



**Joint Announcement of the Continuation of the Patent Prosecution
Highway Pilot Program between the Korean Intellectual Property Office and
the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland**

December 29, 2010

The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland (NBPR) hereby jointly announce that the KIPO-NBPR Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program will be extended in its current state.

The KIPO-NBPR PPH was launched on 4 January 2010 and benefits applicants to both offices. If an application is deemed to be patentable at one office, the results of that office's examination are used to expedite the examination of the corresponding application filed at the other office.

In order to adequately assess the feasibility of the PPH program, the KIPO and the NBPR have agreed to extend the PPH pilot program in its current state in order to collect more information before any formal decision on the program is made.

Currently, no end date has been fixed for the KIPO-NBPR PPH pilot program. The KIPO and the NBPR will continue to evaluate the PPH program and the needs of applicants. Notification of any changes to the PPH program will be posted on the KIPO's and the NBPR's websites.

More information and guidelines on the PPH pilot program are available on the two offices' websites at:

- KIPO : <http://www.kipo.go.kr/kpo/user.tdf?a=user.english.html.HtmlApp&c=60622&catmenu=ek60600>

- NBPR : <http://www.prh.fi/en/patentit/pph.html>

**The Korean Intellectual Property Office
and the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland**