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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION IN TAIWAN

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TIPO Hosts Seminar Marking the 30th Anniversary of the Trade Secrets Act to Promote New Perspectives on Value Protection and Creation

This year (2026) marks the 30th anniversary of the implementation of the Trade Secrets Act. On April 24, TIPO, in collaboration with Taiwan Association for Trade Secrets Protection (TTSP), held the seminar “Sparks of Innovation: From IP Protection to Value Creation” at the International Conference Hall at the Center for Public and Business Administration Education (NCCU CPBAE).

The event was inaugurated by Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) Cynthia Kiang. Distinguished guests included Acting President of the Judicial Yuan Ming-Yan Shieh, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Justice Mou-Hsin Huang, TTSP Chairman and Associate General Counsel of TSMC Fu-Yuan Hsieh, National Security Council Consultant Chih-Chieh Lin, and TIPO Director General Cheng-Wei Liao.

Deputy Minister Kiang noted that amid rapid changes in the global environment, the mobility of R&D talent and the rapid transmission of digital information have made trade secret protection increasingly important for maintaining industrial competitiveness, supply chain security, and corporate resilience. She emphasized that these goals require both continuous improvement of legal frameworks and close collaboration between government and industry. Strengthening joint enforcement efforts and educational outreach with the Ministry of Justice’s enforcement authorities, while assisting enterprises in establishing comprehensive confidentiality mechanisms, is key to curbing trade secret misappropriation.

Centered on the theme “From IP Protection to Value Creation,” the seminar invited more than ten experts from industry, government, and academia to review domestic

and international developments in trade secret legislation, judicial practice, and corporate management. Discussions also explored best practices for establishing comprehensive trade secret protection mechanisms and examined future development trends. The event attracted more than 300 participants and generated enthusiastic exchanges.

During the seminar, TIPO also hosted the Trade Secret Intelligent Management Expo, featuring 11 businesses, including TSMC and ASE Group, which shared their practical experiences in trade secret management. The exhibition provided practical models for small and medium-sized enterprises seeking to strengthen their trade secret management systems, fostering their mindsets from “IP protection” to “value creation.”

TIPO further emphasized that protection of trade secrets has been significantly strengthened since criminal liability provisions were added to the Trade Secrets Act in 2013. Over the years, TIPO and TTSP have jointly organized outreach seminars across Taiwan to promote confidentiality strategies among industrial clusters, receiving positive feedback from businesses. Through this seminar, TIPO hopes to further enhance enterprises’ capabilities in innovation and practical application, reinforcing Taiwan’s industrial competitiveness.

TIPO Hosts Forum on Brands and Sports to Inspire Cross-Sector Dialogue and Innovation in the Sports Industry

In celebration of the 2026 World IP Day theme, “IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate,” TIPO organized the forum “Brands and Sports: A Competition of Innovation and Passion” on April 23 at the International Conference Hall of the College of Law at National Taiwan University. The opening ceremony was jointly hosted by TIPO Deputy Director General Ping-Lun Hu and Taiwan Trademark Association President Ruey-Sen Tsai.

Focusing on technological trends and brand value expansion, the forum invited speakers from a wide range of fields, including TIPO experts, practicing attorneys, professional baseball team executives, and former national athletes, to share their experiences and insights. Discussions covered key issues such as brand management in the sports industry, intellectual property protection, and the application of emerging technologies. The forum promoted greater understanding of the interaction between the sports industry and intellectual property while demonstrating Taiwan’s active efforts in advancing IP development. More than 200 participants attended the event, and discussions throughout the forum were lively and well received for their forward-looking and practical perspectives.

As the sports industry continues to grow and technological applications become increasingly integrated into the field, brands and intellectual property have become essential drivers of competitiveness. Through cross sector discussions on industry trends, legal issues, and practical experiences, the forum not only promoted dialogue among diverse sectors but also enhanced public awareness of sports brand protection and management. TIPO will continue to promote related exchange activities in the future to strengthen the connection between intellectual property and industry to inject new energy into Taiwan’s innovation development.

