Spending on science and technology 0.45% of GDP



Introduction to the patent system:

Evolution, filing figures, special features of the patent system

Patent filings



Membership in IP-related treaties/ organisations

WTO (TRIPS): since 2007

Paris Convention: since 1949

WIPO: since 1967

PCT: since 1993

Filing authority

Department of Intellectual Property (DIP)

- invention patent (20 years; substantive examination, no PTE)
- utility solution patents (10 years; substantive examination (36 months from filing earliest priority day)

Evolution of the IP system

- Extension of French system to Vietnam (until 1945)
- 1989: first independent patent law
- 2010: last amendment

Filing and examination

- filing in Vietnamese only
- multiple, partial and domestic priority allowed
- publication of application 18 months from
- conversion of patent application into petty patent application (and vice versa) possible

Substantive examination

Search and examination requirements

- no obligation to submit foreign search result, but recommended to accelerate procedure
- time limit for request for examination: 42 months from application or earliest priority
- can be filed by applicant or any third party

Publication

In the 19th month from application, but not later than 2 months after grant, whatever is earlier

Challenging a patent

- no opposition system: third party observations
- invalidation can be requested by at any time, partial invalidation against single claims possible

Annual fee payment

- annual fees
- first annuity on grant
- further renewal fees during six months preceding anniversary of grant day
- late payment possible within 6 months from end of original payment period
- restoration not possible

Patent documentation:

document types, kind codes and number formats

Documentation: number formats

Application numbers

```
t-yyyy-nnnnn
```

- > one digit for the type of right
- > four digits for the year
- > serial number

Publication numbers

nnnn(n)

four/five digits for the serial number

```
1 = patent, 2 = utility solution patent,
3= design, 4 = trade mark
```

Documentation: number formats

Registration numbers

t-nnnnnnn-nnn

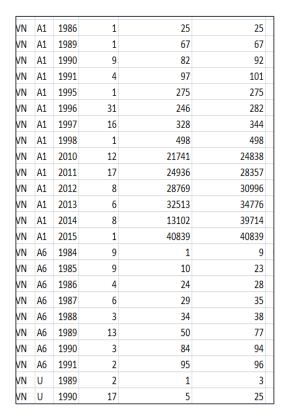
- > one digit for the type of right
- > serial number

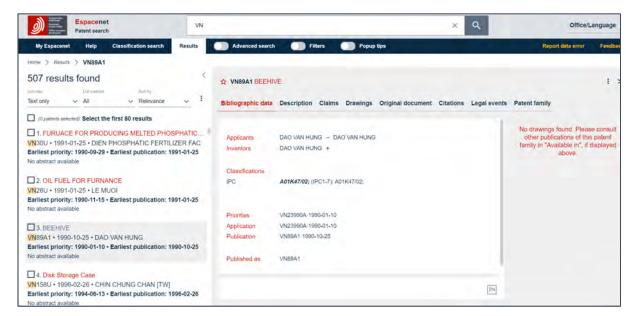
```
1 = patent, 2 = utility solution patent,
3= design, 4 = trade mark
```

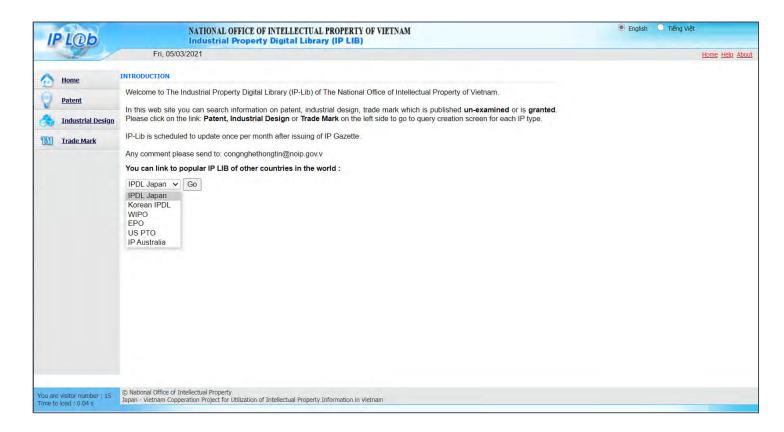
NOTE: when searching with document numbers in the IP LIB database, the hyphens can be omitted

