





## A INTRODUCTION

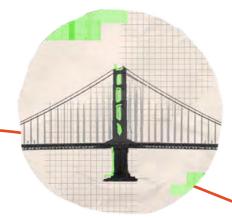
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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

**Dr Stanley Lai, SC**Chairman, IPOS

Emerging technologies, geopolitical shifts, and the rise of nationalism and protectionism are reshaping the way we live and interact with one another as well as challenging the way we create, define, recognise, and exploit innovation. There has not been a more important time for us to enable innovators to leverage, protect, and enforce their creations and intangible assets (IA) effectively.

This year, IPOS has continued to implement programmes under the Singapore IP Strategy (SIPS) 2030 to address emerging trends in the intellectual property (IP) world and ensure Singapore's continued pre-eminence as a global IP hub.



#### IA FINANCING

We implemented initiatives that will help enterprises monetise, value, and collateralise their IA/IP in order to generate more cashflow.

Together with our IP, business, and financial partners, we have developed a draft Intangibles Disclosure Framework to help businesses identify and disclose their intangibles.

We also began work on developing credible and internationally acceptable IA valuation standards as they are important enablers of IA transactions and monetisation, which in turn support innovation and business growth.

IPOS and its partners worked with the International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC) to establish IVSC's first office outside Europe in Singapore to drive advocacy efforts, thought leadership, and promote the adoption of international IA valuation standards in Asia. IVSC is an independent global body responsible for international valuation standards which are used extensively throughout the world.

By developing credible and internationally acceptable IA valuation standards as a long-term strategic initiative, we aspire to secure Singapore's continued significance as a global IP and financial hub.

#### DISPUTE RESOLUTION HUB

The economic centre of gravity is shifting to Asia.
As more businesses look to manage their growth into Asia, Singapore's position as a leading technology and IP dispute resolution hub will continue to grow.

To ensure a comprehensive suite of international IP dispute resolution services to meet different business needs, we rolled out the Revised Enhanced Mediation Promotion Scheme (REMPS) to encourage enterprises to choose mediation as a speedier, more cost-effective solution to resolve IP disputes.

For the first time, IPOS has also compiled a list of Singapore-based expert witnesses to assist in various proceedings relating to technology and IP disputes. We hope that this will serve as an efficacious resource for lawyers and their clients in the years to come.

#### **CONCLUSION**

As the global social, economic, and political landscape evolves, the IP ecosystem must continue to evolve, innovate, and empower innovators to use IP for growth. IPOS is committed to play its part to support all stakeholders and partners.

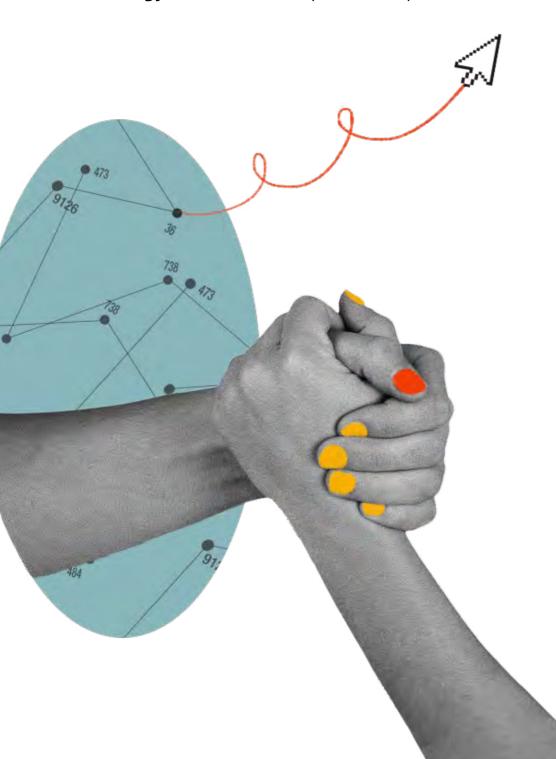
I thank all our stakeholders and partners across the government, financial, legal, and business sectors for coming alongside to journey with us and helping to make Singapore a global IP hub where technologists, inventors, and innovative enterprises can thrive.



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE

Mrs Rena Lee Chief Executive, IPOS

2022 was an exciting year as IPOS continued to strengthen its capabilities as a Registrar through technology innovation and partnerships.



#### STRENGTHENING DIGITAL CONNECTIONS

We launched the IPOS Digital Hub (IDH) to make it easier, faster, and more convenient for customers to file and manage their intellectual property (IP) online. Users can take advantage of a more user-friendly interface as well as new automated and computerassisted decision-making features to file their IP faster. More improvements are in the pipeline.