Legal Amendments

1. Revisions to the “Examination Guidelines on Distinctiveness of Trademarks” and “Examination Guidelines on Trademark being Contrary to Public Policy or Accepted Principles of Morality” Take Effect March 18, 2026

In line with the spirit of the Development of National Languages Act, TIPO has revised the terminology referring to national languages in the “Examination Guidelines on Distinctiveness of Trademarks” and the “Examination Guidelines on Trademarks Contrary to Public Order or Accepted Principles of Morality” in accordance with recommended terminology. The revised guidelines were promulgated and took effect on March 18, 2026.

The key revisions replace the terms “閩南語” and “客家語” previously used in the examination guidelines with “台語” and “客語” respectively, along with corresponding wording adjustments as necessary. The revised guidelines and related information are available for download on the TIPO website for reference.

Revisions to the “Examination Guidelines on Distinctiveness of Trademarks” (Traditional Chinese):

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/wSite/public/Attachment/005/f1773887087978.pdf>

Revisions to the “Examination Guidelines on Trademark being Contrary to Public Policy or Accepted Principles of Morality” (Traditional Chinese):

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/wSite/public/Attachment/005/f1773887339738.pdf>

1. 2026 Taiwan Innotech Expo Invention Awards Competition

The 2026 Taiwan Innotech Expo (TIE) was held from September 17 to 19 at Taipei World Trade Center Hall 1. Centered on the theme “AI Empowerment for a Sustainable Future,” the exhibition integrated cross-ministerial R&D and industrial capabilities, showcasing Taiwan’s achievements in technological development and global connectivity, attracting domestic and international enterprises, buyers, and academic and research institutions for exchange and collaboration.

Among the featured events, the Taipei Invention Awards Competition focused on the exhibition and competition of patented innovative achievements. Domestic and international inventors, companies, and students and faculty from all levels participated to showcase their innovative achievements and patent portfolio capability. By joining this competition, participants were able to present their R&D outcomes on an international stage and engage with professionals from various fields, broadening the application perspectives of their innovations. All entries first underwent a document review by a panel of experts across different disciplines, followed by on-site appraisal on the opening day of the exhibition to ensure professionalism and fairness. Exhibitors competed for the highest honor – the Platinum Award.

In addition to recognizing technological value through awards, this competition provides inventors with a key platform to transform their patents from technological achievements into industrial applications. By showcasing advanced, innovative technologies to an international audience, the event enhances the exposure and market visibility of patented technologies. Furthermore, it facilitates exchanges between inventors, domestic and international enterprises,

and potential partners, creating opportunities for future patent licensing, academia–industry collaboration, and commercialization.

The Official Taiwan Innotech Expo Website:

<https://www.inventaipai.com.tw/en/index.html>

2. “Taiwan Patent GO” Offers IP Services at YODEX

TIPO established the Taiwan Patent GO booth at the 2026 Young Designers’ Exhibition (YODEX) (Booth S-01, 1F, TaiNEX 2) to provide free, on-site patent consultation services by IP professionals. Services were available daily between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from May 22 to 25, 2026.

The patent consultation services offered through Taiwan Patent GO aimed to raise the awareness of patent protection among emerging designers and creators. By helping them build comprehensive legal protection mechanisms at the inception of their innovations, TIPO sought to provide fundamental support and protection throughout the process toward commercialization. Through one-on-one consultations, creators were guided to develop a deeper understanding of design patent application procedures, examination standards, and practical issues such as patent searches. This initiative was expected to strengthen their capability of patent utilization and ensure appropriate protection for their creative works.

In addition, in response to practical design needs, TIPO organized an IP information session for designers from 4:00 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. on May 22 at the “Boundary Salon” on the 4th floor of TaiNEX 2. Titled “Design Patents: Protecting Innovation and Adding Value,” the session delved into strategies for effectively utilizing the patent system. Through sharing practical case studies, it was expected to assist creators in quickly grasping key concepts of patent utilization to enhance the industrial competitiveness of their products.

