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To fight against COVID-19, the world is in the competition for making test kits, medicine, and vaccines. Following this R&D trend closely, TIPO provides the needed information and services to industry:

1. Patent analysis for the “national mask team”

As a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Economic Affairs has gathered up domestic mask companies to form a “national mask team” to boost mask production capacity. More than 20 countries have been drawn to purchase mask-related facilities in Taiwan so far. While our “national mask team” sets out to help the world, TIPO releases patent information relating to mask-producing facilities and technologies around the world, so that our nationals will not commit patent infringement when they enter the global market. TIPO is ready to help, if any patent analysis is needed.

2. Making the information of global –pandemic prevention relevant patents accessible

A pandemic prevention section has just been established in TIPO’s Global Patent Search System(GPSS). The items are divided into 14 groups, such as masks, protective clothing, test kits, vaccines, and medicine. With just one lick, users can find the information of patents relating to epidemic prevention in the world. Also, members of the GPSS will receive notes on the latest patent cases in chosen

technical fields. They may enjoy a range of added-value services such as statistical and chart-based analyses. TIPO aims to help industry quickly learn the key information of pandemic prevention technologies globally.

3. Potential COVID-19 drugs related Taiwan patent information

Since vaccines against COVID-19 are not yet available, medical experts home and abroad are urgently looking for effective solutions. In the short term, "Old drugs, new uses" is thus considered the most convenient and safest option.

Starting in March, TIPO has released drug approval status and patent information of 52 potential medications in the limelight around the globe for combating COVID-19. Such include remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, favipiravir, and ivermectin (for parasite control). The medications are divided into three categories according to their patenting conditions: 1. the core patent of its main active ingredient is under protection in Taiwan; 2. the core patent of its main active ingredient is not under protection in Taiwan, but other non-core patents are; 3. the medication is not protected in Taiwan at all.

Through the aforementioned information, TIPO hopes to assist medical and pharmaceutical companies in learning more about relevant patents, and thus able to quickly develop business strategies, such as seeking a licensing agreement with the patent holder, designing around the original patent, or just leaving any possibility of patent infringement behind. For the welfare of the people in Taiwan, we hope to see a timely development of drugs against COVID-19, and that the drugs can become available soon.

4. Pandemic Prevention related trademark hotline

Hypochlorous acid, hand sanitizer, pressure-free mask covers, and protective clothing are all popular products during the COVID-19 outbreak. To meet applicants' needs, TIPO has sorted out a categorized list of the "names of pandemic prevention products and services. An online application with all of the designated goods or services identical to those terms on the said list or recommend in TIPO's e-filing system will get an NT\$300 fee reduction. Consultation hotlines are also available now – TIPO will help applicants conduct trademark search, and suggest them whether their applications may be successful or not. This shall help companies to quickly apply for trademark registration while lowering marketing risks. The service is available from now until May 31, and may be extended depending on the circumstances of the outbreak.

5. Reinstatement if applicants fail to comply within a statutory time period

If patent or trademark applicants fail to comply within a statutory time period for application and other procedures, such as paying certificate fees or patent annuity, and requesting substantive examination or re-examination due to COVID-19, the applicants may ask TIPO for reinstatement upon presenting documents as evidence. In principle, such cases will be determined leniently.

6. Smart home consultations plus online applications

TIPO still provides patent and trademark consultation services during the outbreak. Without having to go out, with just one phone call, people can enjoy consultation services by professional volunteers. Applicants also may file patent and trademark applications online. Patent applications can get an NT\$600 fee reduction and trademarks at NT\$300!

The details of the six measures have been released at the ["IPR News related to COVID-19" section](#). By providing patent information, offering professional consultation services, and accepting reinstatement applications, TIPO hopes to ensure people's rights and interests, facilitate the spread of innovative technologies, and help R&D specialists find solutions for Covid-19.



TIPO-JPO permanent PPH MOTTAINAI Program came into effect on May 1, 2020

The Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program between Taiwan and Japan would come to an end on April 30, 2020. In view of its excellent performance, both sides had agreed that a permanent PPH program should be in place, starting on May 1 this year. The permanent program is aimed at continuing to provide applicants with stable and convenient PPH services.

Taiwan and Japan have enjoyed a close economic and trade relationship. For long years, Japan outnumbers other countries in invention patent applications filed in Taiwan. Last year (2019), TIPO received as many as 13,198 invention patent applications from Japanese applicants. On the other hand, JPO received a total of 1,548 invention patent applications from Taiwanese applicants. To speed up examination so that applicants could acquire their patents quickly, since May 1, 2012, TIPO and the JPO have conducted the PPH pilot program. In 2014, the program was modified to PPH MOTTAINAI and extended for three more years in 2017.

The request forms and details on the procedures of the permanent PPH MOTTAINAI can be found at [TIPO's website](#) and [JPO's website](#) now.



TIPO releases patent and trademark application statistics in the first quarter of 2020

In Q1 2020, TIPO received a total of 16,680 applications for invention, utility model, and design patents, marking a 3% decrease from the same period last year. The number of design patent applications filed by foreign applicants saw a small growth of 2%. The number of trademark applications was 20,310, marking a 4% increase. Of these, the ones filed by domestic applicants registered a 7% growth. TSMC and Nitto Denko respectively filed the most invention patent applications as domestic and foreign applicants. In addition, the number of invention patent applications filed by Taiwan's SMEs grew by 9% - an impressive growth.

TIPO received a total of 8,381 applications for invention, utility model, and design patents from domestic applicants, registering a 4% decrease compared to the same period last year. This is mainly due to a drop in the number of applications from companies and utility model applications from individuals. Foreign applicants filed 8,299 applications for invention, utility model, and design patents, marking a 2% growth in designs. It should be noted that, while the growth is small, it has been growing for six consecutive quarters.

