

ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation Plus (ASPEC+) Programme

An initiative by the participating

IP Offices in ASEAN



ONE VISION ONE IDENTITY ONE COMMUNITY

1. What is the ASPEC Plus (ASPEC+) Programme

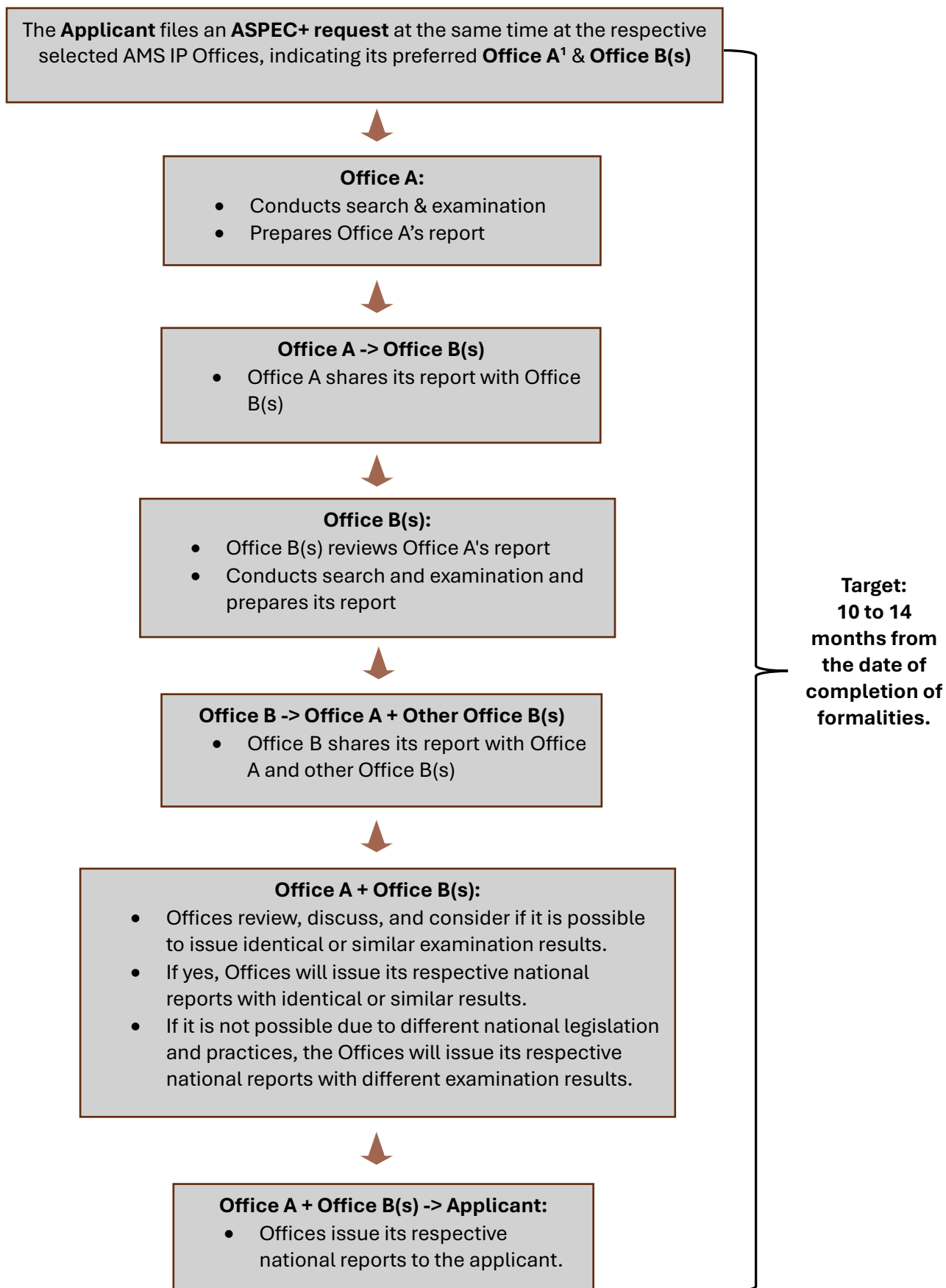
- 1.1 The ASPEC+ programme is a new option offered under the existing ASEAN Patent Examination Co-operation (ASPEC) programme, launched on **6 April 2026**.
- 1.2 The 9 participating ASEAN Member States (“AMS”) Offices are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- 1.3 As compared to the regular ASPEC programme which operates sequentially - where a first AMS IP Office report is submitted to the second AMS IP Office to accelerate the patent examination process - the ASPEC+ programme sees multiple AMS IP Offices **work collaboratively** to deliver its **respective first office actions within committed timelines**.
- 1.4 Through this collaborative approach, the Offices will contribute expertise to the prior art search and examination process and endeavour to **issue identical or similar examination results where possible**. Each office retains its responsibility to issue examination results in accordance with its national legislation and practices, with no obligation to conform to other offices' findings.