3. TIPO Releases the Analysis of Industrial Trends of Trademark Applications (2020–2024) for Public Reference

TIPO released the “Analysis of Industrial Trends of Trademark Applications (2020–2024),” based on a comparative analysis of Taiwan’s 2024 trademark application data and the World Intellectual Property Indicators 2025 report (WIPI 2025) published by WIPO on November 12, 2025. Drawing on trademark application and registration data from the past five years, this report incorporates data cleansing, data conversion, classification integration, and data mining techniques to identify trends and potential developments across Taiwan’s industries. Additionally, the report compares Taiwan’s filing trends with global trademark application trends to provide useful reference indicators for industrial planning, brand development, and market trend analysis. All interested parties are encouraged to make full use of this resource.

The Analysis of Industrial Trends of Trademark Applications (2020–2024)
(Traditional Chinese):

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/tw/trademarks/667-80971.html>

The Info Section on Trend Analysis of Trademark Applications (Traditional Chinese):

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/tw/trademarks/667.html>

4. 2023–2025 Taiwan Innotech Expo (TIE) Platinum Award Compilation Now Available

The 2025 Taiwan Innotech Expo (TIE) successfully concluded on October 18, 2025. The Invention Competition featured 554 participating entries, with only 14 winning the prestigious Platinum Award. These awarded works demonstrate outstanding innovative technologies with high marketability and added value. To facilitate future technology licensing, industry-academia collaboration, and

commercialization opportunities for these outstanding patents, TIPO published the 2023–2025 Taiwan Innotech Expo Platinum Award Compilation, now available on TIPO’s official website. All interested parties are encouraged to explore and engage in potential collaboration opportunities.

The 2023–2025 Taiwan Innotech Expo Platinum Award Compilation:
<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/wSite/public/Attachment/003/f1778643921473.pdf>

5. Ministry of Education’s TANet Report Portal

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has established a mechanism to report suspected 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). 5 cases of infringement were reported this quarter.

6. Implementation Overview of the Protection Act for the Traditional Intellectual Creations of Indigenous Peoples by the Council of Indigenous Peoples

CIP commissioned a law firm specializing in intellectual property and Indigenous traditional intellectual creations to provide legal consultation services to Indigenous communities and the general public regarding the application of the Act. The firm also offers legal opinions and litigation-related project services needed by Indigenous peoples or tribes.

During this quarter, a total of 12 legal consultation sessions were provided, and 5 written legal documents were issued, including 3 certificates of retroactive authorization to resolve infringement of exclusive rights in traditional intellectual creations.

Law Enforcement Results and Statistics

The National Police Agency of the Ministry of the Interior

Law Enforcement Results

Between April and June of 2026, a total of 274 cases involving 440 persons were investigated for violation of the Copyright Act, a total of 367 cases (542 persons) for violation of the Trademark Act, and 7 cases (7 persons) for violation of the Trade Secrets Act. A total of 648 cases involving 989 persons were investigated for various types of infringement. All the aforementioned persons were referred to the district prosecutor's 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
2026 Apr.-Jun.	648	989	367	542	274	440	3	7	7
2025 Apr.-Jun.	533	639	240	279	287	349	-	6	11
Percentage Change %	21.57%	54.77%	52.91%	94.26%	-4.52%	26.07%	-	16.66%	-36.36%

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

Taiwan High Prosecutors Office (THPO)

Law Enforcement Results

1. According to the data from all the prosecutors offices, a total of 393 suspects were involved in 348 concluded cases of IPR infringement between April and June, of which 184 persons involved in 154 cases were prosecuted according to regular procedures, 66 persons involved in 60 cases were granted summary judgment, 117 persons across 109 cases received deferred prosecution, and 26 persons across 25 cases were not prosecuted nor punished by the court's sua sponte motion. 127 persons were convicted by the courts between April and June, for a conviction rate of 92.70%.
2. Among the aforementioned cases, a total of 26 suspects were involved in 19 confirmed cases of trade secrets infringement, of which 25 persons involved in 19 cases were prosecuted according to the usual procedures, while 1 person received deferred prosecution. From April to June, 3 persons were convicted by the courts, for a conviction rate of 42.86%.
3. A comparison to the same period in 2025 reveals the following regarding the number of prosecutions (including those who requested summary judgment) and convictions for cases of IPR infringement: 250 persons were prosecuted between April and June this year, marking an increase of 87 persons (53.37%) compared to 163 persons in the same period in 2025; 127 persons were convicted between April and June, marking an increase of 20 persons (18.69%) compared to 107 persons in the same period in 2025.

