

JOINT STATEMENT

NINTH ASEAN-JAPAN HEADS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICES MEETING TOKYO, JAPAN

ASEAN and Japan Reach an Agreement on New IP Cooperation that Responds to Changes in User Needs

1. The Intellectual Property Offices of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam ("AMS IPOs"), and the Japan Patent Office ("JPO") (collectively "Partners") held their Ninth Heads Meeting on 6 August 2019 in Tokyo, Japan.
2. The Partners welcomed the fact that the cooperation on intellectual property (IP) promoted through the ASEAN-Japan framework, which includes the ASEAN-Japan Heads of IP Offices Meeting and the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC), has contributed to achieving goals identified in the ASEAN IPR Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and confirmed that they will continue their cooperation toward fully achieving the goals.
3. The Partners confirmed their commitment to strengthen their cooperation under the ASEAN-Japan framework, in order to implement initiatives which appropriately respond to user needs that evolve in line with changes in the IP ecosystem.
4. Under the basic principles stated above, the Partners adopted the AMS IPOs-JPO IPR Action Plan 2019 – 2020 that includes initiatives on patent examination quality management systems, cooperation with enforcement agencies for strengthening IP enforcement, accession to international treaties, utilization of IP, raising awareness on IP and HR development, and those that will contribute to transparent and streamlined examination procedures and practices.
5. In particular, the Partners, in taking special notice of the fact that the Chairman's Statement of the 2018 ASEAN-Japan Summit urged the development of patent examination guidelines in AMS IP offices, confirmed that they will contribute to the case study being conducted by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the aim of which is to enhance the predictability of patent examination results. In addition, the Partners agreed to undertake initiatives that address translation issues that may arise in the patent application process, in order to enhance connectivity among ASEAN Members States and Japan.