2. Main Features and Benefits

- 2.1 **Flexible office selection** choose AMS IP Offices based on your market priorities.
- 2.2 **Receive the first office action within 10 to 14 months¹** from your selected AMS IP Offices, providing early certainty on the status of multiple patent applications in ASEAN.
- 2.3 **Benefit from enhanced search and examination results** through an exchange of expertise between the selected Offices.
- 2.4 **Possibility of identical or similar examination results** from your selected Offices.
- 2.5 **Optimise patent prosecution effort, time and resources** by preparing simultaneous responses to identical or similar examination results, where possible.
- 2.6 **Benefit from increasingly more consistent examination standards** across ASEAN over time, reducing complexity for businesses expanding into multiple markets in the region.

¹ Depending on the complexity of the patent application.

3. How it works - An overview



¹ Please note Malaysia is not applicable as Office A, but can be selected as Office B.

4. Eligibility criteria

4.1 Your ASPEC+ request² must meet all of the following requirements:

- a) The request is filed at the respective selected AMS IP Offices for applications with either (i) a new search and examination request / substantive examination request, or (ii) a pending search and examination request / substantive examination request where no office action or report has been issued. Official search and examination fees must have been paid at the respective selected AMS IP Offices.
- b) The request is made for corresponding applications, i.e., the applications claim priority to each other, share a priority claim, or are national phase entries of the same PCT application.
- c) The request is made for applications with identical claim sets or claim sets that sufficiently correspond to each other.
- d) A request form is submitted giving consent for the selected AMS IP Offices to exchange patent application information and documents.
- e) The request fulfils the local representative or address for service requirements in accordance with the respective national laws of the selected AMS IP Offices.
- f) If a deficiency related to the search and examination request / substantive examination request, ASPEC+ request form, and/or claim correspondence table is raised, the applicant must respond to the deficiency within the timelines imposed by the respective selected AMS IP Offices. Failure to respond on time will result in exclusion from the programme.

5. How to apply

5.1 If the request meets the above criteria, you can proceed to apply for the ASPEC+ programme at no additional fee.

5.2 The applicant is required to submit a completed ASPEC+ request form at the same time at each selected AMS IP Office.

- a) For an application with a new search and examination request / substantive examination request, please submit the ASPEC+ request form and search and examination request / substantive examination request through the regular filing mode at the selected AMS IP Office(s).
- b) For an application with a pending search and examination request / substantive examination request, where no office action or report has been issued, please email the ASPEC+ request form to the focal points of the selected AMS IP Office(s) listed in Paragraph 6.

² Please note the Philippines does not accept ASPEC+ requests for pharmaceutical patent applications and Malaysia does not accept ASPEC+ requests for divisional applications.

- c) For both 5.2 (a) and (b), the ASPEC+ request form shall be accompanied by a claim correspondence table.

5.3 For both 5.2 (a) and (b), to expedite processing of the ASPEC+ request, you may wish to notify the ASPEC secretariat at PT_acceleration@ipos.gov.sg with the ASPEC+ request form and claim correspondence table.

6. Contact us

For enquiries relating to the ASPEC+ programme in the respective countries, kindly contact the following:

Country	Email
Brunei Darussalam	enquiries@bruipo.gov.bn patents@bruipo.gov.bn
Cambodia	riensvay@gmail.com Heng.arunkakda@gmail.com
Indonesia	fnarpati@gmail.com nandie92@yahoo.com rifan_fikri@yahoo.co.uk hanhanrei@gmail.com
Lao PDR	s.solasin@gmail.com dip.laopdr@gmail.com chanthalungsypoky9@gmail.com
Malaysia	aspec@myipo.gov.my
Philippines	aspec@ipophl.gov.ph
Singapore (ASPEC Secretariat)	PT_acceleration@ipos.gov.sg
Thailand	aspec@ipthailand.go.th narumol.dip@gmail.com wichitra.phl@gmail.com paphitchaya.dip@gmail.com Sup.c@outlook.com santipong.erc@gmail.com Kodchakon.nam@gmail.com
Viet Nam	daonguyen@ipvietnam.gov.vn khoanguyen76@gmail.com phuongvt2229@gmail.com hient1211@gmail.com trankieumyhumg@gmail.com