

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE

In the face of today's challenges—fierce global market competition, international trade and economic conditions, geopolitical factors, and technological innovation—it is crucial to enhance industrial competitiveness to ensure sustainable development and build a robust IP environment. As 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of Taiwan's Patent Act, it is especially meaningful to reflect on the evolution of our patent system, which has played a pivotal role in the flourishing development of our industries.

TIPO is responsible for promoting the protection of patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and other IP matters. It is essential for us to continually innovate, improve efficiency, and enhance service quality to better promote such efforts. In recent years, we have introduced numerous new measures to improve the quality and efficiency of patent examinations. We expanded the scope of the Positive Patent Examination Pilot Program for Startups, launched the Accelerated Examination Program for Reexamination of Invention Patents (AEPRe), and offered multi-party telephone consultations and remote video interviews between patent examiners and applicants to facilitate patent examinations and support applicants with accelerated patents. In addition, we introduced collaborative examination measures for AI-related patent reexaminations for patent applications related to cross-disciplinary and emerging technologies, providing businesses with more professional review services and comprehensive patent protection.

We are actively incorporating AI technologies into our digital transformation to enhance service quality and examination efficiency, launching the now highly praised AI Search by Trademark Image feature that enables users to upload image files and search for related trademarks. We are also developing automatic classification of trademark graphic paths and automatic recommendations for goods and services features, and are in the process of validating the feasibility of an image-based design search feature to provide our examiners with a more efficient technical support system.

Regarding revisions to our intellectual property system and regulations, amendments to certain provisions of the Trademark Act and four related subordinate laws of the complementary Enforcement Rules of the Trademark Act were enacted in May 2024. In June, we revised and published the Operation Directions on Hearings for Patent Invalidation Cases and the Operational Directions on Hearings for Trademark Dispute Cases, offering more professional and rigorous hearing mechanisms for the parties involved. For copyrights, we continue to monitor global legislative trends and practices in response to the widespread use of AI technologies. At the same time, we are evaluating

Taiwan's current landscape and planning for future systems and specifications. To address the challenges posed by AI in creative industries such as film and music, we hosted seminars and workshops such as the Seminar on Practical Strategies for Addressing Copyright Issues in Generative AI.

To better serve our industries and foster innovation, we introduced Taiwan Patent GO, a pavilion for showcasing inventors and patents from Taiwan. The pavilion aims to market our inventor's innovation and boost their market visibility to facilitate the patent commercialization. The spotlight this year was on key EV components, AI-based medical devices, and technology industries targeting older persons, offering tailored patent strategies and consulting services, while also assisting industries in transforming into green enterprises through IP strategies.

On the international stage, we continue to strengthen substantive cooperation with countries around the world. We hosted the Taiwan-Japan Intellectual Property Symposium and the New Southbound Intellectual Property Conference to educate Taiwan on the latest developments in patent systems and practices in Japan, Southeast Asia, and India. Additionally, we held working-level meetings with France and expanded policy dialogues with multiple countries, helping boost Taiwan's competitiveness in the global IP landscape while creating more international opportunities for our industries.

On January 1, 2025, we made the invention patent search history system available to the public and enacted the Operational Directions for Deferral of Substantive Examination of Invention and Design Patent Applications to offer patent applicants easier access to examination information and facilitate applications.

We are keenly aware of the critical role intellectual property plays in our competitiveness on the global stage. At TIPO, we strive to support innovation and development in our industries by optimizing patent and trademark examinations, strengthening inquiry systems, supporting industrial innovation and expansion, and developing international cooperation.



TIPO Director General