



Joint Statement on Strengthening Collaboration on AI in Patent Substantive Examination between the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO)

12 May 2026, Singapore. The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO) announced a new cooperation initiative to strengthen collaboration on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in patent substantive examination, amid rapid advances in technology and growing global interest in AI-enabled IP systems.

The announcement was made after a bilateral meeting in Singapore between Mr Tan Kong Hwee, Chief Executive of IPOS and Mr Yasuyuki Kasai, Commissioner of JPO, building on an earlier Memorandum of Cooperation signed in Tokyo last November.

As patent offices worldwide adapt to technological change, IPOS and JPO will deepen collaboration to support high-quality and trusted patent examination. Under the initiative, both Offices will launch a bilateral patent examiner exchange programme and hold regular technical exchanges on the use of AI in patent examination to strengthen capabilities, share best practices, and develop robust processes.

Mr Tan Kong Hwee said: “AI is reshaping innovation and work processes, and IP offices must evolve to uphold examination quality and trust. This cooperation with the JPO will deepen technical exchanges for our examiners to explore the use of AI in patent examination, while ensuring that innovators and businesses can benefit from a consistent, high-quality and trusted IP environment.”

Mr Yasuyuki Kasai said: “JPO and IPOS share a common recognition of the need to deliver high-quality and timely administrative services through the responsible use of AI. This cooperation with IPOS will bring together the experience and expertise of both Offices, thereby contributing to the enhancement and advancement of patent examination. In turn, it will support the promotion of innovation in both countries.”

The cooperation will extend beyond AI, reflecting the longstanding partnership between both Offices to deepen collaboration across various fields. These include patent search and examination quality management, benchmarking of examination practices, IT infrastructure development, operational management and IP policy exchanges. Both Offices will also coordinate initiatives to support enterprises, including SMEs, to ensure a vibrant IP ecosystem for trade and IP flows between Singapore and Japan.

Through this partnership, IPOS and JPO reaffirm their shared commitment to addressing emerging challenges in IP landscape and ensuring that innovation ecosystems remain trusted, efficient and future-ready. Both Offices also looked forward to continuing engagement through platforms such as IP Week @ SG.