Searching Vietnamese data in free available search tools

VN data coverage at the EPO

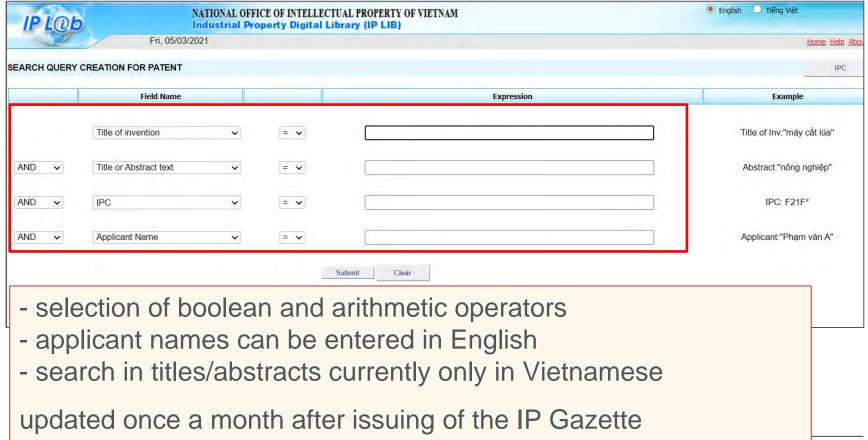




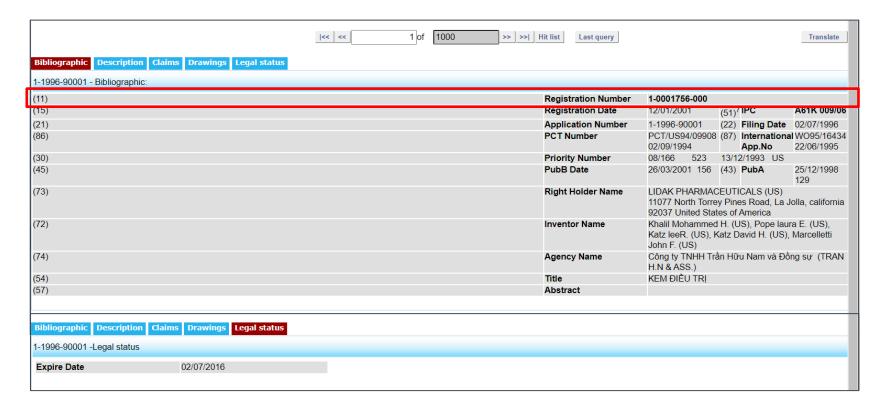


NOIP (National Office Intellectual Property of Vietnam) Industrial Property Digital Library (IP LIB)

