

JOINT STATEMENT

FORTEENTH ASEAN-JAPAN HEADS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICES MEETING Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

Acceleration of ASEAN-Japan Cooperation Towards the Establishment of High-quality IP Services

1. The Intellectual Property Offices of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (“AMS IPOs”) and the Japan Patent Office (“JPO”) (collectively “Partners”) held their Fourteenth Heads Meeting on 3 September 2024 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
2. The Partners adopted the AMS IPOs-JPO IP Action Plan 2024–2025 that includes initiatives on strengthening IP protection systems, increasing the transparency of and streamlining examination procedures and practices, improving IP administration and information handling, improving utilization of IP, raising awareness of IP and developing human resources.
3. The Partners confirmed, in particular, their continued support for research projects conducted by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) , namely “Study on Branding”, which aims to raise awareness of branding and revitalize local industries in ASEAN member states, and “Study on Patent Examination Practices for Remarkable Technologies (pharmaceutical and related fields)” which aims to improve the predictability of patent examination results in relevant technological fields.
4. The Partners acknowledged the report from the ASEAN-Japan Patent Experts Meeting which summarize discussions and outcomes of the 1st through 4th ASEAN-Japan Patent Experts Meetings. Based upon the outcomes of the Expert Meetings, the Partners recognized the importance of further enhancing the transparency and predictability of examination practices in emerging technologies such as AI and IoT, including the publication of examination guidelines and case examples, and also reinforcement of the examination system. The Partners also recognized the necessity of correcting mistranslations in the examination process and after the granting of rights, confirming that the detection of mistranslations in the early stage of examination enables flexible office action, and understanding the importance of establishing a mistranslation correction system in order to address mistranslations identified after the granting of rights.