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Editorial

On February 6, 2023, the Department of IP Thailand (DIP) had welcomed suggestion, comments, and discussion from the Japanese representatives from Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA), South East Asian IP Network of Japan Commerce and Industry (SEAIPJ) and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), (www.ipthailand.go.th, published on 06.02.2023). The DIP executives and delegates have discussed and shared knowledge about the patent system with aim to improve its patent system to be utmost benefit and supporting the country development.

The suggestion from the Japanese representatives comprised of correction of mistranslations after registration, acceptance of multiple designs, clarification of deferment of design publication, extension term of protection of design rights, and timeline of introduces amended law and regulation enabling compliance with the Hague Agreement including partial designs. Mr. Suwatchai Boon-Aree, Director of Patent Division together with other senior DIP officers requested Japanese organizations to share Japanese patent system so that Thailand could learn and adopt from Japan system. The DIP will consider the above suggestions of proposed amendment to the Patent Act and Patent manual to enhance the efficiency of the patent system and conform to international standard.

Apapan S. Milde
Patent Attorney

1. Thai chamber of commerce presents roadmaps to government for new growth, boosting competitiveness

(From www.nationthailand.com, November 28, 2022)

Thailand – The Chamber of commerce around the country are pushing for roadmaps to drive new growth for Thailand – especially measures to improve Thailand’s competitiveness ranking. TCC chairman Sanan Angubolkul summed up the roadmaps in three words – “Connect, Competitive, Sustainable”. The World Competitiveness Ranking 2022 reports Thailand fell from 28 last year to 33 out of a total of 63 economies this year. The government should support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to apply digital transformation to increase the effectiveness of their business operations, he added. The TCC submitted the roadmaps to Deputy Prime Minister who represented the government at the press conference.

2. Vietnam ready to become a semiconductor manufacturer

(From www.nationthailand.com, November 29, 2022)

Vietnam – The Covid-19 pandemic and prolonged trade conflicts have caused a disruption of semiconductor supplies. Vietnam will raise its position on the global semiconductor manufacturing map as some leading corporations are investing in chip production in the country, local economists said. The country has become a centre of the industry as Samsung announced its plan to produce semiconductors with an additional investment of US\$920 million. Head of the Ministry of Planning and Investment's Foreign Investment Agency, said that in the first 10 months, FDI disbursement reached \$17.45 billion, an increase of 15.2 per cent over the same period in 2021.

3. Big jump in capital of foreign businesses registering in first 10 months of 2022

(From www.nationthailand.com, November 29, 2022)

Thailand – The Business Development Department reported that 480 foreign firms with registered capital of 106.437 billion baht have been allowed to operate their businesses in Thailand during the first 10 months of 2022. The number of newly registered foreign businesses rose by 8 per cent compared to the same period of last year but the registered capital of foreign firms rose by 72%. Japanese investors top the list with 2.756 billion baht capital, follows by Hong Kong with 579 million baht capital and Singapore with 268 million baht capital. The statistics of the department during the past three years indicated that 2022 would end with some 68,000 to 72,000 new businesses.

4. Researchers laud Thailand's potential in becoming regional EV hub

(From www.nationthailand.com, November 29, 2022)

Bangkok – Thailand's potential to become an EV manufacturing hub was unveiled at the release of Arthur D Little (ADL)'s report "Unleashing Thailand's Electric Mobility Potential". The country came in ninth among 15 countries in terms of readiness to adopt electric vehicles, but it has a very good potential to become an EV manufacturing hub soon. Thailand lags behind Indonesia in terms of lithium battery production and cannot compete with Vietnam when it comes to funding. But the country can benefit from its strong foreign allies like China and Japan, which will help the Thai EV industry grow exponentially, chief of ADL said.