The launch of IDH happened alongside updates to our IP regulatory framework through the Intellectual Property (Amendment) Act 2022 which set out key process changes to help improve business-friendliness, operational efficiency of our IP processes, as well as provide legislative and procedural clarity.

#### **BUILDING BRIDGES**

We continued to expand our global networks through partnerships and events. Together with the IP office of Vietnam, we launched the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)'s first Collaborative Search and Examination (CS&E) Programme to speed up the patent search and examination process as well as patent protection in both countries.

IPOS also strengthened collaboration between IP offices in ASEAN when we held our 14<sup>th</sup> Community of Practice in IP. Over 40 delegates came together to share best practices, exchange knowledge on digital transformation, and discuss ways to improve IP cooperation in ASEAN.

Our annual flagship event, IP Week @ SG, also returned to a fully physical format and saw global experts, industry leaders, and stakeholders discuss latest issues in the IP world.

IPOS rolled out a series of initiatives to help innovators and businesses manage their IP. This included a guide to protecting and managing trade secrets and a programme with the World Intellectual property Organization (WIPO) to mentor enterprises.

We also reached out to the next generation of youth innovators and business leaders. Together with the National Youth Council of Singapore, IPOS ran a campaign involving well known social media influencers like Benjamin Kheng during World IP Day 2022 to help youth understand what IP is, and how to protect and use it.

We also partnered WIPO to establish the Singapore chapter of the Inventor Assistance Programme (IAP) to help young inventors navigate the patent system and build a strategy to turn their innovations into commercial assets.

#### CONCLUSION

Nurturing our innovation system is a long-term sustained effort which will require all hands on deck.

I am grateful for all our innovation partners and staff who are on this journey with us and share IPOS' vision to create a Singapore where innovative enterprises use intangible assets to grow.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

\*Accurate to 31 March 2023

CLICK HERE TO SEE UPDATED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Dr Stanley LAI

Chairman

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore

Partner and Head of IP Practice

Allen & Gledhill LLP

## Mr Nicky TAN

Deputy Chairman

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore

Chief Executive Officer

nTan Corporate Advisory Pte Ltd

## Mr Ali Ijaz AHMAD

Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer

Makara Capital Partners Pte Ltd

## Ms Usha CHANDRADAS

Co-Founder
(Plu)ral Art LLP

## Mr Edgar HARDLESS

Chief Executive Officer
Singtel Innov8

## Mrs Rena LEE

**Chief Executive** 

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore

## Professor Susanna LEONG

Vice Provost, Masters' Programmes and Lifelong Education and Dean, School of Continuing and Lifelong Education

National University of Singapore

## Mr LIM Der Shing

Co-Founder and Partner
AngelCentral Pte Ltd

## Dr LIM Jui

Chief Executive Officer
Singapore Innovate Pte Ltd

## Mr Calvin PHUA

Deputy Secretary Ministry of Law

## Mr TAN Pei-En

Divisional Director, Planning Division

Ministry of Education

#### Mr Ted TAN

**Enterprise Fellow** 

**Enterprise Singapore** 

## Ms Lorraine Anne TAY

Joint Managing Partner and Head of IP Group Bird & Bird ATMD LLP

## **Mr Eric TEO**

Adjunct Associate Professor, Nanyang Business School

Nanyang Technological University

#### Ms Winnie THAM

**Director** Amica Law LLC





## SENIOR MANAGEMENT

\*Accurate to 31 March 2023

#### Mrs Rena LEE

Chief Executive / Registrar

## Mr WOO Yew Chung

Assistant Chief Executive,
Corporate

### Mr KOK Kitt-Wai

Managing Director, IPOS International

**Director**, IP Academy

Director,

Business Development

**IPOS** International

#### **Dr Bernard ONG**

Group Director,
Policy & Engagement

### Ms Adeline CHANG

**Director**, Finance

## Ms CHIAM Lu Lin

**Principal Consultant,** IPOS

#### Ms Trina HA

**Director**, Legal

#### Mr Alvin HANG

**Director,**Media & Communications

#### Mr Mark LIM

**Director**, Hearings & Meditation

#### Mr CHEW Chin Yao

**Director**,
Information Technology

## Ms ONG Lay See

**Director**, Human Capital

## Ms Isabelle TAN

**Director**, Registry of Trade Marks, Registry of Geographical Indications

## Ms Manda TAY

**Director**, Strategic Planning & Policy

## Ms Carol WONG

*Head,* Internal Audit

## Ms Sharmaine WU

**Director,**Registries Of Patents,
Designs & Plant Varieties

## Mr Alfred YIP

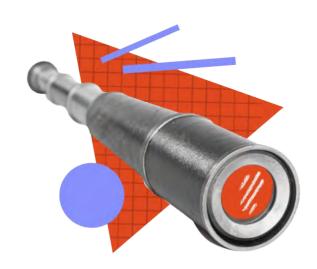
Director,
Patent Search,
Examination & Analytics
IPOS International





# CORPORATE PROFILE

IPOS helps businesses use intellectual property (IP) and intangible assets (IA) to grow. We are committed to building Singapore into an international hub for IA and IP to drive Singapore's future growth. We are a government agency under the Ministry of Law.



## **OUR VISION**

A Singapore where innovative enterprises use IA to grow.



## **OUR MISSION**

We use our IP expertise and networks to drive Singapore's future growth.



## **OUR VALUES**

Integrity, Professionalism, Teamwork, People-focused.



## OUR CORPORATE TAGLINE

Ideas Today. Assets Tomorrow.

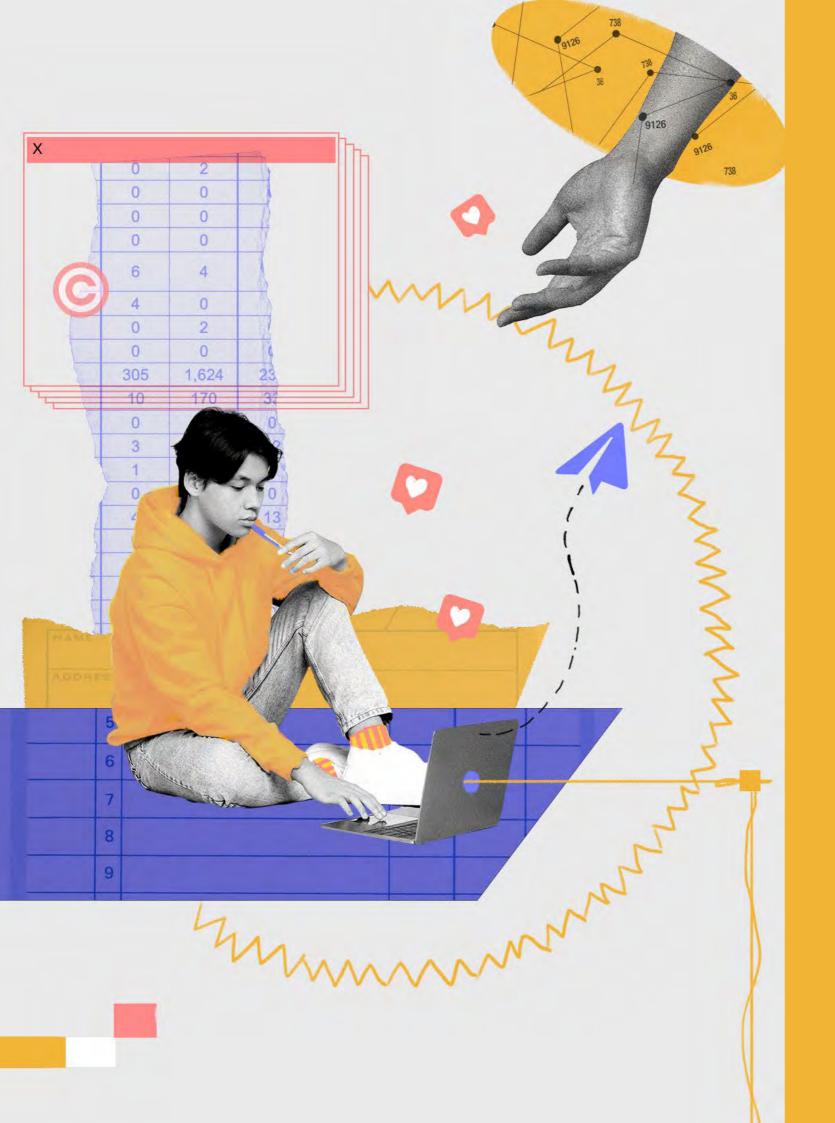


## OUR SUBSIDIARY – IPOS INTERNATIONAL

IPOS INTERNATIONAL is a wholly owned subsidiary of IPOS, housing over 100 IP experts in areas such as IP strategy and management, patent search and analysis, and IP education and training.



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## CONNECTING YOUTH TO THE WORLD OF IP

UNDERSTANDING

Intellectual property (IP) can seem like a daunting topic, especially for youth. But in a world where youth make a living on social media and venture out as entrepreneurs, IP could not be more important.

Recognising this global trend, IPOS rolled out various initiatives to make IP more accessible, easily understood, and relevant to youth.



