

# IPOENTIAL

## ASEAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY NEWS UPDATE



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### Happy Chinese New Year

Greetings from Pintas IP Group

Pintas IP Group wishes you a joyous celebration and prosperous days ahead. Also, we are monitoring closely new directions from IP Offices in ASEAN countries.

In the interim, we are giving our best endeavors in ensuring operational continuity for your Asean IP needs through our customer service and e-services platforms, Pintas Digital Platform (eCommerce), and IP Hall Case Management System (management and monitoring module) accessible 24 hours every day.

Once again we thank you for your continued support in this uncertain time, our thoughts go out to those who have been affected by this difficult time and we pray for your good health and well-being.





## SINGAPORE IP NEWS UPDATE

### Singapore's S\$25 billion R&D Budget for the Next Five Years

Being Asia's most innovative economy for more than half a decade running, it can be difficult to grasp Singapore's research and development (R&D) journey began just a little over thirty years ago. The National Science and Technology Board was established in 1991, marking the beginning of Singapore's R&D journey. The objective of said establishment was to develop high-technology activities that would move Singapore up the economic value chain and build a strong base of scientists, engineers, and technologists who would help to drive economic and enterprise transformation. These plans were to be refreshed every five years to ensure Singapore's position as an innovation-driven, knowledge-based economy.

2010 marked the year Singapore's R&D strategy expanded to span Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE), whereby the RIE2015 and the RIE2020 plans included translation, commercialisation, and innovation strategies to tap on the growing pipeline of promising research outputs and support our enterprises.

Due to the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Singapore government has allocated a staggering S\$25 billion fund to advance the country's R&D landscape for five years from 2020 up until 2025. This five-year plan came to be known as the Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2025 plan, with the record-breaking sum laying the groundwork for the country's science and technology efforts for the next five years.



### Focus Areas in RIE2025

Among the plans is a national effort that will help Singapore respond nimbly to future infectious diseases. The pandemic has accelerated technological trends and structural changes that will reshape the global economy, and throw up new challenges for societies, said Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat at a press conference to lay out the RIE2025 plan. This time around, the RIE2025 will be organized across four domains, particularly: manufacturing, trade and connectivity (MTC); human health and potential (HHP); urban solutions and sustainability (USS); and Smart Nation and digital economy (SNDE).

With the country having solidified its place as a global manufacturing hub, the MTC domain aims to strengthen the nation's trade and connectivity sectors, particularly in industries such as aviation, sea transport and logistics among others. For example, artificial intelligence (AI) may be used to enhance air traffic management, and even fully automate port operations, just to name a few.

Besides that, studies have shown that Singaporeans live an average of 84 years. As such, the HHP domain may focus on cultivating healthy and meaningful experiences from early development all the way to advanced age. To this end, a new Science of Learning in Education Centre (SoLEC) will be established within this five-year plan to develop interventions that enhance lifelong learning.





In the USS domain, efforts will be centred around ensuring sustainability and resource resilience to reduce the country's vulnerabilities to global supply chain shocks as well as improve liveability. These efforts may include achieving 30 by 30 food security goal, improving decarbonization technologies and working towards becoming a zero-waste, circular economy.

## Scaling Up Innovation and Enterprise (I&E) Platforms

I&E platforms have been substantially effective in supporting industries to translate R&D into new products, services, and solutions for the market. Such an example includes the Diagnostics Development Hub at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research accelerated the development and regulatory approval of novel diagnostics solutions for global market adoption, such as the Resolute series test-kits for COVID-19. Additionally, the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Cluster has also engaged over 1,800 organizations, and has catalyzed over 230 projects, to accelerate additive manufacturing applications across many industry sectors, including maritime, aerospace, and logistics.

I&E platforms will be scaled up in RIE2025, and existing platforms will be supported to move into adjacent areas with high growth potential, such as supporting diagnostics development, medical technology and the likes. New platforms will also be established under RIE2025, with said new platforms being enabled to tap into Singapore's deep R&D strengths and bridge ecosystem gaps.

## Conclusion

The sustained investment in RIE will be the springboard for enterprises, people and community to emerge stronger together in a COVID world and a changing global economy. By harnessing science and technology, competitiveness and resilience of the vast industries may be strengthened, countless jobs created, and new opportunities present for Singaporeans, further enhancing Singapore's liveability and sustainability to improve the lives of its people.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said that the scientific mindset is critical. Pointing out that astronomers had discovered mysterious circles in the cosmos using a new massive radio telescope in Western Australia, he said: "Whether it's discovering mysterious radio emissions or developing vaccines against COVID-19, science is exciting and important. The scientific mindset – exploring the world and understanding it rationally and empirically – is crucial to Singapore. This is true not just in R&D work, but more fundamentally to the ethos of our whole society."

