



TAIWAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE,  
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

# Quarterly Report

on Intellectual Property Rights Protection in Taiwan

January to March, 2023

Published in May, 2023

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### **TIPO's New Director General and Deputy Director General Take Office on March 27, 2023**

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New Director General Cheng-Wei Liao and Deputy Director General Su-Mei Lee take Office on March 27, 2023.

Director General Cheng-Wei Liao obtained his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Chung Yuan Christian University. He has held various positions at TIPO since 2000, including patent examiner, Director of Patent Division I, and Deputy Director General. During his tenure, he successfully executed a patent backlog clearance plan, supervised the establishment of the Patent Search Center, promoted online patent examination, and proposed an inter partes review system for patent and trademark cases. He has also actively expanded cooperation with patent offices in various countries.

Director General Liao possesses an extensive and diverse educational and professional background, a global perspective, and exceptional leadership skills.

Deputy Director General Su-Mei Lee earned her Master's in International Studies from the University of Wyoming in the United States. She joined the Central Bureau of Standards (the predecessor of TIPO) in 1991 and has since held various positions, such as Trademark Examiner, Director of Trademark Division, and Chief Secretary of TIPO. With professional qualifications and extensive practical experience in intellectual property, Deputy Director Li has been recognized as a model civil servant by the Ministry of Economic Affairs for outstanding performance.

The Taiwan Intellectual Property Office oversees critical aspects of intellectual property, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and integrated circuit layout designs. To stay abreast of global industrial competition and align with industrial development, the office is committed to proactively building partnerships with inventors, academia, research institutions, and enterprises. It aims to enhance the protection and licensing mechanisms for creative works, promote substantive exchanges and collaboration with IP agencies worldwide, and establish a robust intellectual property protection environment in Taiwan.

## **The 2023 Taiwan-Japan Intellectual Property Symposium: A Resounding Success!**

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The 2023 Taiwan-Japan Intellectual Property Symposium, a collaborative effort of the organizers Taiwan-Japan Relations Association and Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association, in partnership with co-organizer Taiwan Intellectual Property Office (TIPO), was held on January 10th at the GIS MOTC Convention Center. It brought together an esteemed group of guest speakers, including Taiwan-Japan Relations Association Deputy Secretary-General Ching-Hung Lin, Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association Deputy Representative Dr. Takashi Hattori, Taiwan Intellectual Property Office (TIPO) Director-General Shu-Ming Hung, and Japan Patent Office (JPO) Policy Planning and Coordination Department Director-General Mikiharu Shimizu (remarks read on his behalf by Director Tauchi Koji of the Multilateral Policy Office, International Policy Department).

The Symposium featured detailed presentations from JPO Multilateral Policy Office Director Tauchi Koji, TIPO International Affairs and Planning Division Director Chi-Hsien Chou, Wisdom International Patent & Law Office Registered

Japanese Patent Attorney Kai Furihata, and Jou and Jou Patent Offices Patent Attorney Mike Jou. The speakers delved into the latest developments and initiatives of JPO, offered insights on the patent-related support measures provided by the Taiwanese government for enterprises to develop overseas markets, introduced the nuances of the Japanese invention patent system, and shared actionable strategies for applying and efficiently acquiring Japanese patent rights.

Over 110 participants attended the 2023 Taiwan-Japan Intellectual Property Symposium, bringing together industry, government, and academia. The Symposium sparked a dynamic exchange of ideas and insights among participants and experts from both Taiwan and Japan, and fostered vibrant and engaging discussions throughout the event.

### **1. Executive Yuan Approves the Partial Draft Amendments to the Patent Act and the Trademark Act**

Partial draft amendments to the Patent Act and the Trademark Act aimed at re-establishing an efficient and professional remedy system for patents and trademarks passed in the Executive Yuan on March 9, 2023. A summary of the key points of the draft amendment are as follows:

I. Partial Draft Amendments to the Patent Act and the Trademark Act to Re-establish a Remedy System:

i. Establish an independent segment to handle reexaminations and disputes

Following the example of foreign patent and trademark remedy systems, patent and trademark reexaminations and disputes will be handled by an independent Trial and Appeal Board operating under the competent authority.

ii. Re-establish a professional, efficient, and rigorous review system

To strengthen the procedural safeguards and ensure timely processing of patent and trademark dispute cases, a review panel of 3 or 5 examiners, designated by TIPO, will be established to review and decide on each reexamination or dispute case. The review process is also more rigorous as it shall include oral hearings, preliminary procedures, and appropriate disclosure of evaluation and notification of the conclusion of the review.

iii. Abolish the current process to administrative appeal review decisions

Provided that the decision of any reexaminations or disputes were made by the competent authority through a deliberation process of the highest rigor and professionalism, ensuring procedural safeguards for the parties, parties not satisfied with the review decision may skip the current administrative appeals pro-

cess and initiate legal proceedings directly with the court.

iv. Establish special reexamination and dispute lawsuits

Review decisions made by the competent authority are administrative dispute resolution proceedings for private right disputes. Any parties disputing rights should file a “dispute lawsuit” against the other party (the defendant), and civil, not administrative, litigation proceedings will apply. To simplify the remedy system and prevent ambiguity, civil litigation proceedings shall hereon apply to all cases. The court of final appeals, previously the Supreme Administrative Court, shall be the Supreme Court.

v. Legal representation is now mandatory for dispute litigation cases

Patent litigation cases involve highly technical and legal expertise. In order to comply with amendments to the Intellectual Property Case Adjudication Act, protect the rights and interests of the parties, and promote adjudication efficiency, the new amendments stipulate that patent dispute litigation cases must be represented by a lawyer or patent agent. Trademark dispute litigation cases require high legal expertise and must be represented by an agent.

vi. The grace period for design patents has been extended to 12 months

To facilitate development of the design industry and harmonize with international standards, the grace period for design patent applications has been extended to 12 months from the current 6 months.

vii. Abolish Trademark Opposition Procedures

Currently, 97% of trademark oppositions are disputes over refusal of trademark registration, which overlaps considerably with grounds for evaluation. Therefore, the amendments will abolish the trademark opposition procedure. In addition, the grounds for absolute refusal of trademark registration will be expanded to allow “any person” to apply for evaluation, and third-party opinions can be accepted during the application examination to effectively eliminating the need for trademark opposition as a public review mechanism.