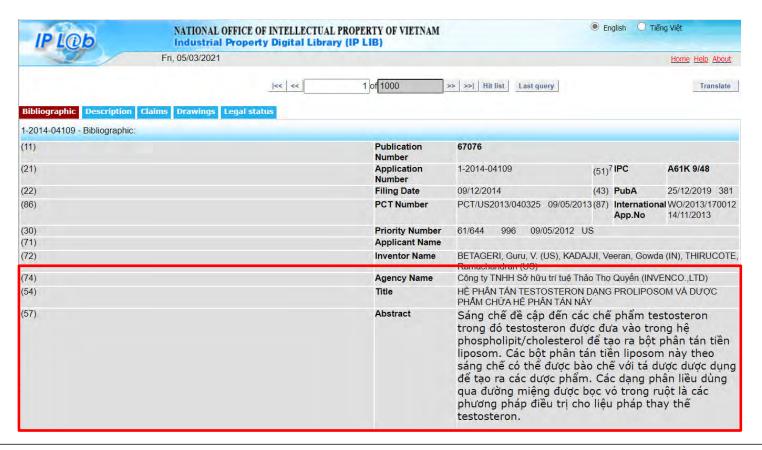
IP LIB patent search at NOIP



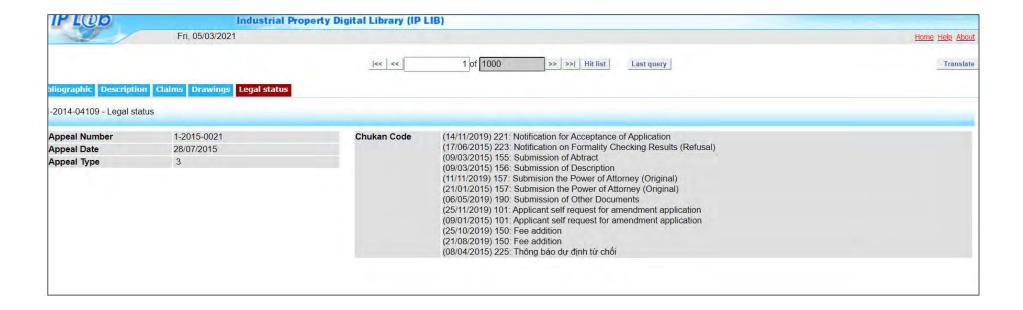
Bibliographic Information/ Abstract



Bibliographic Information/ Abstract



Legal events



Any questions????



Patent information from the ASEAN region Session 3: Philippines



Philippines: General overview

Basic data

- 13th populous (108 million, 2020) country worldwide
- Former Spanish & American colony
- Claimed independence since 1946 from Japan after WWII
- Ethnical diversity: 175 ethnic groups, more than 170 languages

Economy

- GDP (PPP): \$1.025 trillion (4th largest in ASEAN)
- GDP/capita (PPP): \$8,574: "Lower middle income country"
- "Newly industrialised market country," exporting semiconductors and electronic products, transport equipment, coconut oil, fruits, etc.



Introduction to the patent system:

Evolution, filing figures, special features of the patent system

Evolution of IP System

IPOPHL Timeline

Philippine Patent Office

RA No. 165 "An Act Creating a Patent Office" RA No. 166 -registration of Trademarks, Tradenames, and Service Marks

June 20, 1947

Bureau of Patents, Trademarks and Technology Transfer

> EO No. 133 Feb. 27, 1987

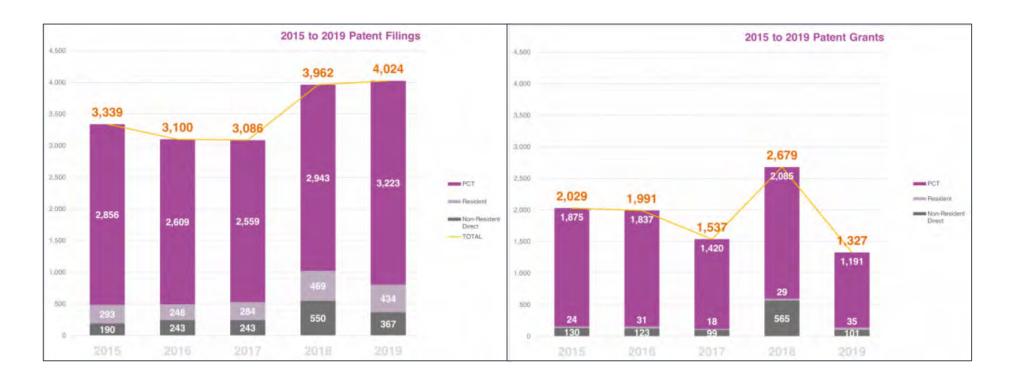
Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines

RA No. 8293 June 6, 1997

Amendments on Copyright Law

> RA No. 10372 March 4, 2013

Evolution of filing figures



Membership in IP-related treaties/ organisations

Paris Convention: 27 September 1965

WIPO Convention: 14 July 1980

WTO (TRIPS): 1 January 1995

PCT: 17 August 2001

Madrid Protocol: 25 April 2012

Filing authority

Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL)

patents

(20 years from filing date since 1998; previously 17 years from grant date; substantive examination; no term extensions)

utility models

(7 years from filing date since 1998; previously 5 years and renewable for two periods of 5 years each; formality examination; no term extensions)

designs

(5 years from filing date; renewable for two consecutive terms of 5 years)

trade marks

(10 years from registration date, renewable for further periods of 10 years)

Search & examination

- IPOPHL conducts its own search and examination.
- substantive examination (only for patents)
 - must be explicitly requested & fees paid
 - within 6 months from date of publication
 - otherwise, application deemed withdrawn
- utility models: formality examination
 - utility model registered, if no third-party observations filed within 2 months from publication

- filing languages: English or Filipino
- Publication of application in IPO Gazette:
 - patents: after 18 months from filing/priority; early publication possible
 - utility model: immediately after formality check
- third-party observations possible during examination
- conversion of patent application into UM application and vice versa possible
- dual filing not possible
- no post grant opposition possible

