

ASEAN PATENT EXAMINATION CO-OPERATION (ASPEC)

ASEAN SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP 6 SEP 2012, TOKYO

Celine Chan Intellectual Property Office of Singapore





ASPEC is a work-sharing initiative among ASEAN IP Offices in the area of patent work.

Launched on 15 June 2009. Revised on 15 April 2012.

9 participating ASEAN countries:-

- Brunei
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia

- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Viet Nam



Objectives of ASPEC

The objectives of the programme are:

- Reduced work and faster turnaround time. Reference to earlier work could help an examiner to develop his search criteria or strategy more quickly, reduce searching and/or assist the examiner to understand the claimed invention faster. Faster prosecution of the patent application is, therefore, possible.
- Better search and examination The other patent authorities might have access to databases unavailable to the examiner (e.g. specific technical databases, local databases, databases in other languages). Therefore, the opportunity to refer to these search and examination results could provide the examiner with information on and assessment of prior art which he or she would otherwise not have access to.



Key Features of ASPEC

- Patent applicant in one ASEAN Member Country (AMS) is allowed to submit the first available search & examination (S&E) documents in any participating AMS.
- The AMS receiving such S&E documents will take that document into consideration as a reference source in its S&E work.
- No obligation to accept the results from another jurisdiction.
- No changes to legislation is required.
- Advantageous for companies in individual AMS desiring to go regional as there are time and cost savings.



ASPEC Working Group - Mandate

The Working Group shall work collaboratively with each other towards the sharing of patent search and examination results between participating IP Offices so as to enhance the cooperation between these offices in the area of patent search and examination.

(Extract from Terms of Reference)



ASPEC Working Group - Scope

ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation Initiative (ASPEC)

Working Group Terms of Reference (ToR)

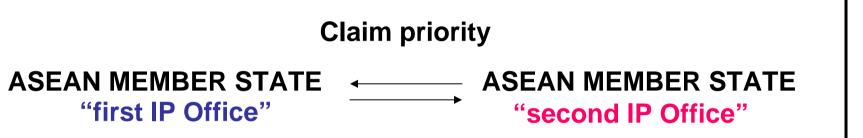
- Purpose and Objective of the ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation
- 1.1 On 15 June 2009, the IP Offices from 8 participating ASEAN member states (AMS) namely Singapore, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam commenced the ASEAN Patent Examination Co-operation (ASPEC) programme.
- 1.2 ASPEC is a programme for IP Offices the search and examination results Office as reference in its own search only allow patent applicants making a participating AMS IP Offices to obtain more efficiently, it will also help to ea reduce work, increase turnaround time and examination results.
- Working Group on ASPEC
- 2.1 The Working Group on ASPEC, to be AWGIPC Chair, shall comprise the 8 p.
- 2.2 The 2 other AMS IP Offices who have

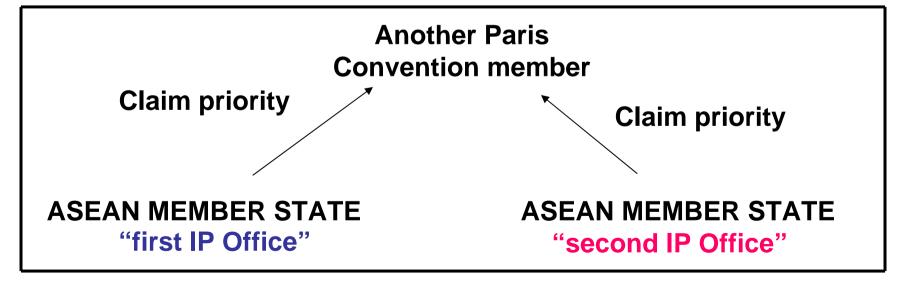
- 3.2 To enable the effective and efficient implementation of the ASPEC programme in participating AMS, the scope of the Working Group's work shall include, but is not limited to, the following.-
 - Engage in information exchange to increase familiarity and understanding of the search and examination practices and reports of each of the AMS IP Offices including search methodologies, parameters of search, patent classification systems, etc.;
 - (ii) Explore other work sharing initiatives like IP5 and the Vancouver Group with a view to incorporating or aligning elements like training and search strategies with a view to improving ASPEC;
 - (iii) Identify possible avenues and platforms where search and examination reports can be shared amongst AMS IP Offices;
 - (iv) Promote the greater use of ASPEC among the patent applicants in