- II. Amendment of Certain Article of the Trademark Act with Regards to Regulating Trademark Agents
- i. Added a mechanism to accelerate examination in response to urgent demands from the public to obtain trademark rights.
  - ii. The competent authority for trademarks is given the authority to manage registration and establish relevant management regulations in order to provide a more comprehensive set of requirements for trademark agent qualification and ensure the interests of trademark applicants.
  - iii. Relaxed regulations by expanding the eligible trademark applicants and simplifying both the applications process for trademark registration revocation and the infringement recognition process by customs.

Partial Draft Amendments to the Patent Act and the Trademark Act Passed at Taiwan Executive Yuan Meeting No. 3846 (Mandarin):

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/tw/cp-87-920152-38b75-1.html>

## **2. The Legislative Yuan Passed Amendments to the Intellectual Property Case Adjudication Act, Which Will Take Effect on August 30, 2023**

Amendments to the Intellectual Property Case Adjudication Act passed the third reading at the Legislative Yuan on January 12 of this year, and the changes take effect on August 30, 2023. The revisions aim to provide more comprehensive protection for trade secrets, as well as building a more professional and effective adjudication system which is in line with international trends for intellectual property cases. Main revisions are as follows:

- I. Designate that the Intellectual Property and Commercial Court has exclusive jurisdiction as to the IP civil actions in the first instance.
- II. Indictment of criminal offenses involving general trade secret infringement shall be filed with the IP Court of the Intellectual Property and Commercial Court to ensure



professional, appropriate, and speedy adjudication.

- III. In accordance with the National Security Act, criminal cases related to the infringement of trade secrets involving national core critical technologies will be under the jurisdiction of the IP Court, which is equivalent to the level of a second-instance high court, as the first-instance court.
- IV. The Supreme Court shall establish a special chamber or division to handle IP cases to ensure expertise during the adjudication process.

Additionally, the amendments adopt a trial plan system, expand mandatory lawyer representation and expert participation within the adjudication process, and establish a system for exchanging judicial and administrative information. Other revisions include incorporating digital technology for the adjudication process and allowing the victim to participate in litigation proceedings, etc. These provisions allow the public to safeguard their rights and interests.

In order to ensure the smooth operation of the new law, the Judicial Yuan will continue to organize various intellectual property litigation training courses. These courses will focus on strengthening the professional knowledge of judges, particularly in areas such as trade secret protection and litigation related to national security related trade secrets. Furthermore, specialized intellectual property divisions will be established in courts at different levels, and the Intellectual Property Court of the IP and Commercial Courts will implement a system to separate civil and criminal cases. These initiatives aim to establish an efficient and specialized litigation system for handling intellectual property cases, thereby enhancing the international competitiveness of Taiwan businesses.

### **1. CCUS in 2050 Net Zero Transitions — An Opportunity for Business Growth**

Renewable energy plays a critical role in achieving carbon neutrality, and carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) is considered the final stretch towards net zero emissions. TIPO has compiled an analysis report on CCUS patent application trends and an overview of the patent landscape in this field for public reference.

TIPO reports 12,610 global CCUS-related patent technologies (patent families), with 7,406 families in carbon capture, 4,399 in carbon utilization, and 805 in carbon storage – numbers continuously growing as the importance placed on addressing climate change increases. The Office's analysis of the global patent landscape revealed a correlation between market sizes, level of importance placed on related issues, and number of patent applications. China, Europe, and the United States now have the record for the highest number of applications, most of them being local applications.

Carbon absorption is the most prevalent and advanced technology among carbon capture methods, accounting for 39.1% of all related applications. Said method involves capturing carbon dioxide emissions using an absorbent. Adsorption technology, which accounts for 26.7%, is the next most prevalent, utilizing an adsorbent to bind carbon dioxide. Membrane separation technology, accounting for 12.5%, employs a thin film of organic or inorganic material to separate carbon dioxide from other gases. Although absorption technology continues to lead the field, there is an increasing trend in patent applications

for adsorption and membrane separation, indicating that various companies and organizations worldwide are exploring a diverse range of carbon capture technologies.

TIPO's report highlights that despite the limited presence of patent applications for carbon capture technology in Taiwan, certain companies and research institutions are actively pursuing research and patenting said technologies. As an example, the Industrial Technology Research Institute and Taiwan Cement Corporation are collaborating to capture carbon dioxide through calcium looping process in order to reduce energy consumption and additional carbon dioxide emissions in the cement production process, demonstrating a leadership role in carbon capture technology.

Carbon utilization technology has a broad range of applications, including the conversion of carbon dioxide into chemicals like methanol and methane, and even into novel carbon-based materials such as graphene, carbon tubes, and carbon fibers. Of the various methods for reusing carbon dioxide, the numbers of patent applications for converting carbon dioxide into methanol (11.4%) and methane (8.3%) are relatively high. Major companies, including CPC Corporation and Formosa Plastics Corporation, are investing in such technologies to boost competitiveness in the petrochemical industry. The China Steel Corporation has also leveraged its close proximity to local petrochemical companies and formed partnerships in steel and chemical co-production to optimize carbon capture and utilization/usage (CCU) benefits. Furthermore, with limited R&D in the field of novel carbon materials and a majority of investors being start-up companies, converting carbon dioxide into novel carbon materials could be a potential new business opportunity for SMEs in Taiwan.

