

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS EXPERTS' GROUP (IPEG)

CONVENOR'S REPORT AND INPUTS FOR 2021 CTI ANNUAL REPORT TO MINISTERS

(a) Key outcomes and achievements in 2021

- IPEG discussed and endorsed the IPEG Terms of Reference for the period of 2022-2025 prior to submission to CTI for endorsement.
- IPEG members completed the qualitative survey as part of the APEC fora assessment process in 2021.
- Senior Officials endorsed the mandate of the IPEG for another four years (2022-2025).
- The United States led an initiative to enhance enforcement against online piracy in the APEC region, particularly through illicit streaming devices and applications (including add-ons and extensions). As a part of this initiative, the United States shared the results of the “*Questionnaire on Domestic Treatment of Illicit Streaming Devices*”, in which all APEC economies participated, and hosted a webinar on this topic in March 2021. The United States also tabled a set of effective practices against illegal streaming of copyrighted content, which have now been included in the proposal on “*Effective Enforcement Practices Addressing the Streaming of Protected Content and Illicit Streaming Devices and Applications*” for further discussion by Members.
- Chinese Taipei organized a hybrid workshop on, “*2021 APEC Workshop on The Potential for Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the Field of IPR*” in July 2021.
- Strengthen the Stakeholder Engagement by conducting an information-sharing session with the involvement of International Organizations in August 2021 to diversify the perspective on IP issues. IPEG agreed on the need to continue to cooperate with stakeholders and share best practices in the future.

(b) Work Undertaken by the fora in response to COVID-19 (in particular in fulfilling the [2021 Ministers Responsible for Trade Statement & two annexes](#) & the [2020 Declaration on Facilitating the Movement of Essential Goods](#))

- In supporting the MRT statement, to facilitate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to deliver pragmatic and effective solutions on trade and health that reinforce APEC's work on essential goods, minimise disruption to, and enhance the resilience of supply chains, at the IPEG2 meeting, IPEG conducted an information sharing session on “*An Integrated Health, Trade, And IP Approach To Respond To The Covid-19 Pandemic*”, and invited representatives from the WTO, WIPO, and KPAA (Korea Patent Attorney Association) to share their views on the role of IP in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to protect well-known trademarks in the digital era.
- Strengthen the cross-fora collaboration with various working groups such as PPWE, through providing input to La Serena Roadmap Implementation Plan, and input to project proposed by PPWE (*Women and Patents in the APEC Region: Current Situation, Performance, and Challenges*), HWG (*A Study on the Patent Linkage System for IPR and Public Health Harmonization*), and SMEWG (*Recovering from COVID-19: Successful Practices among APEC Economies on the Use of IP as a Collective Tool to Foster and Promote Economic Development and Recovery of Vulnerable Populations and MSMEs*).

(c) Key Issues Under Discussion by the Fora (if any); &

- Korea presented a “*Proposal for future IPEG development: Area that lack protection of intellectual property in domestic and abroad*” – Suggested that it's time for APEC economies to work together to come up with an appropriate response to eradicating unfair competition by strengthening their cooperative systems.
- Russia presented “*Russia’s participation in Eurasian integration in the field of the legal protection of industrial designs*” – Sharing of the ratification of the Protocol to the Eurasian Patent Convention (EAPC) on the Protection of Industrial designs of September 9, 2019, which provides for the unified Eurasian design patent. It gives an advantage, among others, on encouragement of economic activity and investment; and enhancement and promotion of legal protection of industrial designs in the Russian Federation.
- Peru presentation the “*Andean Community Decision on National Brands*” - THE DECISION 876, COMMON REGIME ON NATIONAL BRAND. The Decision will allow Peru to continue its efforts to position its brand at an international level, as part of the design and implementation of the domestic policy to promote its identity, tourism, exports, and image.
- Mexico presented a self-funded project entitled “*Initiative to analyze the level of protection of Geographical Indications in APEC Economies: current situation and challenges*”. As part of Mexico’s self-funded project, a questionnaire was circulated in October 2021, to collect information about the domestic legal treatment of GI in the APEC Region. The study is ongoing.
- Chinese Taipei presented an “*Introduction to the Revision of the Examination Guidelines for Computer Software-Related Inventions*”. This initiative to effort on Exchange of Information Concerning Intellectual Property Right Measures/Policies.
- Russia presented an update on the “*Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in Digital Content Trade*” project (CTI 02 2019).
- Peru submitted a project proposal on, “*Recovering from COVID-19: Successful Practices among APEC Economies on the Use of IP as a Collective Tool to Foster and Promote Economic Development and Recovery of Vulnerable Populations and MSMEs*”.
- Peru submitted a project proposal on, “*Women and Patents in the APEC Region: Current Situation, Performance, and Challenges*”.
- Korea submitted a project proposal on “*A Study on the Harmonization of IP Financial System*”.
- Korea submitted a project proposal on “*A Study on the Patent Linkage System for IPR and Public Health Harmonization*”.

(d) Items to submit to Senior Officials or Ministers (if applicable)

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