

# Global IP Cooperation



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# Multilateral Cooperation and FTA



## 01 | Multilateral meetings at WIPO

At the 2015 WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) General Assembly, that was held in Geneva, Switzerland, KIPO Commissioner Choi Dongyou delivered his general statement, introducing Korea's major achievements in recent years. Such achievements included the establishment of 17 Creative Economy Innovation Centers, the amending of the Patent Act, as well as the Utility Model Act, and the expansion of IP-based financing, which encourages IPR commercialization and the fostering of innovative start-ups, into the private sector. In addition, Mr. Choi participated in both the Group B+ and Sub-group meetings regarding the global harmonization of patent systems.

On April 20, 2015, during the 15th meeting of the WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), we hosted a launch ceremony for IP IGNITE, an IP educational platform that serves as an audio-visually enhanced version of WIPO Academy's Distance Learning-101 (DL-101).

Throughout 2015, we participated in working group meetings to expand such global IP services as the PCT, Madrid, and Hague systems. We also participated in WIPO standing committees—i.e., the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP); the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial

Designs, and Geographical Indications (SCT); and the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)—to discuss global IP norm settings.

Furthermore, we participated in permanent WIPO committees—including the Program and Budget Committee (PBC), the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC), and the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE)—to discuss WIPO's budget and development agendas, genetic resource protection, and technical assistance and coordination in the field of IP enforcement.

## 02 | APEC Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG)

In 2015, within the framework of APEC's Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG), we proposed a new project called "Guidebook for SMEs' IP Business Cycle" in hopes of producing an IP policy reference manual for SMEs. This project was intended as part of the larger "initiative(s) to facilitate the exploitation of IPRs and innovation in SMEs," which Korea co-proposed with Mexico during the 38th IPEG meeting. The Guidebook project perfectly aligns with APEC's theme for 2015 ("Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World") and its key priority of "Fostering Small and Medium Enterprises' Participation in Regional and Global Markets." The project

received official support from the Small- and Medium-sized Enterprise Working Group (SMEWG) and was met with universal approval from IPEG member economies. APEC allotted it funding in the amount of USD 100,000, and the project is now scheduled for completion in 2016.

During the 40th and 41st IPEG meetings, KIPO updated the public on the status of its APEC-related projects—namely, "Developing a Mobile Application for IP Awareness" and "KIPO's IP Sharing Project." These activities illustrate the manner in which KIPO is increasing its role in IPEG by proposing new projects that closely align with APEC themes/key priorities and have received enthusiastic support from other IPEG members.

## 03 | FTA negotiations on IP

Korea's first free trade agreement (FTA) was signed with Chile (effective as of April 1, 2004), and, since then, further FTAs have been agreed upon with Singapore (effective as of March 2, 2006), EFTA (effective as of September 1, 2006), ASEAN (effective as of June 1, 2007), the United States (effective as of March 15, 2012), the European Union (effective as of July 1, 2011), Peru (effective as of August 1, 2011), and Turkey (effective as of May 1, 2013). With India, Korea signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that went into effect on January 1, 2010. In addition, FTAs signed with Australia (effective as of December 12, 2014), Canada (effective as of January 1, 2015), China (effective as of December 20, 2015), New Zealand (effective as of December 20, 2015), and Vietnam (effective as of December 20, 2015) were put into effect, and an FTA with Colombia (ready for ratification) is scheduled to come into effect sometime in the near future.

As of this writing, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the Korea-China-Japan FTA, the Korea-Central America FTA, and the Korea-Ecuador Strategic Economic Cooperation Agreement (SECA) are all under negotiation. By signing FTAs with the European Union and the United States, Korea has already attained a high level of IPR protection that surpasses that of World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade-Related Aspects of IPRs (TRIPs).

# Sharing IP

## 01 | Appropriate technology

Appropriate technology (AT) refers to technology specifically tailored to the environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic factors of a particular region. Mainly developed to improve the quality of life for low-income households, it is more cost-effective, efficient, and easier to implement and maintain than cutting-edge technologies. In other words, it is technology with low-usage value in developed countries but which can be highly revolutionary in less developed ones. Using technological information obtained from patent documents, we were able to provide AT to several countries in need of a helping hand. In fact, KIPO is fast becoming a global leader in utilizing IP for AT development.

In 2013, we developed an Ylang-Ylang oil extractor for farms





in Anao, located in the Tarlac province in the Philippines. We also developed and provided bicycle-operated water pumps to Pinu in Papua New Guinea.

In 2014, we used the Korea-FIT-supported KIPO-WIPO AT competitions as an avenue for discovering high-demand technologies that could provide a basis for future AT. We also developed a decentralized sewage treatment system in Vietnam, as well as a beehive honey extractor and corresponding manual in Ghana.