Applications for carbon storage technologies primarily come from countries or companies that possess oil and gas resources, with 48.1% of the applications focused on the technology of underground injection of carbon dioxide into reservoirs during oil and gas extraction. The implementation of carbon storage technology is limited in Taiwan due to the absence of natural gas or oil production, regulatory hurdles, and the requirement to gain consent from nearby residents for underground injections of carbon dioxide.

As of recent, carbon pricing has been skyrocketing, and regulations are becoming increasingly stringent as countries move toward a consensus on reducing carbon emissions. TIPO emphasizes that industries should stay informed about the global CCUS patent landscape and proactively leverage their strengths and resources to research and develop new technologies so as to seize business opportunities in sustainability, leading to a positive impact on both the environment and the economy in the transition to a zero-carbon economy.

The announcement of “*TIPO Releases International Patent Trend Analysis Report on Carbon Capture Technology*” (Mandarin):

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/en/cp-282-918140-ec9bf-2.html>

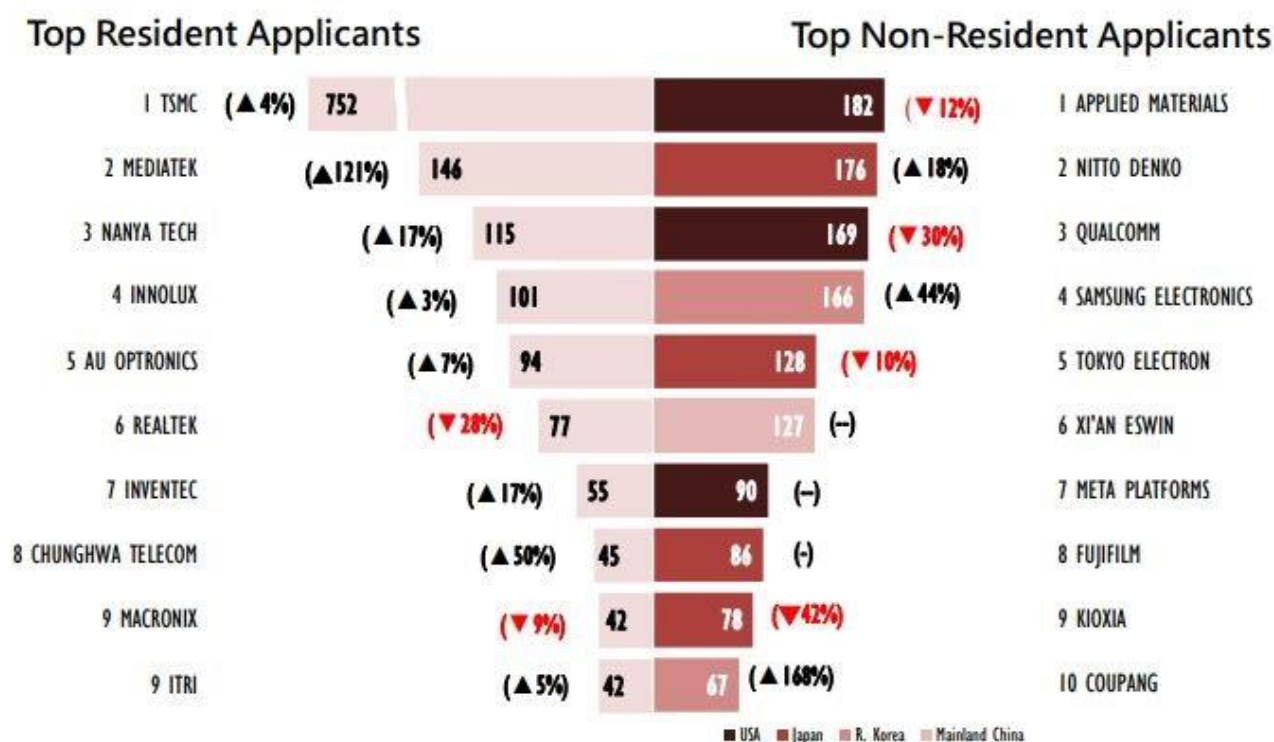
## 2. TIPO’s Q1 2023 IPR Statistics Report

In Q1 2023, TIPO received a total of 17,226 patent applications (including invention, utility model, and design patents), marking a 2% decrease over the same period last year. Of these, invention patents, most applications filed among overall patents, stood at 12,486 cases, with a slight decrease of 0.4%. On the other hand, design patents (1,654 cases) were up by 1%, thanks to the 6% increase contributed by foreign applicants.

As for the top 10 resident applicants for invention patent filings, TSMC filed the most invention patent applications (752 cases), setting its all-time-high record and outnumbering other domestic applicants for four straight years. Mediatek (146 cases) saw the highest growth rate with 121%; Innolux filed 101 applications, setting its new historical record by exceeding 100 cases.