- annual fees/maintenance fees for pending applications
 - due upon expiry of 4 years of date of publication of application
 - further annual fees due within three months preceding anniversary of that date
 - grace period for late payment: 6 months (surcharge)
 - no restoration possible
- invalidation can be requested by any interested party at any time
- partial invalidation possible
- working/use requirement: patented invention should be worked before expiration
 of 4 years from filing date/ or 3 years from grant, whichever ends later
 (otherwise, compulsory license may be granted)

Documentation: number formats

Application numbers

Before 1991: PH/T/0/NNNNNN*

After 1991: PH/T/YYYY/NNNNNN

Publication numbers (18 months from filing/priority)

The application number will be used also for publications (Kind code: A1)

t = type of right,

y = year

n = serial number

types of right

1 = patent

2 = utility model

3 = design

Grant numbers

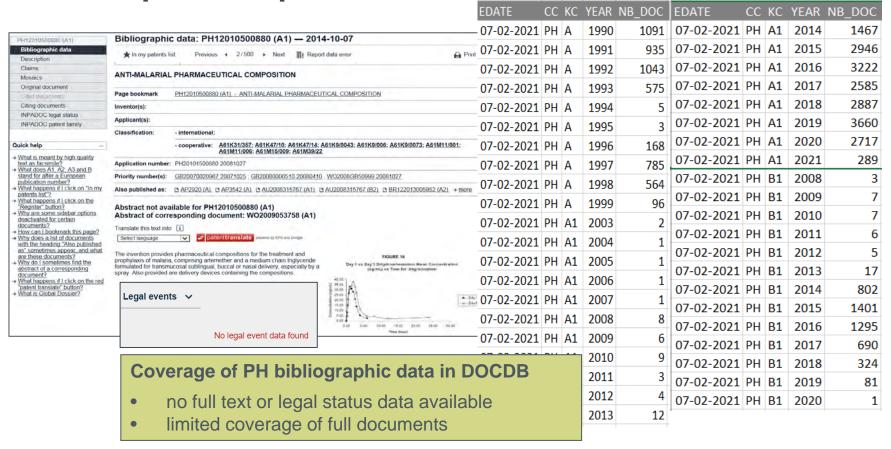
Application number, but without country code (PH) and type of right (t):

(Kind code: B1) YYYYNNNNN

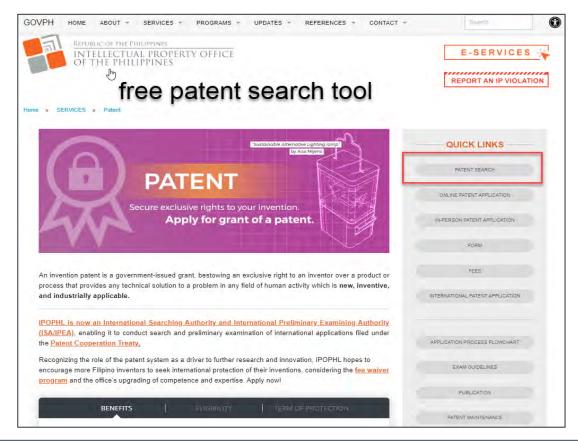
^{*} Occasionally letter "A" is used instead of "PH": (PH)A/T/0/NNNNNN