ASPEC Eligibility

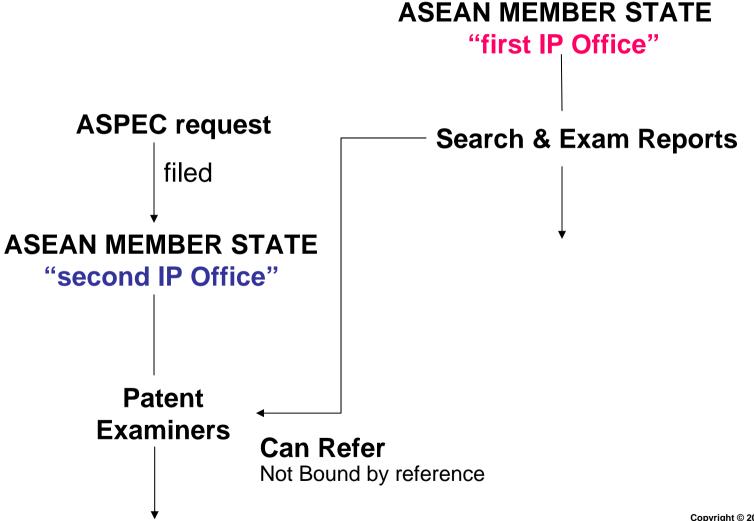
AMS = ASEAN MEMBER STATES







ASPEC Concepts





ASPEC requirements in SG: In a nutshell

ELIGIBILITY FOR ASPEC REFERENCE	
ASPEC request is filed by any SG patent applicant in SG ("second IP Office")	
The SG patent applicant claims priority from an application filed with an ASPEC member ("first IP Office") or shares the same priority as the ASPEC member ("first IP Office")	
The search and examination (S&E) results established by the ASPEC member ("first IP Office") are available and referred to in the ASPEC request	

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ASPEC requirements in SG: In a nutshell

ASPEC REQUEST FILED	
Minimum Documents: (In English or English translations) Search report + Examination report	
Patent Claims referred to in the Minimum Documents (In English or English translations)	
Cited Documents & their translations need not be filed at the time the ASPEC request is made but IPOS may ask for them later	If required



ASPEC Request Form

ASEAN PATENT EXAMINATION CO-OPERATION (ASPEC) REQUEST FORM

APPLICATION NO.			
APPLICANT(S) NAME			
Further applicants are to be			
indicated on an additional sheet			
NAME OF AGENT/ATTORNEY			
ADDRESS FOR SERVICE ¹			
CORRESPONDING APPLICATION(S) ² *Documents submitted should	COUNTRY CODE ³ / APPLICATION NO.	PRIORITY APPLICATION NO.4	DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED* (Y/N)
APPLICATION(S) ² * Documents submitted should include			SUBMITTED*
Documents submitted should include 1. a copy of the search report			SUBMITTED
Documents submitted should include 1. a copy of the search			SUBMITTED
Documents submitted should include 1. a copy of the search report 2. a copy of the examination report 3. a copy of claims referred			SUBMITTED
Documents submitted should include 1. a copy of the search report 2. a copy of the examination report			SUBMITTED
Documents submitted should include 1. a copy of the search report 2. a copy of the examination report 3. a copy of claims referred to in the examination report; and 4. a claim correspondence			SUBMITTED
Documents submitted should include 1. a copy of the search report 2. a copy of the examination report 3. a copy of claims referred to in the examination report; and			SUBMITTED

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Examiners' Survey Form

ASEAN PATENT EXAMINATION CO-OPERATION (ASPEC) EXAMINER'S SURVEY FORM

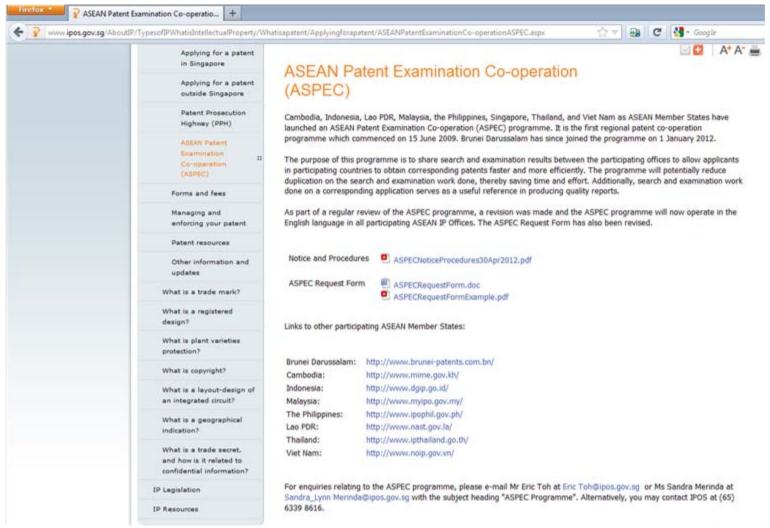
RECEIVING AMS ¹		
PATENT APPLICATION NO2.		
REPORT SUBMITTED ³	Considered? Y/N	If no, reason for not considering
e.g. SG/200900000-1	Y	
OVERALL EXPENSES ON HEIMS	COE DOCUMENTO	FROM OTHER AME
OVERALL EXPERIENCE ON USING	S&E DOCUMENTS	FROM OTHER AMS
Impact on quality of the S&E work	(pleasetick)	
None/Minimal Some	Subst	tantial
Relevance to the S&E work (pleaseti	ick)	
None/Minimal Some	Subst	tantial
Estimated time savings (pleasetick)		
None/Minimal Some	Subst	tantial
Similarity between own S&E results	s and results in S&I	E documents submitted (pleasetick)
None/Minimal Some	Subst	tantial



ASPEC Websites at Participating AMSs



Singapore











Malaysia



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Indonesia



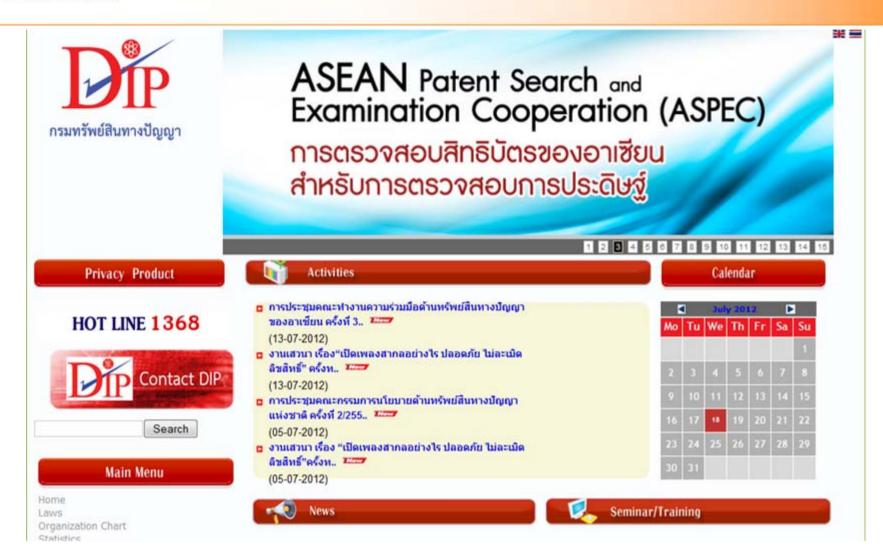


The Philippines



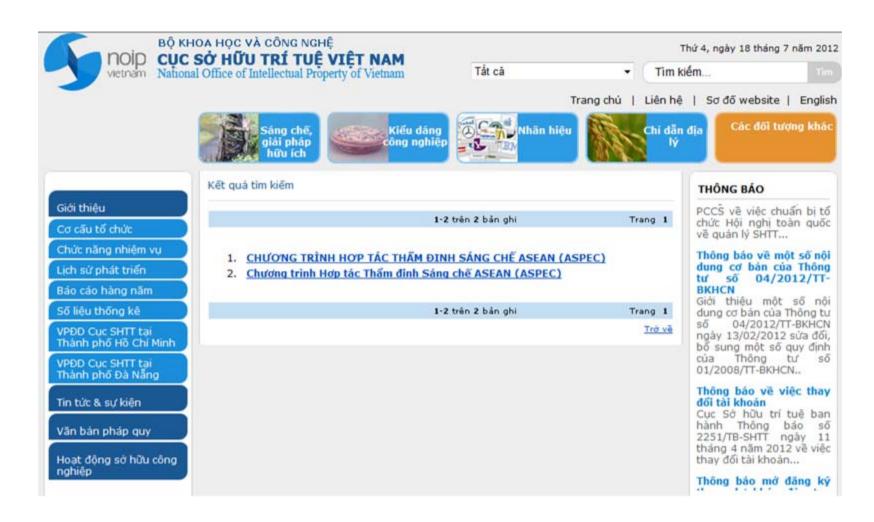


Thailand





Viet Nam



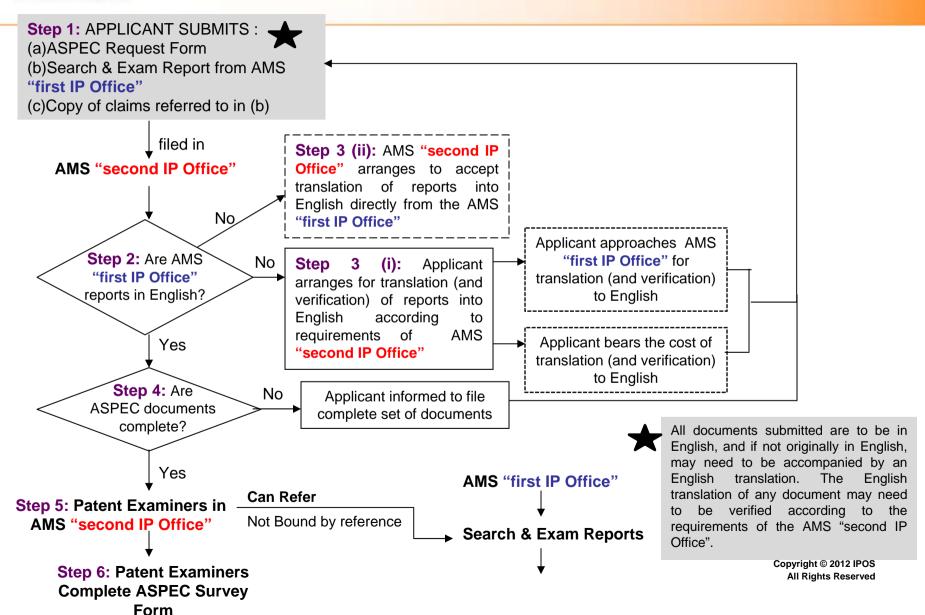


Developments in ASPEC

- ASEAN Technical Meeting on ASPEC Implementation was held in Philippines in April 2010.
- AWGIPC in 2010 approved the ASPEC Task Force Terms of Reference.
- Task Force was thereafter created and a meeting was convened in Philippines in May 2011 to discuss, among others,:
 - Procedures & Operations of ASPEC
 - Challenges & Possible Solutions
 - Way Forward
- The ASPEC rules of procedures have been revised and was adopted at the Special AWGIPC session in November 2011.
- All AMS IP Offices are operationally ready to accept ASPEC requests based on the revised rules of procedures.



Revised ASPEC Concepts





Revised ASPEC Concepts

ANNEX

Overview of the Requirements, Procedures and Services at the Participating AMS IP Offices in relation to the ASPEC Programme

The tables below provide an overview of the requirements, procedures and services at the ASPEC participating AMS IP Offices acting as either AMS "first IP Office" or AMS "second IP Office". Reference should be made to the respective AMS IP Office for further information relating to the information contained in the tables below.

Requirements and Services at the AMS First IP Offices

AMS First IP Office	Are Search & Examination Reports Issued in English	Are English translation (and verification) services of non- English ASPEC documents provided for at the AMS First IP Office					
Brunei Darussalam	Yes	All documents including search reports must be issued in English					
Cambodia	Yes (Search and examination reports are issued by foreign authorities)	Not Applicable as reports are already issued in English					
Indonesia	No	No					
Lao PDR	No	Not Applicable					
Malaysia	Yes	Not Applicable as reports are already issued in English					
Philippines	Yes	Not Applicable as reports are already issued in English					
Singapore	Yes	Not Applicable as reports are already issued in English					
Thailand	No	Yes					
Viet Nam	No	No					

Requirements and Procedures at the AMS Second IP Offices

recquiremen	nts unu r rocec	201000		200011		2111000				
AMS Second IP Office	When can the ASPEC Request be filed at the AMS Second IP Office On the same day as No		When can the ASPEC Request be filed at the AMS Second IP Office request the AMS First IP Office for English translation of non-English ASPEC dk		of tra no doc	Office accept English translation of English D		I the English anslation of the non- glish ASPEC ocuments ⁵ need to be verified	Is Acceleration of the patent application, when ASPEC request is filed, provided for	
Brunei Darussalam			No		Yes		Yes		No	
Cambodia			No		Yes		Yes		No	
Indonesia Lao PDR	minimum rec as in National fulfilled. Lao PDR On the same filing the request, se- examination re examination re examination re examination response t substantive examination report. Philippines At any time b	AMS S		When can the AS Request be file the AMS Secon Office	d at	Will the All Second IP Of request the A First IP Office English translation' non-Englis ASPEC	flice MAS e for of th	Will the AMS Second IP Office accept English translation of non-English ASPEC documents* by	Will the English translation of the non- English ASPEC Documents ^a need to be verified	Is Acceleration of the patent application, when ASPEC request is filed, provided for
Malaysia				the For Examination submitted, - upon a requet Early Public made.		documents		the Applicant		before 18 months but not earlier than six (6) months from the filing date (Pule 800.1-Early Publications).
Philippines		Singapo	re	On the same do filing the so request, search examination reque the response to written opinion.	earch & & puest, est or	140		Yes	Yes	No
Request Substantive Examination which can be: - at the time the applicati - when a res an Office A	Thatan		On the same day of filing the reques substantive examination or the response to written opinion.	st of	No		Yes	Yes	No	
		Viet No		Legally, request can be anytime before issues final decision of refusal it may be more us ASPEC request is before NOIP issue notification substantive examination result	NOSP ission, ant or if, but eful if a filed a first of	No		Yes	No, except some particular cases when there are contradiction(s) or doubt(s) or the likes in the content of the ASPEC documents.	No



THANK YOU