# MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION ON INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY BETWEEN THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS AND THE JAPAN PATENT OFFICE

The Intellectual Property Offices of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN IPOs") and the Japan Patent Office (hereinafter referred to as "the JPO") (hereinafter singularly referred to as "the Participant" and collectively referred to as "the Participants");

**RECALLING** the Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Partnership among Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Japan;

**RECOGNISING** that cooperation among the Participants will contribute to enhancing the capabilities in ASEAN and Japan;

**HAVE REACHED THE COMMON RECOGNITION** as follows:

# 1. Objectives

1. The objective of this Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "MOC") is to further cooperation among the Participants in the field of Industrial Property, namely, trademarks, industrial designs, patents, and utility

models.

In this MOC, "ASEAN IPOs" means the Intellectual Property Offices that are responsible for industrial property rights in ASEAN Member States and are corresponding the JPO in Japan.

2. Within the limits stated in this MOC, the Participants will cooperate for further improvement of industrial property protection in order to contribute to economic growth of ASEAN and Japan.

## 2. Technical Cooperation

Specific areas of the technical cooperation in industrial property field via the activities that will be jointly agreed and developed by the Participants will include:

- (a) improvement of industrial property protection systems including exchange of experiences and knowledge on industrial property policy and improvement of laws (statutes and case laws), regulations, guidelines or manuals, consistent with international standards;
- (b) establishment of transparent and streamlined examination procedures and practices including worksharing at the international level, exchange of experiences and knowledge on quality control and examiners' training and sharing statistical data, where appropriate, in a manner consistent with the respective national laws;
- (c) industrial property administration including

- exchange of experience on general management and information technology (IT) infrastructure/systems;
- (d) development of industrial property exploitation by the private sector including small-and-medium-sized enterprises;
- (e) exchange of information and cooperation on appropriate initiatives to promote awareness of industrial property; and
- (f) cooperation in human resource development to advance the capabilities of the ASEAN IPOs; and
- (g) other areas mutually decided upon by the Participants.

#### 3. Financial Resources

- 1. Financial resources for activities under this MOC will be provided by mutual consent.
- 2. Where the JPO provides financial resources for the activities, such resources will be provided for the benefit of all ASEAN IPOs.

## 4. Periodic Meeting

The implementation of this MOC shall be discussed and reviewed annually by a meeting of the Heads of all ASEAN IPOs and the JPO at a time and place to be decided by the Participants subject to the availability of their resources.

#### 5. Modifications

This MOC may be modified by mutual consent of the Participants in writing. Any such modification shall not prejudice any right or obligation accruing or incurred prior to the effective date of modification.

## 6. Domestic Laws and Regulations

The cooperation activities under this MOC will be carried out subject to all the applicable laws and regulations in the ASEAN Member States and Japan.

#### 7. Duration and Termination

- 1. The MOC will last for three (3) years and will be automatically extended for a further period of three (3) years unless one of the Participants notifies the other Participant of its intention to terminate this MOC by a notice in writing at least ninety (90) days before the intended date of termination.
- 2. In the event of termination of this MOC the ongoing cooperation activities under this MOC will not be affected, unless otherwise decided by the Participants.

# 8. Commencement of Cooperation

The cooperation under this MOC will commence on the date of completion of all the signatures of the Participants.

#### 9. Consultation

Consultations will be held, where appropriate, on any issues that may arise in the course of cooperation under this MOC.

Signed at Singapore on this Eleventh Day of July in the Year Two Thousand and Twelve, in the English language.

For the Intellectual Property Division, Attorney General's Chambers (Brunei Darussalam): For the Japan Patent Office:

DATIN HAYATI SALLEH

Attorney General

YOSHIYUKI IWAI

Commissioner

For the Department of Intellectual Property Rights, Ministry of Commerce (Cambodia):

VAR ROTH-SAN

Head of Secretariat of National Committee for Intellectual Property Rights of Cambodia and Director of Department of Intellectual Property Rights of Ministry of Commerce For the Directorate General of Intellectual Property Rights (Indonesia):

### AHMAD M. RAMLI

Director General of Directorate General of Intellectual Property Rights of Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia

For the Department of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Science and Technology (Lao PDR):

SITHA PHOUYAVONG

Director General of Department of Intellectual Property

For the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (Malaysia):

DATO' AZIZAN MOHAMAD SIDIN

Director General of Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia

For the Department of Scientific and Technological Research, Ministry of Science and Technology (Myanmar):

U WIN KHAING MOE

Deputy Director General of Department of Scientific and Technological Research of Ministry of Science and Technology

For the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (Philippines):

RICARDO R. BLANCAFLOR
Director General of the
Intellectual Property Office of the
Philippines

No

For the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (Singapore):

**TAN YIH SAN** 

Chief Executive of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore

For the Department of Intellectual Property (Thailand):

**PAJCHIMA TANASANTI** 

Director General of the Department of Intellectual Property

For the National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam (Vietnam):

TA QUANG MINH

Director General of National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam