Intellectual Property

Cambodia and Singapore Signs MOU on Industrial Property Cooperation

Cambodia’s Ministry of Industry and Handicraft (“MIH”) and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (“IPOS”) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) in Singapore on 20 January 2015 during the Cambodia’s Senior Minister, Minister of Industry and Handicraft two-day mission in Singapore from 19 to 20 January 2015. The MOU will strengthen the cooperation between Cambodia and Singapore in terms of industrial property protection and align the two countries’ IP regimes.

The MOU aims to simplify and ease the IP protection application process for businesses and inventors having interest in both countries, including the harmonization of procedures and forms for offices in both countries and allowing: (i) the patent search and examination reports form IPOS and patents; and (ii) industrial designs filed with IPOS, to be recognised in Cambodia. Under the MOU, IPOS will recognise patents granted at MIH for which IPOS acts as the searching and examining authority, and will also recognise industrial designs registered at MIH. In addition, the MOU re-assures the on-going patent work-sharing programs such as the ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (“ASPEC”) as well as emphasizes the exchange of best practice, experience and knowledge on IP administration and protection between both countries. However, the detailed frameworks between the MIH and IPOS under this MOU are yet to become available.

By way of background, MIH was established by the Royal Decree No. NS/RK/1213/08 dated 06 December 2013. MIH is in charge of the administration, development and promotion of industries and handicrafts in Cambodia, including industrial property, small and medium enterprises, and innovation. IPOS is a statutory board under the Ministry of Law of Singapore and is also a leading government agency that advises on and administers IP laws, promotes IP awareness and provides the infrastructure to facilitate the development of IP in Singapore.
CLIENT UPDATE
2015 FEBRUARY

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