When it comes to invention patent applications by domestic companies, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) came top with 129 applications, followed by AU Optonics (114) and Realtek (111). In terms of applications by foreign companies, Nitto Denko came top with 148 applications. Taiwan's SMEs contributed impressively with a 9% growth in the number of applications, marking an eighth-quarter consecutive growth. This shows that in Taiwan, SMEs are becoming more important in terms of R&D.



The number of new applications for trademark registration (20,310) showed a 4% increase compared to the same period last year. Among them, 15,008 applications were filed by Taiwanese nationals, marking a 7% increase. On the other hand, 5,302 were filed by foreigners, representing a slight decrease.

In more detail, in terms of trademark registration, domestic applicants contributed 2,729 applications in class 35 (advertising, corporate management, etc.), while foreign nationals contributed 1,091 in class 9 (computers, tech products, etc.). Domestic companies ROEHL and Da Han, as well as foreign company Turritopsis Holdings, sent 80 applications respectively, topping the foreign and the domestic company applicant lists.

[More information \(in Mandarin\)](#)



Registration for Invention Contest of Taiwan Innotech Expo starts now

The 2020 Taiwan Innotech Expo will take place from September 26 to 28 at Hall 1 of the Taipei World Trade Center. A total of 500 global institutions from 25 countries will display 1,200 patents and inventions. The expo is Taiwan's most iconic R&D platform, and it draws more than 45,000 visitors every year. The 2020 expo is likely to be filled with people again. All members of the society are encouraged to take part.

The expo is mainly divided into two parts, Invention Contest and Three Major Themed Topics. For the contest, outstanding inventors, professionals, and scholars in the world are invited to show their new works. Every year, TIPO receives more than 600 entries on average. By holding the contest, TIPO aims to encourage the most innovative inventions with the best market potential with awards. Registration for this year's contest will remain open until June 30. Interested members of the industry, academia, and R&D are especially welcome to compete for the Platinum Medal and to make their works more attractive in the business world. There is also a hall that shows the inventions of the past three years by Taiwanese nationals, which have been awarded at competitions worldwide. The hall manifests the rich energy for innovations of the people in Taiwan.



Three Major Themed Topics was curated by seven ministries and councils together - Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Labor, Council of Agriculture, and National Development Council, focusing on technologies of the future, innovative inventions, and sustainable development. Bringing together the innovative technologies that the seven ministries and councils have helped to develop, the area manifests Taiwan's scientific R&D achievements. According to each topic, an international technology exchange display is set, showing the globe's recent highlights. The goal is to build cooperation channels and for industry, academia and R&D institutions home and abroad, whilst creating more opportunities.

[More information \(in Mandarin\)](#)



Encouraging industrial cluster and developing supply chains, TIPO offers IP courses and consultation services to the electric motorcycle industry

To save energy and lower carbon emissions, the Ministry of Economic Affairs has devoted to promoting the electric motorcycle industry in Taiwan. In 2014 and 2018 respectively, MOEA implemented programs to subsidize the consumption of electric motorcycle in the hope of boost domestic market grow as well as developing relevant supply chains.

With MOEA's effort, the supply chains for the electric motorcycle sector in Taiwan is rather complete now, including upstream materials / components (batteries, motors, and the main vehicles), mid-stream components / sets (chairs, lights, and dampers), and down-stream systems (power, battery management, and drives/brakes) and whole vehicles (electric motorcycle). In support of the MOEA, this year (2020), TIPO offers IP (patent, trademark, and trade secrets) consultation services and courses to the electric motorcycle industry, such as how to apply, search, and prepare for examination or even litigation. TIPO hopes to enhance protection for the electric motorcycle sector's intellectual property, such as innovations and R&D results.



Establishing patent foundation– TIPO carries out an exchange and cooperation program with College of Design, National Taiwan University of Technology

To facilitate exchange between the academia and TIPO regarding theory and patent practices in the field of design, and strengthen IPR protection in Taiwan, this year, for the first time, TIPO carries out a one-year program with College of Design, National Taiwan University of Technology, sending patent examiners to the campus to discuss patent matters with teachers and students. Through the program, patent examiners will exchange views with industry experts, professors and students in class, learn about upcoming design trends together, and provide IPR consultation services.

Through such experimental interaction and co-learning, TIPO looks forward to mapping out policies of design protection for the next generation. TIPO also hopes to cultivate interdisciplinary designers and increase competitiveness for them.



Seminar on IPR Concerning Traditional Intellectual Creations of Indigenous Peoples and the Cultural and Creative Industry

To promote intellectual property protection for traditional intellectual creations of indigenous peoples in the cultural and creative industry, and to boost innovative energy and add values to the local sectors, TIPO will hold the Seminar on IPR Concerning Traditional Intellectual Creations of Indigenous Peoples and the Cultural and Creative Industry on May 29, 2020 at National Taiwan Craft Research and Development Institute, with the institute's support.

The seminar discusses IPR topics relating to traditional intellectual creations of indigenous peoples in the cultural and creative industry, from four aspects including design patent, trademark, copyright, and traditional intellectual creations of indigenous peoples. Cultural and creative workers, designers, and IPR professionals are especially encouraged to take part.

For more information (in Mandarin), please visit:

[Agenda for the Seminar on IPR Concerning Traditional Intellectual Creations of Indigenous Peoples and the Cultural and Creative Industry](#)



For more news, please visit [TIPO's website](#) .

Please contact us if you have any suggestion or question about our monthly news. We will make corrections or write back to you as soon as possible.

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