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

Unit: Person

Categories	Year	Results of Court Rulings												
		Total	Sentence							Sentence Remitted	Acquitted	Not to Prosecuted	Case Rejected	Others
			Subtotal	Under 6 Months	6-12 Months	1-2 Year(s)	Over 2 Years	Detention	Fines					
Total	2026 Apr.-Jun.	176	127	40	0	5	-	71	11	0	10	0	39	0
	2025 Apr.-Jun.	173	107	30	1	2	-	70	4	0	28	0	37	1
	Percent Change %	1.73%	18.69%	33.33%	-100.00%	150.00%	-	1.42%	175.00%	-	-64.28%	-	5.4%	-100.00%

Source: Taiwan Prosecutors Office

The Customs Administration

Law Enforcement Results

1. In accordance with the Regulations Governing Customs Measures in Protecting the Rights and Interests of Trademarks and the Operational Directions for Customs Authorities in Implementing Measures for Protecting the Rights and Interests of Patents and Copyrights, the Customs Administration implemented various border enforcement actions. From April to June, Customs intercepted 79 inbound cases involving trademark infringement, resulting in the seizure of 26,915 infringing items.
2. Between April and June, the Customs Administration received 44 requests for advice protection on trademark rights, 27 requests for extending the terms for

advice protection on trademark rights, and 83 requests for updating/supplementing documents and other matters, adding up to a total of 154 requests.

3. On March 5, Taipei Customs intercepted an air express shipment containing 63 counterfeit Nintendo Joy-Con 2 Charging Grips. The infringing goods have been confiscated.
4. On March 20, Taipei Customs intercepted an air express shipment containing 23,730 counterfeit Viagra tablets. The infringing goods have been confiscated.
5. On March 25, Taipei Customs intercepted an air express shipment containing 97 counterfeit The North Face bags. The infringing goods have been confiscated.
6. On March 30, Keelung Customs intercepted a sea freight express shipment containing 70 counterfeit VALEO alternators. The infringing goods have been confiscated.

Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau

Law Enforcement Results

In Q2, the Investigation Bureau referred a total of 34 cases of IP violations to district prosecutors' offices for further investigation, including 3 cases involving 6 persons for violation of the Copyright Act, 24 cases (29 persons) for violation of the Trademark Act, and 7 cases (11 persons) for the Trade Secrets Act.

International Exchange and Cooperation

1. Taiwan High Prosecutors Office

- (1) On April 21, the Motion Picture Association (MPA) visited the Intellectual Property Branch of the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office to exchange views on issues including “observations on digital piracy in Taiwan from the perspective of right holders,” “approaches to public–private collaboration in combating online piracy,” and assistance that right holders can provide.
- (2) On April 22, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) hosted the “Copyright Enforcement Dialogue: Taipei 2026,” bringing together representatives from relevant fields in the United States, the Republic of Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. A prosecutor from the Intellectual Property Branch was invited to attend the event. The dialogue explored the transnational nature of piracy, its impact on the global creative economy, and opportunities for strengthening public–private collaboration, while also examining more effective strategies for enhancing cooperation to combat copyright piracy worldwide.

2. The Customs Administration

- (1) To enhance customs officers’ knowledge of Korean brands and their ability to distinguish authentic products from counterfeits, the Customs Administration jointly with the Korea Intellectual Property Protection Agency (KOIPA) held the “2026 Korean Brand Authentication Workshop” on April 17.
- (2) To enhance customs officers’ professional knowledge and expertise in investigation, the Customs Administration jointly with the international organization REACT held the “2026 National Training Workshop on Protecting Intellectual Property Rights” on May 29. Representatives from the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office, Ministry of Economic Affairs; the

Criminal Investigation Bureau, National Police Agency, Ministry of the Interior; the Investigation Bureau, Ministry of Justice; and local prosecutors' offices also participated in the seminar.

IPR Awareness Campaigns

1. Judicial Yuan

During the second quarter, the Judicial Yuan held the “Intellectual Property Theory and Practice Course,” “National Security Legal System Seminar,” and “Trade Secrets Professional Training Course” to enhance the quality and efficiency of adjudication in intellectual property cases, keep judges and relevant judicial personnel up to date with the latest developments in intellectual property, and strengthen their professional knowledge and expertise.

2. Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau has incorporated trade secret infringement cases into its corporate anti-corruption initiatives. From April to June, the Bureau conducted a total of 63 outreach sessions across industrial parks, major business associations, and corporate groups. Using real-world cases, the sessions emphasized the importance of protecting trade secrets. In total, 4,758 participants from 187 companies attended these sessions.

3. The Customs Administration

To strengthen outreach to stakeholders regarding border measures and legal requirements related to intellectual property protection, the Customs Administration held an industry consultation session at Kaohsiung Customs and a bonded operations seminar for the Hsinchu Science Park at Taipei Customs in June.

4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MOFA published multiple reports related to Taiwan's intellectual property developments on "ROC Embassies and Missions Abroad" and "Taiwan Today." These included:

- (1) Taiwan News – Customs Administration Spares No Effort to Protect Intellectual Property Rights! Customs Administration and International Organization REACT Jointly Hold Seminar (Traditional Chinese)
<https://www.mof.gov.tw/singlehtml/384fb3077bb349ea973e7fc6f13b6974?cntId=5d6c1bc083c14cf488d93a5d597338f0>
- (2) 2026 Taiwan Pavilion at the Bologna Children's Book Fair Opens (Vietnamese)
<https://vn.taiwantoday.tw/photos/8510/54519>
- (3) Taiwan IP Expo Opens in Malaysia (Vietnamese)
<https://vn.taiwantoday.tw/photos/8510/54863>

5. TIPO

- (1) On March 19, TIPO announced that it had, for the first time in 2025, used online interactive games to campus copyright outreach by partnering with PaGamO, a gamified online learning platform. By integrating interactive elements, such as answering questions to occupy territory and earning virtual treasures or unique terrains, the initiative successfully guided students to engage in autonomous learning of copyright concepts through in-game missions. Throughout the year, a total of 21 learning missions were implemented, with cumulative participation reaching nearly 300,000 person-times, significantly surpassing the results of the previous two years.

- (2) TIPO organized three information sessions on copyright in 2026, including “Digital Cultural and Creative Artwork: Copyright Issues in Graphic IP and Illustration Creation” on June 12, “Artificial Intelligence from a Copyright Perspective” on July 2, and “Guidelines for Social Media Creators and Online Sellers” on July 23. Copyright experts were invited to each seminar to explain relevant legal concepts and practical case studies, helping creators and industry practitioners better understand key copyright issues and foster proper awareness and respect for intellectual property rights.
- (3) TIPO organized the 2026 IPR Affairs Seminar Series, offering the following sessions: July 8 in Hsinchu, July 10 in Taichung, July 16 in Tainan, July 17 in Kaohsiung, and August 4 in Taipei. TIPO Director General Cheng-Wei Liao led the TIPO team in briefing relevant intellectual property organizations on the latest developments and practical issues concerning patents and trademarks.
- The seminar series honed in on five specific topics: “Aligning IP Strategies with ESG Goals,” “Introduction to the ‘Directions for Deferral of Substantive Examination of Invention and Design Patent Applications’ newly implemented in 2026,” “Notes and Instructions for Patent Applications,” “Common Search Strategy Patterns in the Search History,” and “Practices and Procedures for Trademark Affairs.” There was also a general discussion session to exchange views with various stakeholders.
- (4) During the quarter, TIPO conducted outreach briefings for government agencies, IP lectures delivered by expert service teams, and copyright-themed workshops, with total attendance exceeding 2,100. From April to June, TIPO also broadcasted 30-second promotional animation clips, including “Purchase Legitimate Set-Top Boxes,” “Do Not Use Others’ Product Photos Without Authorization for Online Sales,” “Copyright Protection Does Not Require Registration,” and “Be Careful When Using

Others’ Music in Videos,” on free-to-air television stations, including Taiwan Television (TTV), China Television (CTV), Chinese Television System (CTS), and Formosa Television (FTV). The announcements were also displayed on smart display panels at 56 bus stops operated by the Taipei City Public Transportation Office.