In 2015, we developed a drainage system for a high school in Myanmar that suffered from severe flooding during the rainy season. Utilizing a technology that had been patented by a Korean SME, we were able to create and install this system using only such materials as were readily available locally.

Also in 2015, the government of Mongolia, on the basis of its submission to the 2014 KIPO-WIPO AT competition, officially requested KIPO's help in boosting its natural dye industry by improving the quality of its wool products and streamlining the manufacturing thereof. As a result, in collaboration with the Research and Development Institute for Light Industry of Mongolia (RDILI) and the Mongolian



Intellectual Property Office, we carried out a project for developing two machines for extracting the natural dye and applying it to the wool.



## 02 | Brand development project

Although high-quality locally-farmed goods and other specialty items are often found in less developed countries, due to a lack of attention to brand development, the majority of producers never receive the benefits of a proper marketing campaign. To resolve this problem, in 2011 and 2012, APEC joined us in supporting brand acquisition through the "One Village One Brand Project."

In 2013, we developed a grain brand called "Quinoa" in Bolivia, as well as a certified local brand for the Tarlac province in the Philippines. In Tarlac, we also held a "One Village One Brand" seminar to share insights into brand development and proper methods for IP utilization.

In 2014, in addition to the AT project we conducted there, KIPO aided the citizens of Ghana by using brand development to help revolutionize their bee keeping industry. In Myanmar, we developed the brand "Diamond Mango" at the request of that country's Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association, and we held a "One Village One Brand" seminar for their government officials and business representatives to help them develop strategies for brand utilization.

In 2015, following up our efforts to provide Mongolians with AT in the form of a natural dye extractor, we also used brand development to give a boost to Mongolia's wool industry. The "One Village One Brand" seminar we held at the end of this project was attended by 40 participants.

In addition, we developed a coffee brand for Indonesia's Flores Bajawa region. Their coffee had been granted a geographical indication (GI) certificate in Indonesia, but the GI mark lacked any distinctive design elements. We worked to design a brand logo that highlighted both the region's natural beauty and the

special quality of their coffee.

## 03 | WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust (FIT) projects

Since 2004, KIPO has operated the WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust and applied it toward KIPO-WIPO projects that support less developed countries.

The most representative of these projects is the AT competition that has been held every year since 2011. This competition helps utilize patent information in order to solve everyday problems faced by people in less developed countries. Mongolia hosted the competition in 2014 and 2015, and a total of 40 AT entries were received. Before the three finalists were chosen, each invention underwent a preliminary examination and was the subject of an oral presentation given by its inventor. The award ceremony aired on Mongolia's state broadcasting channel and was also covered by various local media, indicating a high degree of interest on the part of the Mongolian people.

KIPO and WIPO also jointly hosted the Appropriate Technology Grand Symposium to further share and expand upon lessons and outcomes garnered from past AT projects. Throughout the two-day symposium, more than 250 participants gathered in Seoul to discuss and share ideas on global trends and the future direction of AT development.

Through KIPO-WIPO's Study Visit program, IP experts from all over the world are invited to Korea to learn about its IPR policies and discuss ways for further developing IPR policy in their own countries. Six representatives from Africa and ten from Indonesia visited Korea in June and December respectively.

The Regional Colloquium on IP Enforcement for Judges gave us an opportunity to discuss the legal enforcement of IP, an area of ever-increasing interest among stakeholders. This colloquium, which took place in Bangkok in October 2015, was jointly held by KIPO and the Department of Intellectual Property of Thailand.

WIPO Korea FIT also helps foster IP experts in less

developed countries. Through the fund, we sponsored a Bangladeshi student to enroll in the WIPO-QUT Joint Masters Program offered by Australia's Queensland University of Technology. In similar fashion, we sponsored



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one student from Pakistan and another from India to attend the WIPO-SNU Masters Program offered by Seoul National University.

Every July, KIPO hosts the IP Summer School, a course officially offered by WIPO. The program is held in Daejeon and open to the general public. In 2015, a total of 11 students took part.