5. AIS Playbox operator appeals against court injunction on its broadcast of World Cup matches

(From www.nationthailand.com, November 29, 2022)

Bangkok – AIS Playbox operator appealed to the court to revoke an injunction barring the company from broadcasting the 2022 World Cup Finals on its IPTV platform. The Intellectual Property and International Trade Court's injunction stated that it could be violating the rights of True Corporation, who claimed to have exclusive rights to broadcast half of the 64 World Cup matches on internet protocol TV (IPTV) and over the top (OTT) platforms. The company stated that it has been granted the rights by the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), whose resolution is to make the program available freely for all Thais.

6. Thailand's 10 border special economic zones log THB37bn investment

(From www.nationthailand.com, December 12, 2022)

Thailand – Thailand's 10 border special economic zones (SEZs) have drawn investment worth 37 billion baht, government spokeswoman Ratchada Thanadirek said. The Prime Minister is confident the economic zones – located in Tak, Mukdahan, Trat, Sa Kaew, Songkhla, Nong Khai, Narathiwat, Chiang Rai, Nakhon Phanom and Kanchaburi – will boost development and income for rural people in the remote provinces. The border ZEZs were initiated in 2015 to tap potential for trade and investment from neighbouring countries and Asean Economic Community. The Board of Investment also offers privileges for companies setting up operations in the zones.

7. Krabi palm/rubber farmers urged to grow coffee as Asia's thirst rises

(From www.nationthailand.com, December 28, 2022)

Krabi province – Palm and rubber farmers in Krabi province have been urged to grow coffee instead as demand is rising faster in Asia than in other parts of the world. The Commerce Ministry granted a certification of Geographical Indication (GI) product to a coffee processing community enterprise in Krabi's Khlong Thom Nua. Coffee consumption in Asia has risen 1.5% over the past five years, beating Europe's 0.5% rise and the US' 1.2%. Its business is popular among entrepreneurs and investors after being named among outstanding businesses due to the trade fair exhibitor Informa Markets.

8. Massive investment planned for new Smart City in Eastern Economic Corridor

(From www.nationthailand.com, December 29, 2022)

Thailand – The government will invest 1.35 trillion baht to transform the eastern seaboard's Eastern Economic Corridor (ECC) into a regional financial hub and a world-class smart city by 2037. In the first 10 years, it will focus on developing the business and financial area, regional business offices, government offices, medical facilities, and educational centres. "This will be a world-class smart city to serve as a model for development of smart cities across the country", deputy government spokesperson Rachada Dhnadirek said. The 1.35 trillion baht investment would come from the private sector for 87.5% while 2.8% would be contributed by the government. The remaining of 9.7% comes from the state enterprises or joint ventures between the public and private sectors.

9. Rice types approved for GI status

(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, January 20, 2023)

Bangkok – Thailand has successfully registered geographical indication (GI) for Thung Kula Rong Hai hom mali rice and Sangyod Muang Phatthalung rice in Indonesia. The registration bringing the number of Thai GI products in Indonesia to three. Indonesia approved GI registration for Lamphun brocade silk in 2016. "The promotion of GI registrations in foreign countries is an important policy the government has focused on to create export opportunities and protect Thai GI products in key market" said Deputy Commerce Minister Sinit Lertkrai. There are now eight Thai products with GI registration in foreign countries. The ministry estimated sales of GI products including exports reached 48 billion baht in 2022, up from 39 billion in 2021.

10. Phitsanulok mangoes get status upgrade

(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, January 26, 2023)

Phitsanulok province – The Commerce Ministry's Intellectual Property Department has announced the registration of Nam Dok Mai Si Thong mangoes from Phitsanulok as new geographical indication (GI) product. The mango grown in the districts Noen Maprang, Wang Thong and Wat Bot and widely recognized by consumers. It has cherished texture, taste and fragrance and can generate more than 11 million baht in annual income for farmers, with Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea as the main export markets. The department achieved its goal of approving the registration of 22 new GI products in 2022. It also urged community enterprises to contact the department for advice and apply for GI if their products meet the required qualifications.