



IP BITES, Asia and Middle East Intellectual Property Update

Issue 1, 2025

Happy new year! Welcome to the first issue of our intellectual property newsletter for 2025, covering updates from the final quarter of 2024.

This issue spotlights patent-related key updates across the region. Indonesia has issued its revised Patent Law, while Thailand has launched a public consultation to amend its Patent Law. Singapore's IP office has released fresh guidelines on AI-related patent applications, and mainland China is contemplating similar guidance following its recent antitrust guidelines on standard essential patents. Additionally, we are thrilled to share our recent victory at the Unified Patent Court for Seoul Semiconductor and Seoul Viosys, and look forward to meeting you at the Global IP Convention in Mumbai in January 2025!



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INDONESIA

October 2024

Amendments to Patent Law

Indonesia has **amended** its Patent Law. The amended Patent Law introduces key changes such as the expansion of the scope of patentable inventions, clarification of patentability for computer-implemented inventions, adjustments to the grace periods for patent-related actions, changes to the compulsory licensing regime, and an introduction of annual reporting requirements for patent holders.



QATAR

October 2024

Memorandum of Understanding on the promotion of IP mediation and arbitration

In conjunction with Qatar's accession to the Madrid Protocol, the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre and the World Intellectual Property Organization have **signed** a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote alternative dispute resolution for intellectual property disputes. The MoU will enhance cooperation in training IP mediators and arbitrators.



SINGAPORE

October 2024

Supplemental guidance on AI-related patent applications

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) has **released** its new supplemental guidance for the examination of AI-related patent applications. The document illustrates hypothetical examples across various technical fields, and elaborates on what constitutes patentable subject matter. It highlights the importance of properly construing patent claims and identifying the actual contribution of each invention.



KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

October 2024

Publication of new Trade Name Law

A new law on the protection of trade names was published in the Official Gazette, and will come into force in April 2025. The legislation introduces several notable changes, including the prohibition of the use of trade names that resemble other reserved or registered trade names, the prohibition of the registration of trade names that are similar to famous trade marks or trade names outside of the jurisdiction, and the allowance for trade names to be assigned to third parties.



MAINLAND CHINA

November 2024

New antitrust guidelines on standard essential patents

The State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) **released** guidelines to strengthen regulations on antitrust behaviours pertaining to standard essential patents (SEPs). The guidelines emphasise compliance with FRAND principles. It also addresses SEP-related concepts, analysis principles for antitrust behaviours, and establishes a set of supervision rules.



KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

November 2024

Adoption of Riyadh Design Law Treaty

The World Intellectual Property Organization member states have **approved** a new treaty to streamline and simplify the design protection process. The Riyadh Design Law Treaty, which will enter into force three months after it is ratified by at least 15 contracting parties, aims to standardise the application process across jurisdictions, reducing complexity and cost. Key features include streamlining of the requirements for according a filing date to only specifically listed indications, flexible representation of designs, and the ability to include multiple designs in one application.



SINGAPORE

November 2024

Geographical indication protection for Parmigiano Reggiano does not extend to Parmesan

In a landmark **decision** that overturned the High Court's high-profile geographical indication ruling, the Singapore Court of Appeal held that "Parmesan" was not a translation of "Parmigiano Reggiano," and that the average consumer in Singapore would regard them as two different types of cheese products distinguishable by their origins. Read our commentary [here](#).



MAINLAND CHINA

December 2024

Draft guidelines for patent applications of AI-related inventions

The China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) **released** draft guidelines relating to patent applications of AI-related inventions. The draft guidelines address the common types of AI-related patent applications and the key legal issues faced by these applications, such as the identification of inventors, patentability, disclosure requirements and other ethical issues. The public consultation period ended on 13 December 2024.



THAILAND

December 2024

Launch of public consultation on new draft Patent Act

Thailand has initiated a public consultation for the latest draft of the new Patent Act. This draft introduces several key changes, including adjustments to opposition timelines, a shortened time period for requesting substantive examination, removal of mandatory submissions of foreign examination results, and the introduction of an export licence for pharmaceuticals. The consultation is open until 31 January 2025.

Team news

Linklaters ranked in Legal 500 China – Intellectual Property (Foreign Firms)

Linklaters' China IP team has achieved a Band 4 ranking in its Legal 500 debut, where the team was recognised for its *"unique strengths in relation to the IP aspects of corporate transactions, especially complex global transactions."* Alex Roberts, who was also named Fintech Lawyer of the Year (Foreign Firms) at the Legal 500 China Awards 2024, was highlighted for his *"deep experience in the Chinese market which is uniquely strong amongst international firms in China."*

Sher Hann Chua named as IAM Strategy 300 Global Leader

Sher Hann Chua has been recognised by **IAM Strategy 300** as one of the world's leading intellectual property strategists. The IAM Strategy 300 Global Leaders guide draws upon the IAM Strategy 300 rankings to identify individuals who are leading the way in the development and implementation of IP strategies that amplify the value of patent assets.

Alex Roberts discusses technology, innovation, and IP at Founders' Breakfast

Alex Roberts returned to Founders' Breakfast on 27 December 2024, a networking event for start-ups and entrepreneurs in Shanghai, to share insights on regulatory developments and opportunities surrounding technology and innovation in China with start-up founders and students from the Sino-European School of Technology of Shanghai University (UTSEUS). Alex presented on China's enhanced IP legal framework and crucial IP considerations for business operation.

Yohan Liyanage, Shruti Chopra and Sher Hann Chua to speak at the Global IP Convention

Linklaters is proud to announce its Gold sponsorship of the **17th Global IP Convention**, India's leading event for the intellectual property industry. Yohan Liyanage, Shruti Chopra and Sher Hann Chua will be speaking at the convention scheduled to take place in Mumbai on 11 and 12 January 2025.

Jia Yi Tay speaks at Microsoft AI for Law Firms Summit

Jia Yi Tay engaged in a fireside chat on "Managing Privilege, Professional Obligations and Client Expectations" at the inaugural Microsoft AI for Law Firms Summit held in Singapore on 12 and 13 November 2024. Jia Yi shared how Linklaters ensures compliance with regulatory and professional confidentiality obligations in the context of using generative AI tools and applications.

Sher Hann Chua quoted in Asia IP article on the power of data analytics for innovation and IP

Sher Hann Chua was quoted in an article by **Asia IP** on the use of data analytics in developing effective IP strategies. Sher Hann highlighted that business leaders can rely on data to conduct benchmarking and analysis, allowing them to track emerging trends and technological advancements in their industry by monitoring new patent filings.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE UNIFIED PATENT COURT

Linklaters achieved a **significant victory** for Korean LED manufacturers Seoul Semiconductor and Seoul Viosys in a case at the Düsseldorf Local Division of the new Unified Patent Court (UPC). The UPC issued a permanent injunction against expert e-Commerce GmbH and expert klein GmbH, preventing them from reselling certain smartphones that infringe the LED patent EP3926698. This injunction covers Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Sweden. The accused technology involves an LED on the back of some Android smartphones made by Emporia. Despite efforts by the defendants to challenge the validity of the patent, the UPC upheld it entirely. This successful litigation effort underscores the benefits of the UPC, which allows the enforcement of patents across multiple European jurisdictions in a single court proceeding. Find out more about the UPC by visiting our UPC Hub [here](#).



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