



23 September 2021

(21-7108)

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**Council for Trade-Related Aspects of
Intellectual Property Rights**

Original: English

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

AUSTRALIA

The following communication, dated 15 September 2021, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Australia.

1 INTRODUCTION

1. Australia is committed to sharing information with other WTO Members on its technical and financial cooperation activities in the area of intellectual property rights in fulfilment of Article 67 of the TRIPS Agreement. This is a full report on Australia's intellectual property-related technical cooperation activities with developing and least developed countries. It builds upon annual update reports provided in 2012 (document IP/C/W/582/Add.2), 2013 (document IP/C/W/593/Add.7), 2014 (document IP/C/W/601), 2015 (document IP/C/W/610/Add.4), 2016 (document IP/C/W/617/Add.1), 2017 (document IP/C/W/632/Add.1), 2018 (document IP/C/W/647/Add.2), 2019 (document IP/C/W/655/Add.4) and 2020 (document IP/C/R/TC/AUS/1).

2. Australia fulfils its Article 67 technical cooperation commitment through multilateral, regional and bilateral programmes and activities. Many activities are focused on developing and least developed countries in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia works closely with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat and other partners to assist developing and least developed countries to build their intellectual property capacity and systems.

3. Many of the technical cooperation activities implemented under Article 67 of the TRIPS Agreement align with Australia's strategic focus on using aid as a catalyst to promote economic growth and poverty reduction. This is embedded in the UN Sustainable Development Goals and our future investments, including activities under the WIPO-Australia Funds in Trust programme, will in turn be influenced by these goals.

4. Websites containing information on Australia's intellectual property regime, which may be considered a technical cooperation resource, include the IP Australia website covering patents, designs, trademarks and plant breeders' rights (www.ipaustralia.gov.au); the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications website on copyright developments (www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/copyright); and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website on international IP developments (www.dfat.gov.au/ip).

2 AUSTRALIAN ACTIVITIES WITH THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

2.1 Australia-WIPO Funds in Trust

- In 2019, the Australian Government and WIPO agreed to a third iteration of the Australia-WIPO Funds in Trust (FIT3) with the commitment of an additional AUD 800,000. The

programme will run until 30 March 2022. The Australian Government has previously provided AUD 5 million to WIPO from 2012 to 30 June 2019. This funding promotes economic growth in partner countries by helping to develop and implement Intellectual Property (IP) systems, build capabilities in IP and facilitate technology transfer. FiT helps to create an enabling environment for private sector innovation and domestic and foreign investment. There are four themes under the FiT3 programme: development of the intellectual property system; technology transfer (knowledge transfer and commercialisation); addressing neglected tropical diseases; and copyright and related rights to assist the blind, visually impaired and other persons with print disabilities. FiT3 programmes are developed in consultation with WIPO and recipient countries. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions a number of planned activities under this agreement have been postponed.

3 OTHER MULTILATERAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

3.1 Economic Cooperation Support Program under the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA)

5. The AANZFTA's Economic Cooperation Support Program (AECSP) consists of the Economic Cooperation Work Program and the AANZFTA Support Unit located in the ASEAN Secretariat. The AECSP was established in 2010 as a five-year programme with funding of AUD 20-25 million. The Program, which was subsequently extended further, aims to support the ASEAN Secretariat in servicing the AANZFTA Joint Committee and its subsidiary bodies to assist ASEAN Members, particularly least developed countries, with AANZFTA's implementation. Intellectual property is a vital component of the AECSP, with the objective being to 'provide comprehensive support for the development of sound and balanced intellectual property systems in the AANZFTA region'. The following paragraph outlines one of the intellectual property outcomes achieved under the AECSP with further detail provided in the annex to this report.

6. In 2017, IP Australia designed a second phase of the Regional Patent Examination Training (RPET) to deliver sustainable results in embedding the RPET learnings and best practice into internal patent examination training (RPET Mentoring). Experienced IP Australia Mentors were assigned to each participating office, and all countries developed competency-based training modules, customised to their national legislation and practice. This project was concluded in December 2020 with a number of outcomes including the development of individualised competency-based training (CBT) programmes, and development of new Quality Management Framework with product quality standards and record keeping to support improvement in patent examination practices.

ANNEX¹

Name of programme or project	Economic Cooperation Support Program under the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA)
Date and end date	1 January 2010 - 1 January 2022
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	The AANZFTA's Economic Cooperation Support Program (AECSP) consists of an Economic Cooperation Work Program and the AANZFTA Support Unit located within the ASEAN Secretariat. The AECSP was established in 2010 as a five-year programme with funding of AUD 20-25 million. The Program, which was subsequently extended until December 2021, aims to support the ASEAN Secretariat in servicing the AANZFTA Joint Committee and its subsidiary bodies to assist ASEAN Member States, particularly least developed countries, with AANZFTA's implementation. Intellectual property is a vital component of AANZFTA and the AECSP work programme. The objective of the IP work is to 'provide comprehensive support for the development of sound and balanced intellectual property systems in the AANZFTA region'.
Beneficiary institution or audience	ASEAN Member States are the audience and ODA eligible states receive support. Non-ODA eligible ASEAN countries fund their own engagement.
Technical cooperation provider(s)	A mix of Australian, New Zealand and ASEAN Member States government agencies and private providers managed through a centralised support unit embedded in the ASEAN Secretariat.
Outputs or impact	Technical assistance and capacity building.
Website for further information	https://aanzfta.asean.org/ https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/aanzfta/Pages/asean-australia-new-zealand-free-trade-agreement
Contact point for further information	

¹ In English only.