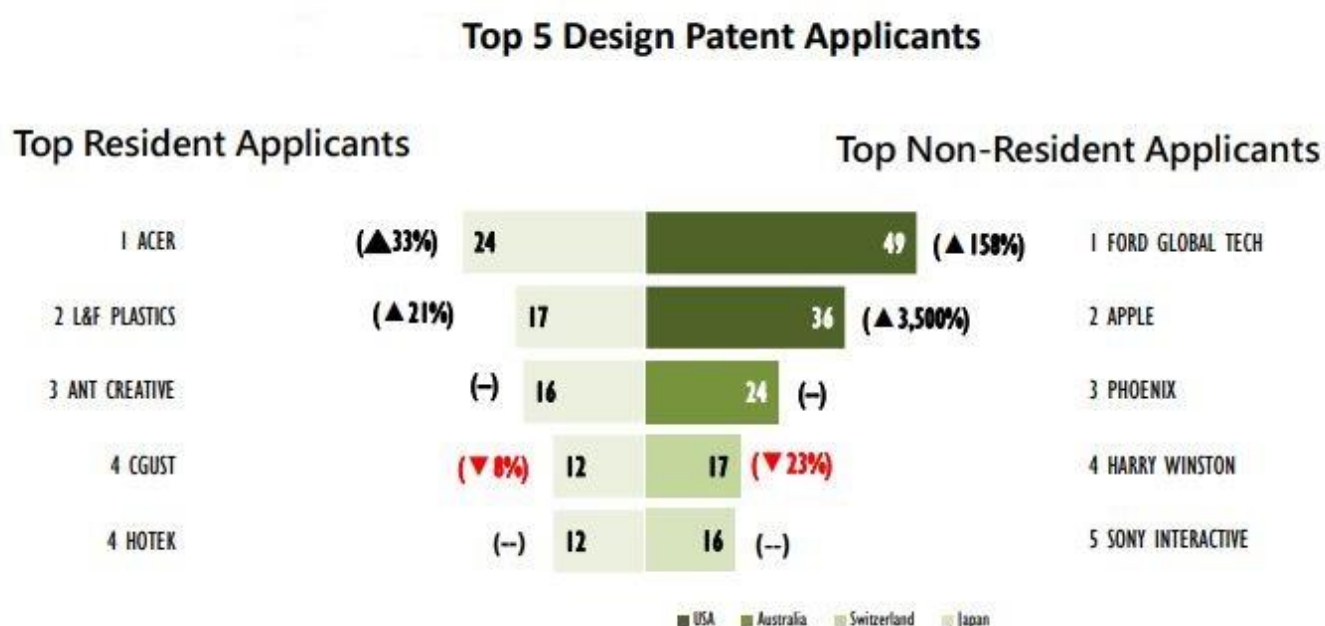
The number of invention patent applications filed by foreign applicants (7,849 cases) remained steady. Of these, Japan filed the most with 3,504 cases. As for the top 10 applicants, Applied Materials (US) reclaimed the top spot by 182 cases. Xi'an Eswin (CN)(127 cases) and Meta Platforms (US)(90 cases) stood at the sixth and seventh spot, respectively, their best ranking ever achieved. Coupang (KR)(67 cases) saw the highest growth rate, with 168%.

### Top 10 Invention Patent Applicants



In terms of resident applicants for design patent filings, Acer claimed the top spot again with 24 cases. Both Ant Creative (16 cases) and Hotek (12 cases) filed for the first time and entered the top 5 list at the same time.

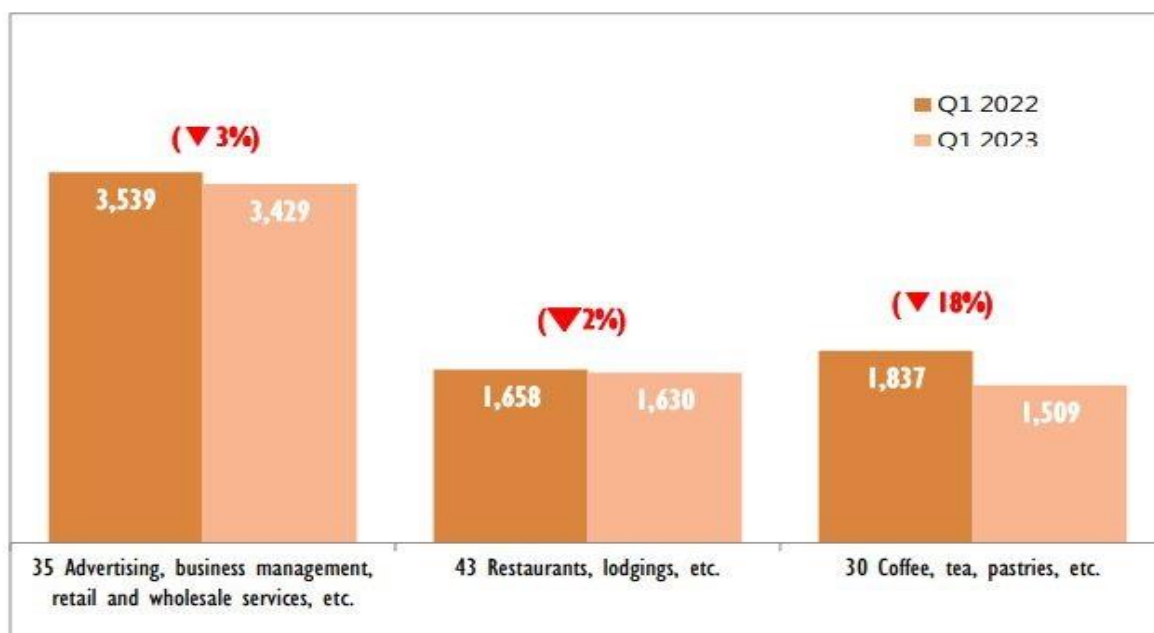
As for non-resident applicants for design patent filings, Ford Global Tech (US) came out on top with 49 applications. Apple (US)(36 cases) grew by 35 times, given a lower base period last year. Phoenix (AU)(24 cases) entered the top 5 list for the first time, and Sony Interactive (JP)(16 cases) hit its record high.



Compared to the same period last year, trademark applications reached 21,494 cases (covering 27,096 classes) and saw a decrease of 4%, affected by the higher base period last year. The number of applications filed by residents (16,750 cases) and non-residents (4,744 cases) both declined.