Mr Lee, who chaired the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council meeting, added: "Our continued investments in R&D will sustain our competitiveness and bolster our status as a tech and innovation hub... With the profound uncertainties ahead, RIE2025 will be a crucial differentiator in refreshing our economic strategy, and securing our future for a post-COVID world."

In order to build up the pool of local inventors and entrepreneurs with both technology and business development expertise, the I&E Fellowship Programme (IFP) was launched. As many as 11 partners have been engaged for the IFP pilot, including SGInnovate, which has launched the Power X (Robotics) programme to train individuals for in-demand robotics engineering and technology translation roles. In the RIE2025, the full-fledged IFP will provide individuals with mentorship and on-the-job training in tech commercialisation via attachments with more public and private sector I&E platforms, including corporate laboratories, private sector incubators, and accelerators.



## MALAYSIA IP NEWS UPDATE

### Malaysia's IP Filing Fund 2022

In recent years, many businesses were severely affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As businesses navigate through the MCO period, they will have less resilience and flexibility in dealing with the expenses. Hence, a lot of businesses will have to delay or forego certain business services such as Intellectual Property (IP) filing.

It is vital for business owners to recognize that intellectual property is a precious commodity that will only become more valuable as the dominance of the digital world continues. Here comes the good news for Malaysians as our Government has allocated a total of RM4 million for the "Intellectual Property Filing Fund 2.0" under the Malaysian Intellectual Property Corporation (MYIPO) for a four years period from this year 2022 until year 2025.



#### Objective of the Fund

With the launching of this fund by the Malaysian Government, it is hoped that this fund can help ease the burden of local business owners, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and increase their competitiveness through the protection of intellectual property and stimulating the national economy.



#### Eligible Applicants

The grant is eligible to those fulfilling the criteria below:

1. Malaysia citizen aged above 18 years old;
2. Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Companies/ Sole Proprietorships/ Partnerships;
3. Innovative and Creative Group (KIK) Agency/ Ministry;
4. Students of Local Colleges/ Skills Institutions/ Polytechnics/ Institutions of Higher Learning and equivalent; and
5. Primary/ Secondary School Students (application is under the name of the school)

Each applicant is eligible to apply for ONE fund in a calendar year for application filing for one of the following components of Intellectual Property:

1. Trademark;
2. Patents;
3. Industrial design; and
4. Copyright

#### Application Date

The application for this grant begins in January 2022 and is due on the 30th of June 2022. This grant is subject to quota and it is on first come first serve basis. The application will be available every year for 4 years until year 2025.







## Funding Scope

1. The funding for the “IP filing fund 2.0” covers the official fee for filing an Intellectual Property application to MYIPO, and the search and drafting costs by a patent agent appointed by MYIPO (for patent/ UI applications)

Funding will be given to successful applicants in the form of vouchers. Vouchers provided are non-transferable.

<u>Types of Intellectual Property</u>	<u>Scope of financing</u>
1) Trademark	Form TMA1- Preliminary Application and search form
	Form TMA2- Trademark registration application form
	Form TMA4- Substantive examination applications are being expedited
	Scanning fees
2) Patent/UI	Form 1- Patent Application form; or
	Form 14- Application for issuance of UI renewal certificate
	Form 5- Request form for substantive examination
	Form 17- Patent agent appointment form
	Form 22- Statement form justification of the Applicant's rights to the patent/certificate
	Cost of patent agent services to conduct a patent search (prior art search)
3) Industrial Design	The cost of patent agent services for the drafting of patent specification and the cost of completing forms related to patent filing
	Form ID1- Industrial design application form & (point of view as approved by the Intellectual Property Fund Selection Committee)
	Form ID9- Application amendment request form for registration of industrial design.
	Public Search
4) Copyright	Form CR1- Work Notification Form; or Form CR2- Notice of Published Works
	Form CR5- Copyright notification certificate request form
	Work submission fee (as approved by the Intellectual Property Fund Selection Committee)
5) Geographical Indications	Form GI 1- Application form for registration of a geographical indication
	Form GI 3- Ads for registration

## Conclusion

Undeniably, Intellectual Property contributes enormously to our national economy as IP encourages innovation which is a crucial element in driving the economic growth. The known purpose of innovation is to create more effective processes, products and ideas, of which in turn creates more job and market opportunities. It helps us extract as much value as possible from our resources, our time and our effort. However, this comes with the risk of copycats, plagiarisms or idea theft which will take advantage of an innovation to distribute and use as their own, reaping the benefits from someone else's hard work. Hence, it is in the best interest of the innovator to seek a protection for their innovation through Intellectual Property Rights. Whether someone is a business owner, a researcher, a student or simply a person with an idea, everyone would benefit from an IP protection in the long run.





