ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC)

A regional work-sharing initiative by participating IP Offices in ASEAN

ONE VISION ONE IDENTITY ONE COMMUNITY
What it is

The ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC) is a regional patent work-sharing programme among 9 participating IP Offices. They are from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

How it helps

By using an earlier search and examination report issued by another participating IP Office, you can:

• Accelerate examination in all other participating IP offices
• Obtain higher chance of patent grant

Key features

Fast-track patenting process in the 9 participating IP Offices in ASEAN\(^1\)

Operates in English. To provide translation when required.

ASPEC requests may be made manually or electronically through the
• ASEAN IP Portal\(^2\), or
• the designated Offices’ electronic portal

One common form with no additional fee\(^3\)

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1: Available at [www.aseanip.org](http://www.aseanip.org)
2: Subject to national patent laws
3: Subject to the ASPEC Document Submission Guideline
From 15 June 2021, written opinion is an acceptable search and examination result for all participating AMS IP Offices except the IP Office of Thailand. Written opinion refers to a non-final assessment of the novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability of the claimed invention that is issued by participating AMS IP Offices. Examples of names of “written opinion” used in AMS are “written opinion” in Brunei, Singapore and the Philippines, and “adverse report” in Malaysia.

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5: International Preliminary Examination Report/Written Opinions established by International Searching Authority or International Preliminary Authority (ISA/IPEA) in ASEAN. Currently, the IP Offices of the Philippines and Singapore are ISAs/IPEAs in ASEAN.

6: Applicants should indicate in the ASPEC Form the specific initiatives they are applying for. This helps monitoring of these requests in the subsequent IP Office.
### Participating IP Offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participating IP Offices</th>
<th>Contact Details for Enquiries</th>
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</table>
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities for All

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