Searching data from the Philippines in free available search tools

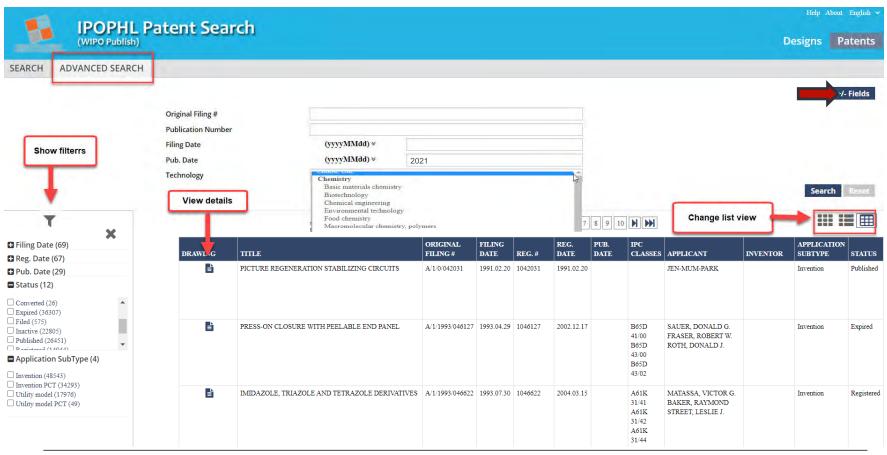
Search option: Espacenet



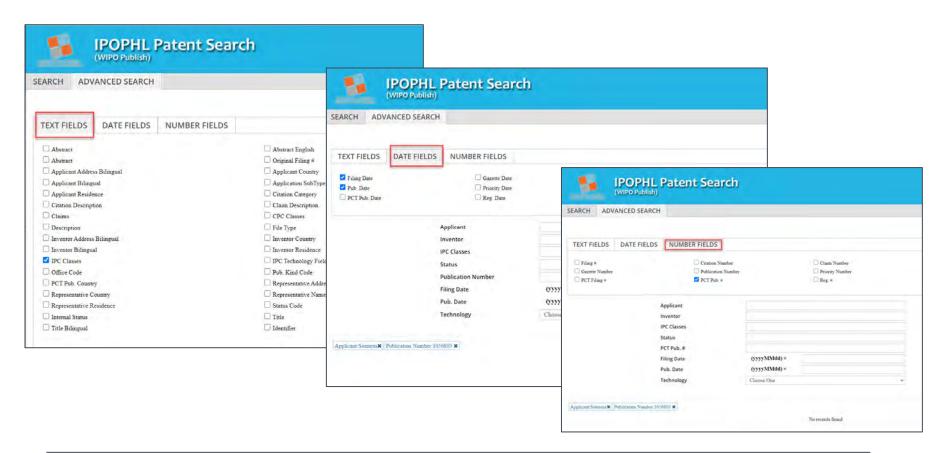
Searching in IPOPHL Public Patent Search