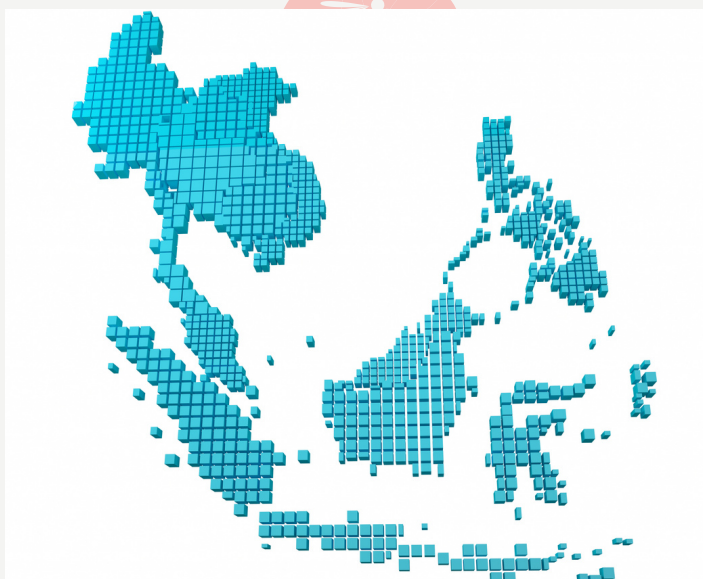
## ASEAN IP NEWS UPDATE

# ASEAN Countries to Get Economic Boost by Joining RCEP

One of the many things that the pandemic has taught us in terms of business advancement and survival is the importance of digital trading and marketing. It is encouraging news and glad tidings to the economic and business scene in Malaysia that RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) will come into force on March 18, 2022.

RCEP is by far the world's largest free trade agreement that covers 15 countries with 2.2 billion or nearly a third (29.5%) of the world's population and that is such a huge deal! This represents US\$25.8 trillion or 29.4% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP), and accounts for US\$ 12.7 trillion, over a quarter of global trade in goods and services, and 31% of global FDI inflows based on the World Bank's 2019 data.

The key visions and missions of RCEP are to keep the markets open as this deal serves as a manifestation or solution for the region's issue in sustaining businesses, this will further robust the economic integration between the member states and set an open, free, fair, inclusive and rules-based multilateral and diversities of the trading system and eventually will contribute to global economic advancement and increment especially when all of the economic sectors in all countries are badly affected by the pandemic. In short, this agreement will serve as a post-pandemic recovery effort to the global economic scene!



To further focus down in the small sector setting, RCEP is dedicated to bring or provide new businesses and employment opportunities and growth, indurate and secure the supply chains in the signatories' regions and further boost the participation of micro, small and medium enterprises into the chains and production hubs.

On January 1, 2022, the agreement has entered into force for Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Japan, Lao PDR, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The Republic of Korea will soon enter the agreement on February 1, 2022. Malaysia is not exceptionally to enter into RCEP as we will be the 12th signatory country joining other countries.





According to the International Trade and Industry Ministry of Malaysia, Malaysia has submitted its Instrument of Ratification (IOR) to the ASEAN Secretariat of January 17, 2022, and as provided under Article 20.6 of the RCEP, the agreement will enter into force after 60 days of the IOR submission. Thus, the agreement will officially enter into force in Malaysia on March 18, 2022.



Economists opined that the RCEP is a new strategy to boost the economies game globally and Malaysia is definitely making the smart move by joining RCEP as Malaysia is reported to be an important player in the ASEAN region in the areas of manufacturing, information communication, and technology and commodities especially in oil and palm oil. Therefore, following the trade and commerce strategy in the new bloc is definitely going to push Malaysia's economic growth in the next three to five years!

Dr. Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid, Bank Islam chief economist further said that any multilateral trade agreement should be a positive move for the Malaysian economy as RCEP will lay a patch new market that are to be accessed by all types of businesses, be it listed entity, non-listed entity, and the micro-SME firms.

Malaysian Rating Corp Bhd (MARC) chief economist and head of research, Mr. Firdaos Rosli said that the RCEP is said to support trade by 1.0 or 2.0 percentage points higher in the middle term. Malaysia's participation in RCEP will also increase the trade intensity between Malaysia and its members, cementing the increasing agglomeration process of the region along the way.



We could foresee that RCEP will eventually be the foundation for a free trade agreement of the Asia Pacific that will push and further boost the trade among the region. By looking into all the good measures and efforts taken by all parties concerned in order to boost and recover the economy post-pandemic, we could positively hope and work that 2022 could be the year of recovery and further enlargement of economic scene in Malaysia and globally.

Stay tuned for more info on RCEP as we will discuss further on outtakes of signatories' countries in our next articles!



# UPCOMING EVENT 2022



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Managing Director of Pintas IP Group

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### APPLE IP@CASE STUDY

26 January 2023  
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7 Ways To Monetize Your Patent



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