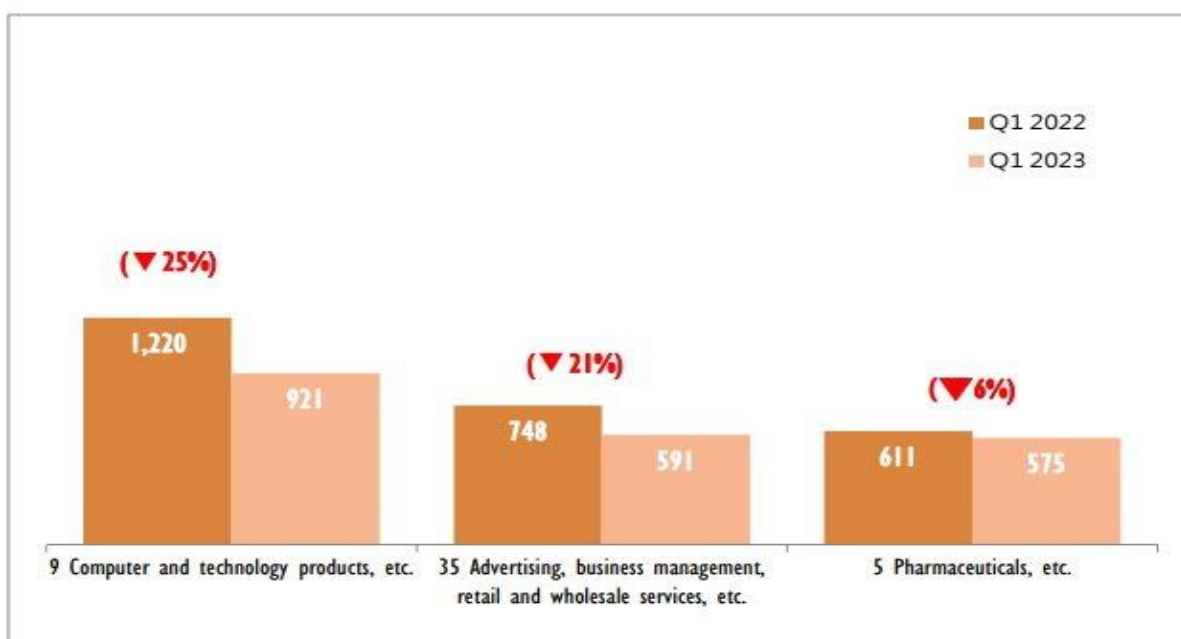
As for the top 10 resident applicants, Uni-President filed 102 applications, outnumbering all other applicants again. The majority of the top 10 resident applicants saw an increase in the number of applications filed (Table 2). A breakdown by Nice class shows that most applications (3,429 cases) were filed under Class 35, “Advertising, Business Management, Retail and Wholesale Services, etc.”

### Top 3 Classes for Resident Trademark Applications



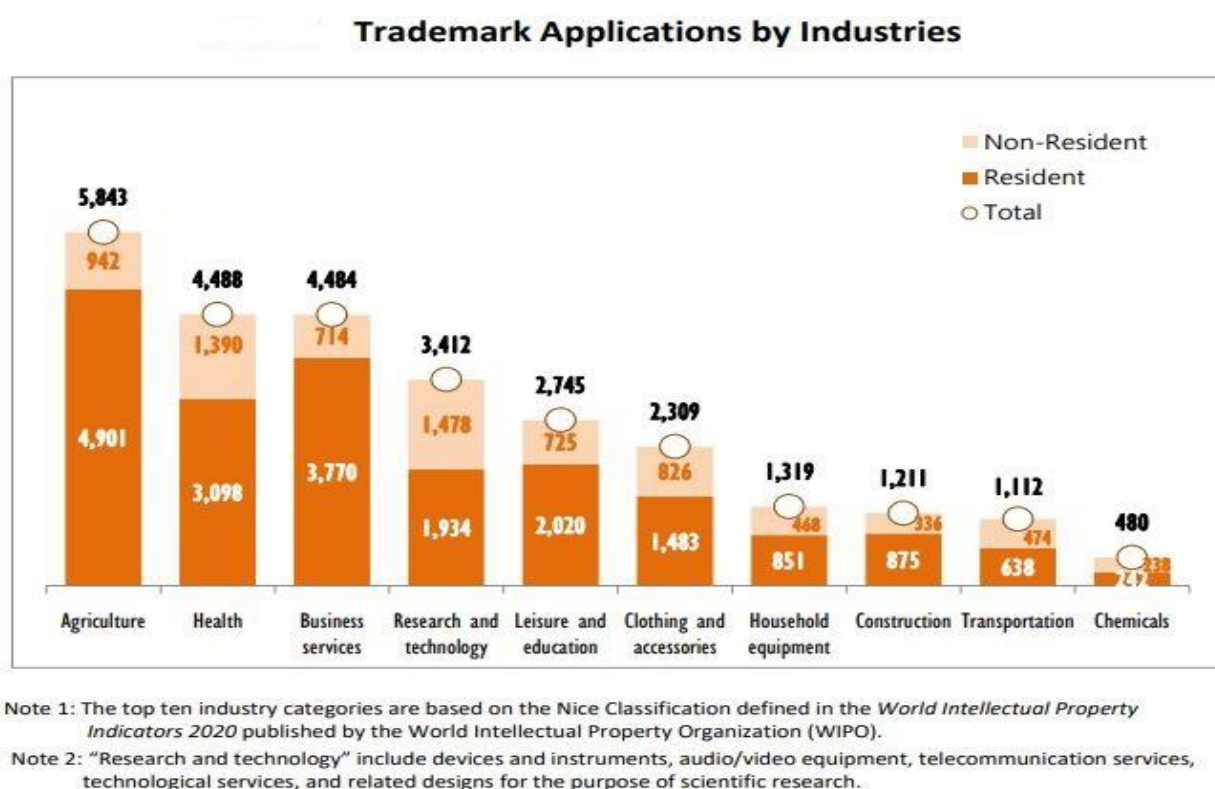
Among non-resident applicants, mainland China filed the most applications (1,099 cases)(Figure 1). The applications filed by the top 10 non-resident applicants all saw positive growth. Saic-Gm-Wuling Automobile (CN) topped the list with 84 applications, outnumbering all other applicants (Table 3). A breakdown by Nice class shows non-resident applicants filed the most applications (921 cases) in Class 9, “Computer and Technology Products, etc.”