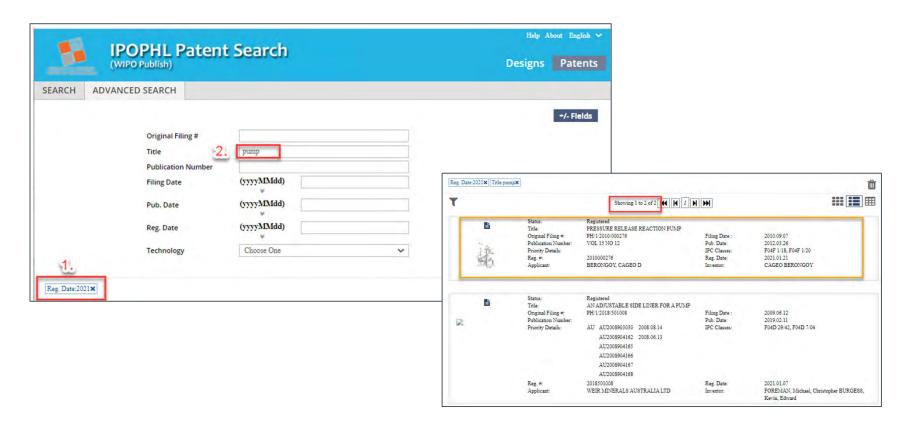
IPOPHL Public Patent Search Database



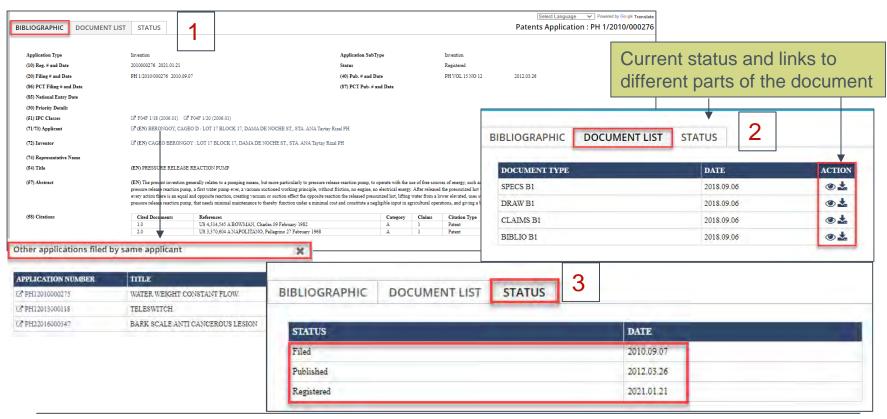
IPOPHL Public Patent Search Database



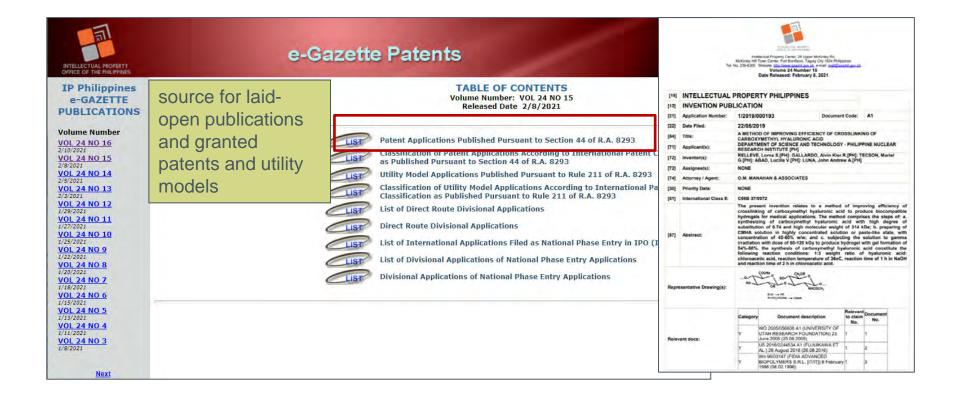
Searching with keywords and dates



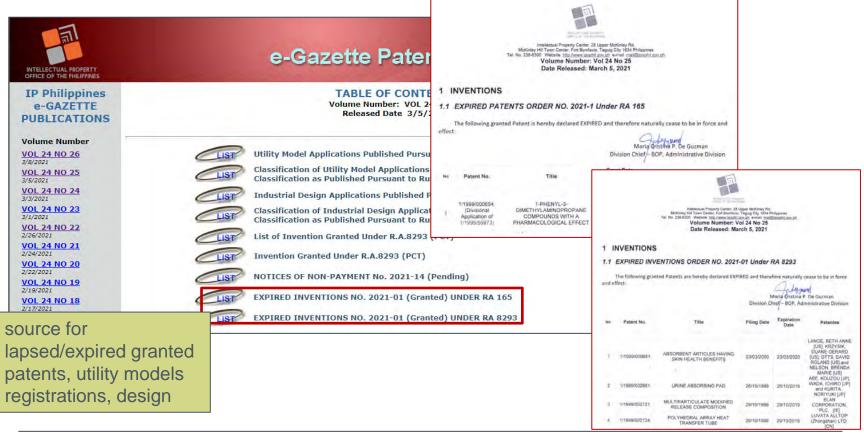
IPOPHL Public Patent Search: result list



e-Gazette



e-Gazette





Myanmar

A glimpse at the new patent system





Myanmar: Introduction

Overview

- Area: 676.578 km² Population: 54 million (26th worldwide)
- Former colony of Britain, independent since 1948
- Military rule (1962-2011) and democratic reform period ("disciplined democracy" 2011-early 2021); coup d'état by military on 1 February 2021
- Ethnical diversity: 135 ethnic groups (largest group: Burmese 68%)

Economy

- GDP (nominal): \$66 billion (72nd worldwide);
- GDP per capita: \$1,245 (155th) ("Lower middle income economy")
- Trade sanctions and embargoes by USA and Europe
- Major trading partners: China, India, South Korea and ASEAN members



IP in Myanmar: evolution and current system

- 1946: Patents and Designs (Emergencies Provisions) Act under British rule, based on Indian Patents and Designs Act of 1911: Never enforced!
- After independence: No formal IP system and legislation



Extension of foreign IP rights after grant to Myanmar by "Declaration of Ownership" at Ministry of Registration and Deeds (until 2017)

- Patent owner obliged to publish Cautionary Notice in local newspaper every three years to re-confirm that related foreign patent is still in force
- Patent remains in force in Myanmar as long as related foreign patent is still valid
- Authority in charge: IP Department under Ministry of Education

Membership in IP-related treaties/ organisations

WTO (TRIPS): since 1995

WIPO: since 2001

Paris Convention: no member

PCT: no member

Madrid Protocol no member

Myanmar: Towards an independent patent system

- March 2019: Parliament passed the country's first specialised patent law (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law N. 7/2019)
- March 2020: Creation of "Central Committee for Intellectual Property" (CCIPR): Main tasks:
 - Implementation of IP-related policies and institutions
 - Communication and coordination among government bodies on IP
 - Development of science & technology