### 04 | Development of IP education contents

In 2006, in collaboration with WIPO's SMEs Division, we developed an English e-learning program called IP PANORAMA, which tackles IP issues from a business perspective. As of now, it is available in 24 different languages, including 6 UN official languages, and we have utilized it for both online and offline international IP training for WIPO member states. For example, ever since 2010 we have offered the Advanced International Certificate Course (AICC) with WIPO and KAIST. In 2015, 641 people from 83 different countries participated in the online course, and, over the past 6 years, more than 4,100 people from WIPO member states have taken part. In 2014, in collaboration with WIPO Academy, we also developed the IP e-learning program IP IGNITE, an audio-visually enhanced version of WIPO's DL-101. Within its 12 modules, IP IGNITE covers everything from basic IP fundamentals to advanced information on international IP law and WIPO-administered treaties. Its easy-to-understand storytelling methods and flash animation make studying IP more enjoyable. IP IGNITE was inspired by student feedback regarding DL-101, which has been made available to Korean universities ever since 2005. In 2015, KIPO launched the IP education game "Invention Savers JIN," which nurtures creativity in young people by teaching them the basic principles of invention. By exploring the game's fantasy world, players subconsciously develop an interest in how things are invented, as well as in the history of popular inventions. A mobile version of IP PANORAMA that incorporates live-action video footage rather than animation was also developed in collaboration with WIPO's SME Division.

### 01 | Bilateral cooperation

In 2015, we actively worked to promote bilateral cooperation with foreign IPR authorities by holding more than 20 meetings with the heads of other IP Offices.

As a result of a bilateral meeting between the commissioners of KIPO and the USPTO, Korea and the US agreed to further expand and strengthen cooperative relations through pilot projects pertaining to the Collaborative Search Program (CSP), exchanges of IP experts, and annual meetings for informatization experts. KIPO and SIPO agreed to host a joint seminar on strengthening the IPR capabilities of universities and to exchange administrative judges in order to share information on IP disputes. China, Japan, and



Korea jointly agreed to exchange IP examination quality management information, and KIPO has regularly worked with the EPO/OHIM to host bilateral meetings for strengthening cooperative relations. In celebration of the 130th anniversary of diplomatic ties between their two countries, the patent offices of Korea and France agreed to jointly host IPR-related events scheduled for 2016. With Sweden, we worked to develop the "Asia Patent Information Search Service" which, starting in 2016, will provide search services for Asian patent information that was previously very difficult for Europeans to access. 2015 was also the year we began providing PCT international search services to Saudi Arabia.

Also in 2015, the number of countries participating in Patent Prosecution Highways with Korea increased to 24—up from 21 in 2014.

### 02 | IP5 framework

As a result of recent increases in patent applications being submitted to major IP offices, patent examination backlogs have now become a serious global IP issue. To address the problem, the world's 5 biggest patent offices (in terms of patent application volume)—the EPO, the JPO, KIPO, SIPO, and the USPTO—first came together as the "IP5" in Hawaii back in 2007. The next year, the IP5 Heads Meeting was held in Jeju, Korea, where it was agreed that the IP5 would work together on 10 foundational projects and assemble three different working groups to carry them out.

In 2012, the IP5 Heads Meeting was held in Corsica, France, where the need to realign the IP5 projects was raised. As a result, the Global Dossier Task Force (for creating a global IT system for patents) and the Patent Harmonization Expert Panel (for harmonizing the patent systems of different countries) were established.

In 2013, the IP5 Heads Meeting was held in Cupertino, the USA, resulting in the adoption of the IP5 Patent Information Policy which served as a guideline for the five IP offices to freely (or with minimal fees) share with each other or a third party IP office the patent data they



produced and collected. Also, a new IP5 Cooperation Mechanism was established for setting up the blueprint for the Global Dossier and revising the international patent classification system.

At the June 2014 IP5 Heads Meeting held in Busan, South Korea, the IP5 agreed to use the Open Portal Dossier (OPD) to make their patent examination status updates available to the general public. Also, in the area of patent harmonization, three priority tasks suggested by industry were selected, and different patent offices were made primarily responsible for carrying out each task.

At the 2015 IP5 Heads Meeting in Suzhou, China, the IP5 Joint Statement was adopted, outlining the IP5's future plans for providing better services to the public. The statement summarized the IP5's past achievements and presented new avenues of cooperation, thus providing a blueprint for future cooperation among the IP5.

### 03 | TM5 framework

In May and December of 2015, we participated in meetings of the TM5, which was officially launched in May 2012,

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as a cooperative effort for harmonizing various trademark systems. At the TM5 meeting, the five offices discussed enhancing applicant convenience and improving trademark system harmonization via 11 cooperative projects. We led the project to develop the TM5's website, as well as the project to compare and analyze examination results for applications submitted to all TM5 offices simultaneously. In May 2014, we successfully launched the official TM5 website (www.tmfive.org), which provides useful information and stats on each country's system, as well as detailed content regarding TM5 cooperative projects.

The TM5 website was then overhauled in December 2015. The new design is eye-catching and user-friendly, making it easier to locate trademark information pertaining to the United States, Europe, and other major countries. It is expected to be of great value to anyone working on an international trademark application.

