Singapore Patent Search & Examination
Presentation for KL workshop, 29 Nov 2011

Sharmaine Wu
Assistant Director, Strategic Planning & Policy Department
Introduction on IPOS

- The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) is a statutory board formed under the Ministry of Law since April 2001.

- It is the lead government agency that advises on and administers intellectual property (IP) laws, promotes IP awareness and provides the infrastructure to facilitate the development of IP in Singapore.

- Our activities are in 3 key areas as aligned to our Vision:
  1. Strengthening IP regime
  2. Enabling IP Capabilities
  3. Positioning Singapore in the international IP arena
Patent Search & Examination

MIXED ROUTE

LOCAL ROUTE

FOREIGN ROUTE

The information stated herein is confidential and is accurate as of 24 Nov 2011.
It is intended as a guide only and does not amount to legal advice.
Professional advice must be sought prior to acting on any matter contained within this presentation.
Local Route

- Search and examination is done in Singapore via partnering patent offices (Austria, Denmark, Hungary)

- Applicant can request for search report and then for examination report; or request for a combined search & examination report

- Search & examination is done according to Singapore laws and requirements
  - Patents Act
  - Patents Rules
  - S&E Guide (available on our website at www.ipos.gov.sg)
  - Case law

- Minimum documentation are to be referred to for search purposes
Mixed Route

- Reliance on search results of a corresponding application/patent + request for examination in Singapore

- Results from these patent offices are acceptable
  - AU, CA*, JP, KR, NZ, UK, US, EPO*  
    * Applications filed in English only

- Examination is done in Singapore via partnering patent offices (Austria, Denmark, Hungary)

- Examination is done according to Singapore laws and requirements
  - Patents Act
  - Patents Rules
  - S&E Guide (available on our website at www.ipos.gov.sg)
  - Case law
# Deadlines for Local & Mixed Routes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Default</th>
<th>With block extension of period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Request for Search Report</td>
<td>13 months</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request for Combined Search &amp; Examination Report</td>
<td>21 months</td>
<td>39 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request for Examination Report</td>
<td>21 months</td>
<td>39 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respond to Written Opinion</td>
<td>5 months*</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of Examination Report</td>
<td>39 months</td>
<td>57 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request for Certificate of Grant</td>
<td>42 months</td>
<td>60 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Deadline cannot be extended. If the applicant does not respond or responds after the deadline, Examiner will proceed to establish the examination report without a response to the written opinion.

The information stated herein is confidential and is accurate as of 24 Nov 2011. It is intended as a guide only and does not amount to legal advice. Professional advice must be sought prior to acting on any matter contained within this presentation.
Foreign Route

• Reliance on search & examination results ("prescribed information") from a corresponding application/patent

• Results from these patent offices are acceptable
    * Applications filed in English only

• No substantive examination

• About 50% of granted patents proceeded under the foreign route
# Deadlines for Foreign Route

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Default</th>
<th>With block extension of period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furnishing of prescribed information</td>
<td>42 months</td>
<td>60 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request for Certificate of Grant</td>
<td>42 months</td>
<td>60 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The information stated herein is confidential and is accurate as of 24 Nov 2011. It is intended as a guide only and does not amount to legal advice. Professional advice must be sought prior to acting on any matter contained within this presentation.
Patent applications lodged in 2009
- National: 6,255, 72%
- PCT national phase: 2,481, 28%

Patent applications lodged in 2010
- National: 6,926, 71%
- PCT national phase: 2,847, 29%
Statistics: Domestic applicants v Foreign applicants

Patent applications lodged in 2009
- Local: 827, 9%
- Foreign: 7909, 91%

Patent applications lodged in 2010
- Local: 892, 9%
- Foreign: 8881, 91%

The information stated herein is confidential and is accurate as of 24 Nov 2011. It is intended as a guide only and does not amount to legal advice. Professional advice must be sought prior to acting on any matter contained within this presentation.
Statistics: With or without priority

Patent applications lodged in 2009
- No Priority: 846, 10%
- with Priority: 7890, 90%

Patent applications lodged in 2010
- No Priority: 872, 9%
- with Priority: 8901, 91%

The information stated herein is confidential and is accurate as of 24 Nov 2011. It is intended as a guide only and does not amount to legal advice. Professional advice must be sought prior to acting on any matter contained within this presentation.

Copyright © 2011 IPOS All Rights Reserved
Proposed changes to the patent system

• Public consultation in Jul 2009

• Key changes proposed in Jul 2009:
  – Move from current self-assessment system to a positive grant patent system
  – Simpler deadlines (move from 2-track deadlines system to a single-track deadlines system)
  – Introduce some checks for the foreign route
  – Introduce a review process for applicants who received a final examination report with outstanding objections

• Second public consultation in Nov/Dec 2011