

Panel I – High-level policy panel

Ms. Holly Fechner

Executive Director, Invent Together, Washington D.C.

Ms. Holly Fechner is the Executive Director of Invent Together—a campaign supported by organizations, universities, companies, and other stakeholders dedicated to understanding the gender, race, income, and other diversity gaps in invention and patenting, and supporting public policy and private initiatives to close them. She previously served as Policy Director to Senator Edward Kennedy. Ms. Fechner is also a Partner at the law firm Covington & Burling LLP. She is co-chair of the Technology Industry Group, and a visiting lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.



Ms. Joni Laura

Senior Director, Government Affairs, Qualcomm, San Diego, United States of America

Ms. Joni Laura is an attorney in the Government Affairs Department at Qualcomm Incorporated. At Qualcomm, Joni is responsible for driving IP advocacy initiatives including IP protection, and diversity and equity in the patent system. She began her career in the U.S. Government at the Treasury Department. Joni spent a year in Brussels working at the European Commission. She thereafter practiced law in private law firms and for the past two decades has been in house counsel at biotech, electronics and technology companies. Joni has a JD and an LL.M, Masters of Law in International Law specializing in trade and banking.



Ms. Aizel SJ. Anolin

Director III, Financial Management and Administrative Service, Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP), Manila

Ms. Anolin was appointed in March 2022 as Director of the Financial, Management, and Administrative Service Bureau of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP). Her portfolio includes co-managing the Strategy and Knowledge Management and Human Resource Management and Development Divisions with the latter overseeing gender and development initiatives of the agency. Her public service career spans over twenty years serving in various capacities in the Department of Trade and Industry in the fields of market, product, and industry research, development, and policy formulation; export marketing; investment promotion; and program management, monitoring, and evaluation.



Ms. Winnie Tham

Board Member, Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), Singapore

Ms. Winnie Tham is a co-Founding Director of Amica Law LLC, and has been practising in the intellectual property field since 1993. She has a multi-disciplinary background, encompassing both legal and technical expertise, having obtained her LLB (Hons) and B.Sc (Pharmacology and Biochemistry). She is both a practising lawyer and registered patent attorney in Singapore. Her practice encompasses IP strategy and protection in the fields of trade marks, patents and designs in a wide range of industries. She is active in the IP profession and sits on the Board of Directors of IPOS. She also holds positions in various associations including Immediate Past President of APAA, AIPPI Exco and also previously chaired INTA trade mark committees. She is also an adjunct tutor for the IP module for the Practice Law Course conducted by the Singapore Institute of Legal Education.



Ms. Cheng Litao

Deputy Director of the Personnel Division, Personnel and Education Department, China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), Beijing

Ms. Cheng has been with China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) since 2009, with 10 years of experience in Human Resource Management and 3 years of experience in Patent Examination. She is the Deputy director of the Personnel Division, the Personnel and Education Department at the CNIPA, with a Master's Degree in Medicine from Nanjing Agricultural University in China and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from International Christian University in Japan. The goal of her division is to build a high-quality and professional IP talent team, ensure that the talent quality meets the needs of the continuous development of the organization, and provide support for China's innovation development.



Mr. Yashawant Dev Panwar

Scientist F and Head PFC, Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, New Delhi .

Dr. Yashawant Dev Panwar is Ph.D. from IIT Delhi in Management of IPR. He also holds degree of M. Tech in Future Studies and Planning and M.Sc. in Physics. He is presently Scientist F and heading Patent Facilitating Centre (PFC) of TIFAC. Last 24 years he has been working for PFC in different capacities. The PFC has been facilitating filing of patent applications on behalf of academic institutions and government R&D institutes, creating awareness, policy input to the government and also develop culture of using patent information. He contributed in evolving the important programme of DST, WOS-C popularly known KIRAN-IPR at all stages, TIFAC received Nari Shakti Purashkar 2015 for this programme. He has performed internship on Technology Transfer at (NIH), USA and also taken training at EPO and JPO. His active area of patent/IPR related research are Standards & Patents, forecasting future skills and new foresight methodologies-based on patent information.



Panel II – IP Economists panel

Ms. Watanabe Miyoko O.

Standing Trustee, Nihon University, Tokyo

She has a long experience of research in semiconductor physics at Toshiba R&D Center in Japan, and also conducted physics research as Postdoctoral Fellow in Dalhousie University, Canada, in 1986-1988 and as Visiting Researcher at Nanoscale Physics Research Laboratory, The University of Birmingham, U.K. in 1997. Dr. Watanabe joined JST in 2013 and was serving there as Executive Director and Director of Office for Diversity and Inclusiveness. Dr. Watanabe was Council Member of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) in 2011-2020, Vice-president in 2017-2020, and a member of Specialist Committee on Gender Equality in the Council for Gender Equality of the Japanese Cabinet Office in 2014-2021. She is now Member of SCJ, and Chair of Committee on Gender-based innovation in SCJ. She has served at Nihon University as Standing Trustee since October 2022, and founded new non-profit organization, Wood Deck as president.



Mr. Michael Falk

Chief Economist, Policy and Stakeholders Group, IP Australia, Canberra

Dr. Michael Falk is IP Australia's Chief Economist and leads its program of economic evidence and advice. Michael joined IP Australia in 2019 as an opportunity to shape policy through evidence and help government address challenges at the nexus of innovation, competition and trade. Michael has a PhD in the management of technological innovation from Melbourne Business School, and over a decade's experience in research, strategy and communications roles bridging government, academia and industry. He is an Advisory Board member of the Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia at the The University of Melbourne and the Centre for Transformative Innovation at Swinburne University of Technology.



Mr. Kang Yoonseok

Director, Idea Innovation Division, Intellectual Property Policy Bureau, Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), Daejeon, Republic of Korea

He began his public career at KIPO as a patent examiner in the filed of electronics and computer technology in 2004. After demonstrating his competence in patent examination, he has developed his policy-making ability at Intellectual Property Policy Bureau, where he devoted to formulating a master plan and policies to facilitate IP creation, utilization and exploitation in Korea. He is evaluated to have contributed greatly for KIPO to push forward with various revolutionary policies alongside other governmental agencies, such as making strategic technology road maps focusing on IPRs. He holds a Bachelor of Electric and Computer Engineering from Hanyang University.



Mr. Yamauchi Isamu

Associate Professor, Meiji University; Economic Advisor to the Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

Dr. Isamu Yamauchi is an Associate Professor of School of Information and Communication at Meiji University. He is also an economic advisor to the JPO. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from Hitotsubashi University. He is an editorial board member of Journal of Science Policy and Research Management in Japan. His research focuses on economics of innovation, patent policy and management of intellectual property.



Ms. Manda Tay

Director, Strategic Planning and Policy, Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), Singapore

Ms. Tay is the Director of the Strategic Planning and Policy department at the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore. She guides the formulation and implementation of national IP and innovation strategies and plans, including the Singapore IP Strategy 2030 to steer Singapore's development as a global IP hub. She also leads IPOS' strategic and corporate planning function, and supports IPOS' representation on national research innovation and enterprise platforms. Before joining the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, Manda was at the Ministry of Law, where she was involved in a range of reviews of Singapore's IP regime and legislation. Ms. Tay started her career at a boutique IP firm, where she worked with Singapore startups and companies, multi-national companies, and research institutions on a range of IP solutions, including patent prosecution and IP commercialisation.

