

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) **Committee for Technical Cooperation**

Thirty-Third Session
Geneva, February 2 to 6, 2026

EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF SINGAPORE AS AN INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY UNDER THE PCT

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. All the existing International Authorities were appointed by the PCT Assembly for a period ending on December 31, 2027. Before the expiry of this period, the Assembly will need to decide on the extension of the appointment of each existing International Authority that wishes to seek an extension of its appointment, having first sought the advice of this Committee (see PCT Articles 16(3)(e) and 32(3)). Information concerning this process and the role of the Committee is set out in document PCT/CTC/33/INF/1.
2. On November 26, 2025, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore submitted its application for extension of appointment, which is reproduced in the Annex to this document.
3. *The Committee is invited to give its advice on this matter.*

[Annex follows]

APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT AS AN INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY UNDER THE PCT

1 – GENERAL

(a) Name of Office or intergovernmental organization:

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)

(b) Name and contact details of official for any queries about this application:

Sharmaine Wu (Sharmaine_WU@ipos.gov.sg)
Director of the Registries of Patents, Designs and Plant Varieties

**(c) Date on which application for extension of appointment was received by the
Director General:**

November 26, 2025

2 – MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT

In addition to the annual report on the quality management system by the Office or organization for 2025 (“the QMS Report” <https://www.wipo.int/en/web/pct-system/quality/authorities#SG>) produced in accordance with paragraphs 21.31 and 21.32 of the International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines (“the Guidelines”), the Authority submits the following information.

2.1 – SEARCH AND EXAMINATION CAPACITY

Rules 36.1(i) and 63.1(i): The national Office or intergovernmental organization must have at least 100 full-time employees with sufficient technical qualifications to carry out searches and examinations.

The QMS Report provides information from the Authority on the infrastructure in place to ensure a sufficient quantity of technically qualified staff under paragraph 21.15(i) of the Guidelines, and on the training and development programs for staff involved in the search and examination process under paragraph 21.15(vi). The Authority also includes the following information on numbers of employees qualified to carry out search and examination.

Employees qualified to carry out search and examination:

Technical field	Number (in full-time equivalent)	Average experience as examiners (years)
Engineering and Physics	33	8
Info-communication Technologies	34	6
Chemistry and Materials	35	8
Biotechnology and Biomedical Sciences	40	6
Total	142	

Other information beyond the QMS Report and the above table (optional):

The majority of IPOS patent examiners have PhD qualifications and relevant work experience in research and technical professions.

2.2 – MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION – MAKING AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION

Rules 36.1(ii) and 63.1(ii): That Office or organization must make available for consultation as part of the minimum documentation referred to in Rule 34, in accordance with the requirements specified in the Administrative Instructions, any patent issued, and any patent application published, by it, and where applicable by its legal predecessor(s).

The requirements specified in the Administrative Instructions are set out in [Circular C. PCT 1672](#), dated June 19, 2024.

The making available for consultation as part of the minimum documentation referred to in Rule 34 of the patents issued and patent applications published by the Office or, where applicable, the Offices that are members of the intergovernmental organization in accordance with the Understanding adopted by the PCT Assembly in paragraph 8 of document PCT/A/55/2, is reported as follows:

Either:

☒ The PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force has tested the availability of the patent documentation collections before November 1, 2025, and certifies that the requirements have been met. The extent and format of the documents that the Authority has made available for consultation has been published in the PCT Gazette on October 23, 2025, at: <https://www.wipo.int/documents/d/pct-system/docs-en-official-notices-officialnotices.pdf#page=207>.

Or:

☐ The Authority reports on the availability of its patent documentation collection as follows, including a timetable for when testing and full availability can be certified by the PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force. Please also provide details of your Authority File with any links, as appropriate.

2.3 – MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION – ACCESS

Rules 36.1(iii) and 63.1(iii): That Office or organization must have in its possession, or maintain access to at least the minimum documentation referred to in Rule 34, for search purposes in accordance with the Administrative Instructions.

The QMS Report provides information from the Authority on the infrastructure in place to ensure that at least the minimum documentation referred to in Rule 34 is available, accessible, properly arranged and maintained for search and examination purposes under paragraph 21.15(iv) of the Guidelines.

Other information beyond the QMS Report (optional):

2.4 – QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Rules 36.1(iv) and 63.1(iv): That Office or organization must have in place a quality management system and internal review arrangements in accordance with the common rules of international search,

The QMS Report provides information from the Authority on the quality management system in place under Chapter 21 of the Guidelines and includes a report under paragraph 21.09 of the internal review arrangements that are further described in paragraphs 21.27 to 21.30 of the Guidelines.

Other information beyond the QMS Report (optional):

3 – SCOPE OF OPERATION

(a) Current scope of operation

The receiving Offices for which the Office or intergovernmental organization is competent as an International Searching Authority and an International Preliminary Examining Authority, language(s) in which services are offered and other details of scope of operation are listed in the *PCT Applicant's Guide* at the following links: <https://pctlegal.wipo.int/eGuide/view-doc.xhtml?doc-code=SG&doc-lang=en#ISA> and <https://pctlegal.wipo.int/eGuide/view-doc.xhtml?doc-code=SG&doc-lang=en#IPEA>.

(b) Planned changes to scope of operation as an Authority, such as the receiving Offices for which the Authority is competent and languages offered (if any):

4 – OTHER

Any further information relevant to the extension of appointment as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority:

IPOS's Proven Excellence as an ISA/IPEA

Since commencing operations as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) in 2015, IPOS has consistently demonstrated excellent performance across key metrics while making significant, proactive contributions to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) regime to better serve applicants.

Key Metrics: Timeliness and Quality

IPOS has maintained a consistent track record for timeliness since 2015, a quality highly valued by applicants seeking preliminary opinions on the patentability of their inventions. We consistently achieve over 98% timeliness in establishing the International Search Report (ISR) and Written Opinion (WO-ISA) within the three-month deadline from the date of receiving the record copy, and 100% timeliness in establishing the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER) within 28 months from the priority date of the international application.

Our commitment to delivering high-quality output is robustly validated through user surveys that gather feedback on search and examination work products and identify areas for enhancements. We have achieved more than 80% satisfaction levels regarding PCT products and services. Users particularly commend the ease of communication with the IPOS Examiner during the IPEA stage leading to the issuance of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability (IPRP II).

Contributions to the PCT Regime

IPOS actively supports the global expansion and value of the PCT system through multilingual service and by contributing to the evolution of the PCT framework.

1. Multilingual Expertise

We maintain robust capability to work on PCT applications in both English and Chinese. Furthermore, as a Supplementary International Searching Authority (SISA), we provide search and examination services in Chinese. This unique capability offers significant value to the PCT system by providing global applicants with different language options for search and examination services to meet their needs.

2. Shaping the PCT Framework

We have been proactive in proposing enhancements to the PCT system's operational effectiveness through various proposals and active participation in discussions. Our formal proposals, PCT/WG/12/12 and PCT/MIA/27/4 to the PCT Working Group (WG) and Meeting of International Authorities (MIA), respectively, focused on amending PCT Regulations and corresponding processes to facilitate the accessibility and timely transmission of Chapter II documents by IPEAs, thereby significantly improving the transparency of the examination process. In addition, we actively engage in discussions in international meetings such as PCT Working Group (WG), PCT Meeting of International Authorities (MIA) and PCT Minimum Documentation Taskforce, contributing to the development and improvement of the PCT framework.

We are fully committed to continuous quality improvement and actively participate in the collaborative work of the QSG:

- Paired Review: We participated in a paired review with the Japan Patent Office (JPO), focused on enhancing our Quality Management System (QMS) successfully.
- Small Group Discussions: We contributed to strategic discussions with other International Authorities to shape best practices, including focused participation in Patent Examiner training (2024) and the Strategic implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in patent search and examination processes (2025).

Conclusion

Our consistent track record in timeliness, quality delivery, multilingual capabilities and substantive contributions to PCT development establishes IPOS as an exceptionally reliable and strategically valuable International Authority for the global PCT system.

[End of Annex and of document]