Name of programme or project	Funds in Trust - Development of an online training programme on the Madrid System accession and implementation process
Date and end date	1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	<p>In collaboration with WIPO developed a suit of online training programmes on post accession implementation of the Madrid Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks.</p> <p>The Modules are targeted at IP Offices and cover best practice office processing.</p> <p>Development of promotional content to raise awareness of the Madrid course and to assist IP Offices in promoting the course and Madrid System to local users.</p>
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	WIPO
Outputs or impact	1977 students enrolled in May 2021 course
Website for further information	http://welc.wipo.int/acc/index.jsf?page=courseCatalog.xhtml&lang=en&cc=DL303E#plus_DL303E
Contact point for further information	Charlotte Iggulden – charlotte.iggulden@ipaustralia.gov.au

Name of programme or project	Funds in Trust - Accessible Books Consortium
Date and end date	1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	Training in accessible book production to be held in Viet Nam, Indonesia and Myanmar. Training to Indonesian, Vietnamese and Myanmarese students with print impairments in the use of technology for accessing and reading materials in accessible formats will be held. Activities are ongoing
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	Accessible Books Consortium
Outputs or impact	<p>Training provided on how to produce digitally accessible books.</p> <p>Indonesia : 400 books published</p> <p>Viet Nam: 525 books published</p>
Website for further information	
Contact point for further information	Charlotte Iggulden charlotte.iggulden@ipaustralia.gov.au

Name of programme or project	AECSP - Regional Patent Examination Training Mentoring (RPET Mentoring)
Date and end date	1 June 2017 - 31 December 2020
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	IP Australia delivered technical assistance, supported by the ASEAN Support Unit embedded within the ASEAN Secretariat.
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	
Outputs or impact	<p>New competency-based patent examination training programmes were developed and implemented for each of the five participating offices, tailored to national legislation and practice.</p> <p>RPEM delivered a number of outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a new quality management framework for Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL) , Intellectual Property Cooperation of Malaysia (MyIPO), Thailand's Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) and IP Viet Nam. • Development of online Train-the-Trainer modules for IPOP HL, MyIPO, and DIP to increase internal capability to train examiners transitioning into trainer roles. • Development of a masterclass series of online advanced patent concepts for IPOP HL, MyIPO, DIP, and IP Viet Nam. • Development of an efficient examination module for IPOP HL, MyIPO, DIP, and IP Viet Nam to help examiners understand how to approach patent examination efficiently. <p>IP Viet Nam only – Updated foundation and basic searching concepts in an existing handbook/guidelines document that assists patent examiners during the examination.</p>
Website for further information	https://aanzfta.asean.org/
Contact point for further information	Charlotte Iggulden – charlotte.iggulden@ipaaustralia.gov.au

Name of programme or project	International Fund for Cultural Diversity
Date and end date	1 January 2010
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	<p>The International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) is a multi-donor fund established under Article 18 of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions 2005 (2005 Convention) to which Australia is a signatory. The IFCD promotes sustainable development and poverty reduction by funding projects in developing countries that foster the emergence of dynamic cultural sectors, revitalisation of the local economy and create positive social change.</p> <p>The Office for the Arts (OFTA) in the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is responsible for implementing programmes and policies that meet Australia's obligations under the IFCD as a signatory to the 2005 Convention.</p> <p>UNESCO calls for member state contributions to IFCD annually. Australia makes voluntary contributions to the IFCD where feasible to support Australia's international obligations under the 2005 Convention and demonstrate practically its commitment to supporting UNESCO international cooperation and assistance for developing countries.</p> <p>Since the IFCD was established in 2010, the OFTA (on behalf of Australia) has made a total voluntary contribution of AUD 452,226. (AUD 98,201 in 2020; AUD 105,333 in 2018; AUD 88,692 in 2016; AUD 80,000 in 2013; and AUD 80,000 in 2011.)</p>
Beneficiary institution or audience	
Technical cooperation provider(s)	UNESCO
Outputs or impact	Since 2010, the IFCD has provided more than USD 8 million in funding for 114 projects in 58 developing countries, covering a wide range of areas, from the development and implementation of cultural policies, to capacity-building of cultural entrepreneurs, mapping of cultural industries and the creation of new cultural industry business models.
Website for further information	http://en.unesco.org/creativity/ifcd
Contact point for further information	convention2005.ifcd@unesco.org

Name of programme or project	AANZFTA Enhancement of Trade Mark Quality Management
Date and end date	1 January 2021
Beneficiary Member(s) or observer(s)	
Brief description	<p>The objective of the project is for beneficiary ASEAN Member States (AMS) to gain an in-depth understanding of quality and an enhanced capacity to design and implement quality management practices.</p> <p>Developing the processes, tools and systems to support high quality trademark examination and predictable services is a common challenge to IP Offices. Some AMS IP Offices have a quality management system in place, some are in the process of developing quality management processes and practices, while others are in early stages of introducing quality principles into office practice. IP Australia, along with the IP offices of New Zealand, Singapore and the Philippines, is sharing experiences of quality management, with a view to assisting beneficiary ASEAN IP Offices to develop their own incremental approach to quality management.</p>
Beneficiary institution or audience	AMS (excluding Singapore who joined the project as a participating office, not a beneficiary)
Technical cooperation provider(s)	IP Australia delivered technical assistance, supported by the ASEAN Support Unit embedded within the ASEAN Secretariat.
Outputs or impact	The project aims to contribute to increased capability in the region for improving of developing trademark quality management processes. Phase 1 saw the completion of a gap analysis – through questionnaire and interview the current quality management processes and objectives of each participating AMS IP Office was determined. Phase 2 continues to explore issues connected with quality management, particularly those identified in Phase 1 such as the practical steps to independent quality review, drafting quality standards and management engagement.
Website for further information	https://aanzfta.asean.org/
Contact point for further information	Charlotte Iggulden – charlotte.iggulden@ipaaustralia.gov.au