### Top 3 Classes for Non-Resident Trademark Applications





The top 3 industry categories trademark applicants filed under were “Agriculture” (5,843 cases), “Health” (4,488 cases), and “Business Services” (4,484 cases). Most applications filed by residents were under “Agriculture” (4,901 cases), the majority of which were for the restaurant and accommodation industries. On the other hand, most non-resident applications were filed under “Research and technology” (1,478 cases).



TIPO’s Q1 2023 IPR Statistics Report:

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/en/dl-284210-10850e8287064d46a45ef0cc6d20adb6.html>

### 3. Analysis of Trends in Trademark Applications Filed in 2017-2021

On November 21, 2022, WIPO released the latest edition of *the World Intellectual Property Indicators 2022* (WIPI 2022), which provides information on various aspects of trademark worldwide for the year 2021, including the total number of applications and registrations, first OA and disposal pendency,



final decision data, and application class counts per GDP and capita. TIPO analyzed trademark application trends for both foreign enterprises and industrial development of local counties and cities by referring to WIPI 2021 data and Taiwan's trademark registration statistics from the past five years. The analysis evaluated the potential industrial development of Taiwan's industries by examining the classes of goods or services designated in trademark applications and compared them with global application trends. This analysis culminated in the report *Analysis of Trends in Trademark Applications Filed in 2017-2021*.

The report indicates that the number of trademark applications worldwide in 2021 was nearly 14 million, covering over 18.1 million classes, with significant growth of 5.5%. Due to effective prevention measures and public cooperation with government policies, without any large-scale lockdown or stringent public quarantine measures, Taiwan's economy remained relatively unaffected by the impact of the pandemic and is currently in recovery. The report also shows a slight increase of 1.15% in the number of foreign trademark applications filed in Taiwan compared to the previous year.

*The Analysis of Trends in Trademark Applications Filed in 2017-2021* can serve as a valuable reference for the development of industry IP portfolios, brand building, and market trend forecasting.

*Analysis of Trends in Trademark Applications Filed in 2017-2021* (in Mandarin): <https://topic.tipo.gov.tw/trademarks-tw/lp-914-201.html>

#### **4. TIPO Publishes Taiwan-Japan Concordance of Similar Group Codes (corresponding to NCL12-2023)**

TIPO has updated the Taiwan-Japan Concordance of Similar Group Codes (corresponding to NCL12-2023) according to WIPO's latest revisions to the Nice Classification, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition-Version 2023. Applicants are welcome to refer to the document when registering a trademark.

Taiwan-Japan Concordance of Similar Group Codes (corresponding to NCL12-2023):

<https://topic.tipo.gov.tw/trademarks-tw/dl-283670-2b3ebc0a3f334698b3a6c9cf2c386786.html>

## **5. TIPO Invites SMEs to Sign Up for the Seminars on Increasing Patent Capacities and Values**

TIPO offers the Seminars on Increasing Patent Capacities and Values for SMEs and academic institutions to become more familiar with patent affairs. The seminar focuses on “being proactive”, “discussion”, and “customization,” and TIPO patent examiners are invited to teach courses on patent application, examination, and patent searches. Depending on the different fields of expertise of the participating organizations, participants and instructors may also have further discussions.

Overall satisfaction rate with the seminar has remained 90% over the last five years. According to statistics, the number of invention patents filed in 2020 by companies that participated in the seminars in 2019 increased by 47%, demonstrating visible results. Due to the pandemic in 2020, the seminars were mostly given online with limited interactions and QA sessions between instructors and participating companies. In-person classes will resume in 2023, and TIPO invites SMEs and academic institutions to register for the seminars. Registration will be open until June 30th.

Seminar information (Mandarin):

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/tw/cp-85-920082-cb989-1.html>

## **6. 2023 TIPA Patent/Trademark Training Courses are Open for Registration**

To foster higher quality training for IP professionals, TIPO commissioned NTU to establish the Taiwan Intellectual Property Academy (TIPA). This year, TIPA

will welcome its 19<sup>th</sup> year and has trained 14,000 IP professionals. Over 95 of students in a survey for the 2021 Training Course for IP Professionals reported willingness to continue with TIPA training courses. Students also reported that the courses were practical, enhance IP knowledge, and helped them solve problems in their professions.

Since the latter half of February, TIPA has begun to offer 12 IPR basics and patent/trademark courses: IPR Basics, Patent Law Regulations, Drafting of Patent Specifications and Patent Claims, Patent Examination Guidelines and Practices, Patent Formality Examination and Management, Patent Search, Patent Analysis, Trademark Law Regulations, Trademark Application and Registration, Trademark Disputes, Trademark-Related Laws and International News, and Trademark Search and Analysis.

For the benefit of students in Central and Southern Taiwan, as well as in light of remote learning trends, all but four courses were offered entirely online: Patent Search, Patent Analysis, Trademark-Related Laws and International Norms, and Trademark Search and Analysis. The four courses listed above were given in person, but the classes were livestreamed.

