

Questionnaire on the Term “Quality of Patents” and Cooperation between
Patent Offices in Search and Examination

January 16, 2017

The answers to this questionnaire have been provided on behalf of:

Country: **Thailand**

Office: **Patent**

Person to be contacted:

Name:

Telephone:

Title:

Facsimile:

E-mail:

Q1. Various aspects may be relevant to the concept of “quality of patents”. It may relate to, for example, quality of patent procedures and management in the office, quality of search and examination, quality of granted patents or quality of a patent system. In addition, the expression “quality of patents” may be understood differently depending on the perspectives of various stakeholders, for example, the perspectives of a patent office, an applicant etc.

How does your office understand the term “quality of patent”?

Quality of patent is the accuracy of examination (quality of prior art search) and the timeliness of patent granting process.

Q2. What types of cooperation with other patent office does your office have with respect to search and examination?

Those types of cooperation may include, for example, access to documents/databases of other offices, use of search and examination work products, expertise and resources available in other offices, collaborative search and examination, outsourcing search and examination etc.

- 1. ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC)**
- 2. Bilateral Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) with Japan Patent Office (JPO)**

At the regional level, in the field of patents, Thailand participates in the ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC) project. The purpose of this program is to share search results between the participating offices to allow applicants in participating countries to obtain corresponding patents faster and more efficiently. The project will potentially reduce duplication on the search and examination work done. Besides, search and examination work done on corresponding application serves as a useful reference in producing quality reports.

This project began in early 2013 with nine participating ASEAN countries (except Myanmar). The DIP has already received a number of applications from applicants who have ASEAN wide business interest.

In addition to issuing the DIP regulation on modified examination to expedite the process by accepting search & examination results of other IP offices (e.g., Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) member), the DIP has also signed an MOU on pilot PPH program on work sharing with the Japan Patent Office (JPO). The program was implemented in January 2014. The DIP has to date received 727 applications (as of 27 January 2017) from Japanese companies using PPH track.

Q3. When performing prior art search, patent examiners prepare search strategies and queries (for example, indications of databases and publications, classification codes, search terms and key words used) to find relevant prior art.

Does your office share (for example, via an official website), or exchange, such search strategies and queries with other collaborating offices?

DIP hasn't shared or exchanged the search strategies and queries with other offices.

Q4. In order to facilitate the cooperation, what kinds of platforms and tools to share information on search and examination are available in your office? Such platforms and tools include, for example, WIPO CASE, databases allowing other offices to retrieve information and external databases used to retrieve information.

(i) Platforms and tools provided by your office

1. Web-based tools to facilitate the patent filing such as E-Gazette
2. Patent search system provides information on patent applications, publications and registrations in Thailand, accessible by the general public.
(patentsearch.ipthailand.go.th)

(ii) Platforms and tools used by your office

1. WIPO CASE
2. Advanced Industrial Property Network: AIPN - Japan Patent Office
3. Espacenet - The European Patent Office
4. United States Patent and Trademark Office: USPTO
5. Patent search - IP Thailand

Q5. What are the impacts of such cooperation in the area of search and examination to your office? If your office has different types of cooperation and each type of cooperation has different impacts, please indicate them separately.

Such cooperation helps reduce time spent on prior art searches by giving access to useful information and enhancing the quality and efficiency of patent examination.

Q6. What kinds of capacity building are required for different types of cooperation between patent offices in search and examination? Please indicate any specific capacity building needs to conduct such cooperation successfully.

In this context, the capacity building is understood to refer to various activities and trainings that support development of knowledge and skills of office employees for effective cooperation between offices in search and examination.

Techniques in searches and examination such as keyword search and writing of examiner opinion.