



DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE

2023 was marked as a pivotal year of transition and progress. When I accepted the role of Director General in March, it was with a sense of gratitude and honor, but also recognition of the great responsibilities that lay ahead of me. Building on the solid foundation laid by my predecessors, I am committed to leading TIPO towards new milestones in creating an innovative and friendly IP environment.

The core mandate of TIPO is to refine the IP regime and align it with international standards. This is to ensure stable, fair, and predictable examination periods and facilitate domestic and international patent and trademark filings for applicants. To enhance our services to the industry, the Trademark Act was amended in 2023 to introduce an accelerated examination process, enabling applicants to receive office actions within two months.

For patents, TIPO introduced an accelerated examination for design patents and streamlined the process of extending patent duration by relaxing the regulations for accepting domestic and foreign clinical trial documentation. This follows the implementation of prioritized examinations for invention patents. To ease the process of obtaining patents for industry research and development, TIPO also introduced three programs to improve the speed and quality of patent examination by coordinating efforts from businesses, patent agents, and patent examiners: the Industry Collaborative Patent Interview Program, the Positive Patent Examinations for Startups Program, and the Remote Interviews for Patent Applications Program.

To help businesses adapt to the Taiwan government's key development industries, TIPO is utilizing data from patent examinations to analyze trends in precision medicine, offshore wind turbine components, and vehicle smart cockpit solutions. The hope is to provide companies with strategic insights for future planning. TIPO has also organized many seminars across the country to promote IPR protection and offers tailored courses for SMEs and startups to help commercialize research outcomes and establish brands. These direct interactions help enhance SMEs and startups understanding of IP protection.

For copyrights, TIPO adjusted the royalty rates under Article 47(3) of the Copyright Act to ensure fair compensation for copyright owners. Recognizing the challenges posed by AI technology, the focus has now shifted to IP disputes and TIPO organized several seminars on copyright protection for AI applications.

Our commitment to using technology to improve administrative efficiency and examination efficacy is unwavering. In 2023, TIPO developed an automatic classification module for patents IPC Level 3 with an accuracy rate of 87%, and the top 10 IPC Level 4 with an accuracy rate of 85%, which will be integrated into the patent examination system in 2024 to assist in classification and assignment casework. TIPO also designed an image search function for trademarks, which augments the accuracy and efficiency of TIPO's trademark examination process. As it increases the convenience of conducting trademark searches, it will be made available to applicants as well.

TIPO staff also developed a Patent Specification Error Detection System, which can enhance the quality and efficiency of patent examinations by ensuring that patent applications contain accurate information. The system underwent optimization upon public request and is now open to the public. The hope is to save time for applicants and ensure accuracy on application forms, which is also a win-win situation for TIPO. These achievements and results have also been shared with the international community at multiple APEC IPR expert meetings.

We shall continue to forge substantive collaborations with IP offices worldwide. In 2023, Taiwan signed the MOU on the Secure Exchange of Patent Data with the US, and expanded the scope of the Electronic Exchange of Priority Documents (PDX) for Design Patents with South Korea to include design patents. The aforementioned measures will facilitate international patent applications. Other exchanges that augmented bilateral partnerships include: the 2023 Taiwan-Japan Intellectual Property Symposium, Taiwan-India Online Meeting on Taiwan's Trade Secrets Protection and Enforcement, the 2023 EU-Taiwan Seminar on Standard Essential Patents, and the Taiwan-Canada IP Dialogue Meeting.

Looking forward, TIPO shall continue to focus on bolstering the IP infrastructure, modernizing the IP regime, optimizing patent and trademark examination processes, and enhancing search systems in 2024. TIPO aims to support industries and inventors in innovation, strengthen support for SMEs and startups, and solidify copyright protection and licensing mechanisms to back the development of the cultural and creative industries. TIPO is also committed to deepening bilateral exchanges and cooperation to expand international opportunities for Taiwan. I personally pledge to work alongside all staff members to overcome challenges and help boost Taiwan's global competitiveness.



TIPO Director General