For more information about the latest courses, follow TIPA's FB page. For other events, check out TIPA's official website.

TIPA Course Info & Registration (Mandarin):

[https://www.tipa.org.tw/tc/news\\_detail128.htm](https://www.tipa.org.tw/tc/news_detail128.htm)

TIPA Facebook Page (Mandarin): <https://www.facebook.com/tipa.org.tw/>

TIPO Official Website (Mandarin): <https://www.tipa.org.tw/tc/index.php>

## **7. Ministry of Education's TANet Report Portal**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has established a mechanism to report sus -

pected copyright infringement on college and university campuses. Hyperlinks directing to copyright-infringing foreign textbook websites can be reported through the dedicated TANet (Taiwan Academic Network) portal ([abuse@moe.edu.tw](mailto:abuse@moe.edu.tw)). Seven cases of infringement was reported this quarter.

## **8. Implementation Overview of the Protection Act for the Traditional Intellectual Creations of Indigenous Peoples by the Council of Indigenous Peoples**

Since the Protection Act for the Traditional Intellectual Creation of Indigenous Peoples took effect in 2015 and up until March 2023, 150 applications for exclusive rights have been received and consolidated into 120 cases-of which 102 cases have been completed, 7 cases are pending considerations, 9 cases have been withdrawn, and 2 cases have been dismissed. Of the 102 cases completed, 85 were granted exclusive rights, 5 were scheduled to be granted exclusive rights, 6 were reexamined, and 6 were rejected.

The CIP will engage a law firm specializing in intellectual property and indigenous traditional knowledge creation to provide legal consultation to indigenous people and the general public regarding the application of the Act and to offer legal advice and litigation services to indigenous communities or tribes. As of the quarter, they have provided legal consultation to six individuals, totaling 290 minutes (4.83 hours), and have issued four legal opinions.

# Law Enforcement Results and Statistics

## **The National Police Agency of the Ministry of the Interior**

### **Law Enforcement**

Between January and March of 2023, a total of 362 cases involving 549 persons were investigated for violation of the Copyright Act, a total of 510 cases (657 persons) for violation of the Trademark Act, and 6 cases (7 persons) for violation of the Trade Secrets Act. A total of 848 cases involving 1,213 persons were investigated for various types of infringement. All the aforementioned persons were referred to the district prosecutors offices for further investigation in accordance with the law.

### **Statistics for IP Infringement Cases by the National Police Agency, NPA**

Unit : case/person

Year	Total		Trademark		Copyright			Trade Secrets	
	No. of Cases	No. of Suspects	No. of Cases	No. of Suspects	No. of Cases	No. of Suspects	No. of CDs Confiscated	No. of Cases	No. of Suspects
2023 Jan.-Mar.	878	1213	510	657	362	549	0	6	7
2022 Jan.-Mar.	946	1209	416	510	521	677	16	9	22
Percentage Change %	-7.19%	0.33%	22.60%	28.82%	-30.52%	-18.91%	-100%	-33.33%	-68.18%

Source: National Police Agency (NPA), Ministry of the Interior

## Taiwan High Prosecutors Office (THPO)

### Law Enforcement

1. According to the data from all prosecutors offices, a total of 462 suspects were involved in 416 concluded cases of IPR infringement between January and March, of which 161 persons involved in 122 cases were prosecuted according to regular procedures, 138 persons involved in 133 cases were granted summary judgment, 142 persons across 141 cases received deferred prosecution, and 21 persons across 20 cases were not prosecuted nor punished by the court's sua sponte motion. 227 persons were convicted by the courts between January and March, for a conviction rate of 89.02%.
2. A comparison to the same period in 2023 reveals the following regarding the number of prosecutions (including those who requested summary judgement) and convictions for cases of IPR infringement: 299 persons were prosecuted between January and March this year, marking a decrease of 41 persons (12.06%) compared to 340 persons in the same period in 2022; 227 persons were convicted between January and March, marking a decrease of 32 persons (12.36%) compared to 259 persons in the same period in 2022.

## Statistics for Final Court Decisions on IP Cases Brought by Various District

### Prosecutors Offices

單位：人 Unit: Person

Categories	Year	Results of Court Rulings												
			Sentence							Sentence Remitted	Acquitted	Not to Prosecuted	Case Rejected	Others
		Total	Subtotal	Under 6 Months	6-12 Months	1-2 Year(s)	Over 2 Years	Detention	Fines					
Total	2023 Jan.-Mar	309	227	79	2	1	-	140	5	-	28	1	52	1
	2022 Jan.-Mar	324	259	86	1	5	-	162	5	-	15	1	49	-
	Percent Change %	-4.63%	12.36%	-8.14%	100%	-80.00%	-	-13.58%	0%	-	-86.67%	0%	6.12%	-

Source: Taiwan Prosecutors Office

3. As the methods used to pirate textbooks continue to change, copyrights violations via digital and online methods are starting to emerge. The Working Group Meeting on the Coordination and Supervision of Investigations Relating to Intellectual Property Rights held by the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office on November 24, 2020 gathered prosecutors, police, and investigators and asked them to further the investigation into these copyright violations, including but not limited to photocopy shops around university campuses or hard copy textbooks. Cases involving a total of 5 shops and 5 persons were uncovered in Q1 of 2023, and computers, USB flash drives, recorded CDs, and pirated test papers and e-books were seized accordingly.

