



**Joint Announcement of the Continuation of the Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between the Korean Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Korea and the Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of the Philippines.**

April 30, 2017

The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) of the Republic of Korea and the Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of the Philippines (IPOP HL) hereby announce that the KIPO-IPOP HL Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program will be extended.

The basic concept of the PPH is that, where the Office of Earlier Examination (OEE) has assessed the patentability of a patent application, the other office, i.e. the Office of Later Examination (OLE), will ensure that the applicant enjoys the benefits of an accelerated examination for the corresponding application, provided certain conditions are met. These conditions include, but are not limited to, the requirements that the claims of the two applications must have sufficient correspondence, and that the search and examination results of the OEE must be made available to the OLE.

The pilot program commenced on May 1, 2015, of which duration was two years.

The KIPO and the IPOP HL have agreed to extend the pilot program in its current state, for the purpose of enhancing the benefit of applicants from the PPH state and collecting more information before any formal program is made.

The pilot program will be extended from May 1, 2017. The duration will be two years, automatically extended for equal periods, unless one office notifies the other in writing of its wish to terminate this agreement.

**The Korean Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Korea  
The Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of the Philippines**