## 04 | ID5 framework

KIPO, along with the JPO, OHIM, SIPO, and the USPTO gathered in the US for the ID5's inaugural assembly. The ID5 is a consultative body where representatives from the five countries responsible for more than 90% of all design applications worldwide can discuss key issues in the design field. Along with the IP5 (patent sector) and the TM5 (trademark sector), the ID5 (design sector) serves as an important pillar in sustaining the global industrial property right system. At the inaugural meeting, member states adopted a joint declaration on the ID5's vision for the future. The member states also agreed to take on 13 cooperative projects in which KIPO will spearhead three of these tasks: constructing the ID5 website, conducting a comparative study on design registration requirements implemented by ID5 members, and, in collaboration with Japan, researching design classification policies.

## 01 | IT-related bilateral cooperation

In June, October, and November 2015, KIPO signed an MOU on informatization cooperation with Taiwan, Columbia, and China, respectively. By enabling electronic data exchanges with other patent offices and utilizing data obtained via searches, examination, and other customer services, we are able to better utilize IP information.

In July and August 2015, we took part in expert meetings on informatization with Japan and China, respectively. In September, KIPO participated in working level meetings with the EPO to seek ways of improving data exchanges. In November and December 2015, we participated in working level meetings with WIPO to share ideas on introducing the ePCT, which is a platform that enables people to submit their PCT applications online.

## 02 | IP5 IT cooperation

In January 2015, we participated in the IP5 Working Group 2 in order to resolve such IT issues as the Global Dossier (GD), One Portal Dossier (OPD), machine translation, common documentation datasets, and the dissemination of patent information. In particular, we focused on the IP5's proposed future direction for the Global Dossier. We also developed an OPD system and launched it in March 2015 as a way of providing the public with OPD services that were previously available only to examiners. As a result, Korean applicants can now check their examination status at all the various IP5 Offices on one screen. This allows them to more quickly and effectively respond to changes in examination status. In addition, we presented our research on measures for building a hybrid machine translation service for enhanced public dissemination of IP5 patent information.

## International Seminars and Training Courses

In 2015, the International Intellectual Property Training Institute (IIPTI) cooperated with WIPO and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to hold international seminars and provide 14 IP training courses attended by 354 foreigners. To enhance the effectiveness of IP training in less developed countries, we dispatched IP instructors to Vietnam and China to conduct on-site training.

## 03 | Assisting IP automation in less developed countries

Through Official Development Assistance activities, we were able to develop a patent automation system for the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO). The system, which began operation in April 2015, allows for a paperless work process, including electronic services for application submission, fee payments, and patent information searches.

In 2015, Mongolia and Myanmar were selected to receive IP informatization assistance. As a result, we conducted consulting services for diagnosing their current IT infrastructures and further enriching their patent automation systems.

Schedule for International Training Courses in 2015

Program	Course Title	Contents	Dates (in 2015)	Number of participants
WIPO Program (6 courses)	WIPO Patent Act, Patent Examination Course	Training on Korea's patent system and patent examination work	3.3-3.12	22
	WIPO Patent Examiner Course (OJT)	OJT for 2 Vietnamese examiners	3.16-3.27	2
	WIPO Trademark Act, Trademark Examination Course	Training on Korea's trademark system and trademark examination work	5.20-5.27	14
	WIPO IP Policy Workshop for Government Officials from Less Developed Countries	Workshop for government officials from less developed countries on IP policies	6.9-6.11	16
	WIPO IP Summer School	IP education for university students and young adults	7.13-7.24	19
	WIPO Asia Pacific Regional Seminar	Joint research on IPR development in the Asia Pacific region	11.23-11.26	22
KOICA Program (3 courses)	KOICA-Azerbaijan IP System Course	Training on Korea's patent system and patent examination work	4.16-5.1	13
	KOICA Creative Invention Course	Training on creative invention promotion policies	6.18-7.8	11
	KOICA IP System Course	Training on understanding of Korea's patent policies and industrial site visits	8.27-9.16	9
Customized Program (5 courses)	Saudi Arabia Patent Examiner Course	Introduction to Korea's Patent Act and examination system	4.6-4.10	7
	ARIPO-Zimbabwe Patent Office IPR Course	Introduction to Korea's Patent Act and examination system	5.10-5.27	13
	Saudi Arabia Design Examiner Course	Introduction to Korea's Patent Act and examination system	10.19-10.23	5
	Vietnam Instructor Dispatch Course	Examination search and case study	10.20-10.21	37
	China Examination Cooperation Center Instructor Dispatch Course	Examination search and case study	12.1-12.2	164
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 courses</b>			<b>354</b>