# The Customs Administration

## Law Enforcement Results

1. The Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance has implemented various border protection measures in accordance with the Regulations Governing Customs Measures in Protecting the Rights and Interests of Trademark and the Operational Directions for Customs Authorities in Implementing Measures for Protecting the Rights and Interests of Patent and Copyright. A total of 7,843 infringing items were seized from 58 import cases suspected of trademark infringement between January and March.
2. Between January and March, the Customs Administration received 22 requests for advice protection on trademark rights, 16 request for extending the terms for advice protection on trademark rights, 51 requests for updating/supplementing documents and other matters, adding up to a total of 89 requests.
3. The Taipei Customs intercepted 80 counterfeit Bluetooth wireless headphones bearing the logos “Air-Pods Pro” of Apple from air express consignment on January 2. They also intercepted 160 counterfeit clothing bearing the logos “LV” or “Dior” from air express consignments on January 12. On January 13, the Taipei Customs also intercepted 10 counterfeit bags bearing the logo “YSL” from air express consignments.
4. The Kaohsiung Customs intercepted 3 counterfeit watches bearing the logo “Rolex” from maritime express consignments.
5. The Keelung Customs intercepted 144 counterfeit transmission cables bearing the logo “HDMI” from maritime express consignments. All items in question have been seized.



## **Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau**

### **Law Enforcement**

In Q1, the Investigation Bureau referred a total of 15 cases of IP violations to district prosecutors offices for further investigation, including 2 cases involving 15 persons for violation of the Copyright Act, 12 cases (15 persons) for violation of the Trademark Act, and 1 cases (2 persons) for the Trade Secrets Act.

## **International Exchange and Cooperation**

### **1. The National Police Agency of the Ministry of the Interior**

The Directorate General of Intellectual Property (DGIP) of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of Indonesia and the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association visited the Second Special Police Corps on February 21 and March 7 respectively. They discussed the current state of trademark and copyrights infringement investigations, as well as relevant case studies, to enhance bilateral cooperation.

### **2. The Customs Administration**

The Customs Administration continues to exchange information on cases of counterfeiting with its global counterparts. A total of 10 reports of counterfeiting were made in Q1 of 2023.

## **IPR Awareness Campaigns**

### **1. The National Police Agency of the Ministry of the Interior**

The Second Special Police Corps visited manufacturers within their jurisdiction this quarter to provide information on trade secrets related laws and regulations and assist in reviewing trade secrets protection methods. They held 18 lectures to promote the Trade Secrets Act, which saw 501 participants.

### **2. Ministry of Justice**

The Bureau of Investigation of the Ministry of Justice has included cases of trade secret violations in the scope of anti-corruption work for enterprises, and conducted a total of 27 experience-sharing seminars from January to March in various industrial districts, important industrial and commercial organizations, and corporate groups, reminding enterprises to pay attention to the protection of trade secrets through conducting case studies. A total of 101 businesses participated with 1,996 attendees.

### **3. The Customs Administration**

In an effort to strengthen companies' knowledge of IP borders measures and IP protection laws, the Keelung Customs held the first seminar in 2023 for customs brokers on March 28, and the Taipei Customs raised awareness among bonded operators via email on March 31.

### **4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Two articles on the implementation of IPR policy in Taiwan has been published in both Mandarin and English on the New Southbound Policy Portal. Two articles on the implementation of IPR policy in Taiwan has been published in Japanese and French on

Taiwan today.

ITRI Recognized as Top 100 Global Innovator 2023:

[https://www.itri.org.tw/english/ListStyle.aspx?DisplayStyle=01\\_content&SiteID=1&MmID=617731531241750114&MGID=112021708505730757](https://www.itri.org.tw/english/ListStyle.aspx?DisplayStyle=01_content&SiteID=1&MmID=617731531241750114&MGID=112021708505730757)

ITRI and 10 Other Companies from Taiwan Awarded Top 100 Global Innovators 2023:

[https://www.itri.org.tw/english/ListStyle.aspx?DisplayStyle=01\\_content&SiteID=1&MmID=617731531241750114&MGID=112032016362301011](https://www.itri.org.tw/english/ListStyle.aspx?DisplayStyle=01_content&SiteID=1&MmID=617731531241750114&MGID=112032016362301011)

Taiwan Soars to #4 on the 2023 Index of Economic Freedom for Best-Ever Performance

(Japanese):[https://jp.taiwantoday.tw/news.php?post=233649&unit=150&mofa\\_login=true](https://jp.taiwantoday.tw/news.php?post=233649&unit=150&mofa_login=true)

Taiwan Hits New Record for Number of Enterprises with TIPS Certification,  
Highlighting Good IP Management (French):

<https://taiwaninfo.nat.gov.tw/news.php?unit=53&post=234786>

## 5. Ministry of Education

- (1) The MOE held the 2023 National Conference for University Presidents in Taiwan on January 5 & 6 and urged universities to continue their promotion of IPR protection on campus, as well as to raise awareness among professors of the importance of practicing IPR protection in their classrooms. The conference also provided information on IPR protection for course content and materials to college professors.
- (2) Via an official letter in February, the MOE asked universities across Taiwan to promote readership of the pamphlet on copyrights for college professors. The letter also urges universities to encourage the use of original or second-hand textbooks among students, as well as to discourage the illegally copying, downloading, and uploading of books and teaching materials to avoid copyright infringements.

## 6. TIPO

- (1) Intellectual Property Advocacy Seminar

The 2023 TIPO IPR Protection Service Group seminar series began officially accept-

ing requests from businesses, civil organizations, and educational institutions at all levels regarding issues of concern (including patent, trademark, copyrights, and trade secrets, etc.). According to their needs, TIPO will arrange for specific courses and provide on-site consultation. A total of 44 seminars (39 in educational institutions and 5 in businesses) have been organized as of the end of March, reaching roughly 2,470 people.

(2) Internet Copyright Promotion Campaign

In order to utilize the power of the Internet to disseminate educational information, TIPO shared 39 posts regarding copyrights information, current events, etc. on the Copyright x I Support Originals Facebook page.