➤ CCIPR will establish "Myanmar Intellectual Property Rights Agency" (MIPRA) under Ministry of Commerce in charge of examination and grant of all IP rights

Myanmar: Main features of the new patent law

- Introduction of both patents and utility models ("minor inventions")
- Special features of minor inventions:
 - not available for processes and chemical/pharmaceutical substances
 - no substantive examination; only formality check
- Filing in English and Burmese possible; certified translation in the other language required upon request of the registrar.
- > Term: 20 years from filing date for patents and 10 years for minor inventions
- Acceptance of foreign priority rights (but no PCT applications)
- Pharmaceutical products excluded from patentability until 1 January 2033 (exemption for least developed countries under TRIPS)

Myanmar: Main features of the new patent law

Granting procedure

- Publication of application after 18 months from filing/priority (minor inventions: after formality check)
- Pre-grant opposition period: 90 days from publication of application (minor inventions: 60 days from publication)
- Substantive examination (only for patents):
 - only upon request within 36 months from filing
 - May be based on results of corresponding foreign applications
 - Article 39 Patent Law: MIPRA may outsource examination to foreign patent offices
 - In case of rejection: appeal at MIPRA within 60 days; afterwards appeal at IP Rights Court possible (court of 2nd instance)



Further sources of information



ASEAN IP Portal





- Comprehensive information resource provided by national IP offices
- Statistics, case studies, search tools and overview on IP policies

South East Asia SME IP Helpdesk

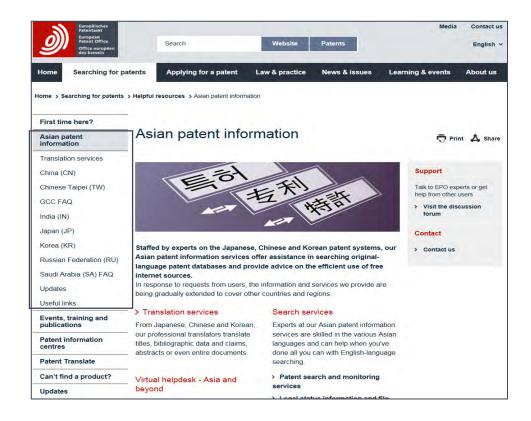


- Support service provided by EU for SMEs on protecting IP in the ASEAN region
- Online training, reports, IP fact sheets on each country...





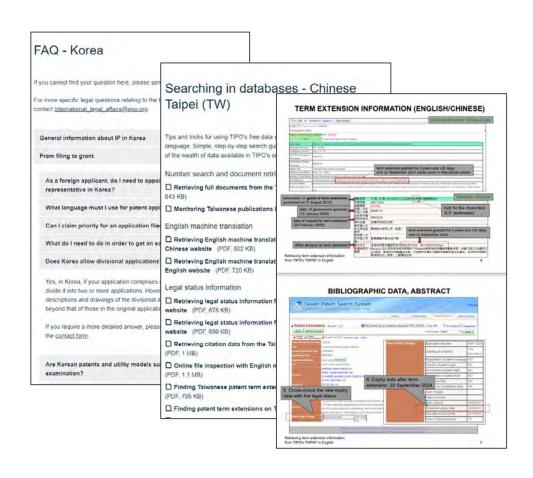
EPO's website on Asian patent information



Comprehensive information on several Asian jurisdictions – focus on Japan, China, Korea, Chinese Taipei and India

www.epo.org/asia

EPO's website on Asian patent information



- FAQs on the patent systems
- Information on numbering formats, kind codes...
- Search guides with step-by-step instructions how to use (original language) sources

Thank you very much for your attention!

Questions? Please get in touch with us:

asiainfo@epo.org

Disclaimer

The content presented here is intended to give users of the patent system and patent information products a general overview of patent information and the respective products and services.

These learning units cannot go into all the details and specific features of the European Patent Office's products and services. Despite compiling the materials with the greatest care, the European Patent Office cannot guarantee their accuracy. This content does not constitute an official publication and cannot be used in any legal proceedings under the EPC or PCT.

Readers wishing to extend their knowledge are invited to consult the relevant publications of the European Patent Office (www.epo.org) and other patent granting authorities.