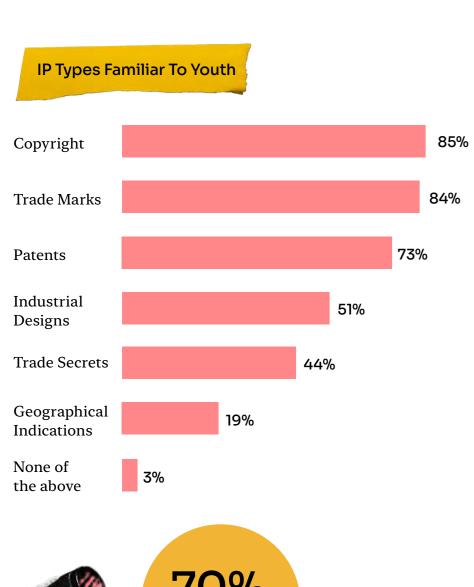
OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS



## Understanding the Gaps

IPOS and the National Youth Council (NYC) jointly conducted 'The Singapore IP and Youth Survey' to better understand the intellectual property (IP) knowledge gaps of our youth.

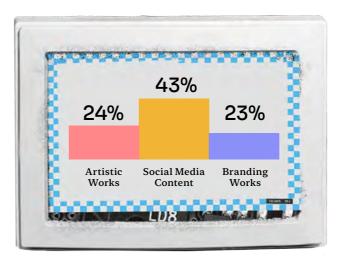
Hear what the youth of Singapore have to say about IP in this survey that reached out to 1000 respondents, aged 16-34 years old.





67% of youth create content, with most

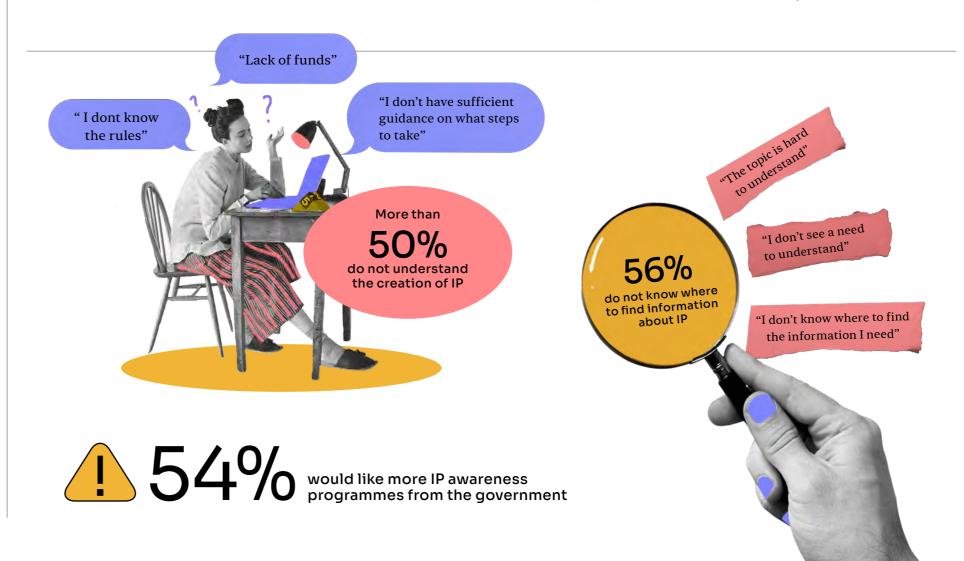
youth creating:



67% of youth have not protected their content

#### **TOP REASONS:**

- I did not think it was worth enough to protect
- I do not know how to protect IP
- I don't think IP is relevant or useful for my work





## Celebrating IP and Youth on World IP Day 2022

Social Media Highlights

A livestream Q&A collaboration with Benjamin Cheong, a lawyer with extensive experience in commercial IP, and live streamer Denise Teo (*supercatkei*) on Twitch.

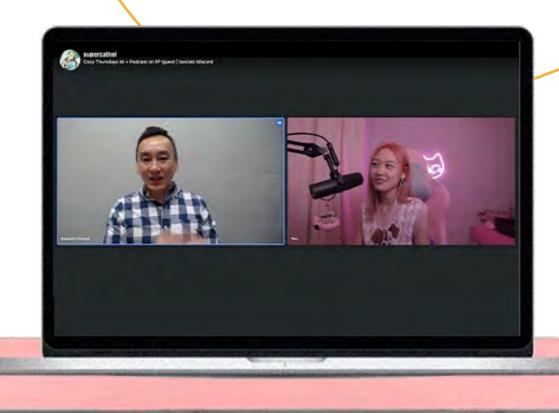
World Intellectual Property (IP) Day is celebrated around the world every year on 26 April to raise awareness on the importance of IP. 2022 was dedicated to youth with the theme 'IP and Youth: Innovating For A Better Future'.

IPOS ran a social media campaign and organised a panel discussion at \*SCAPE with youth influencers to unpack the relevance and importance of IP for youth creators and entrepreneurs.

2

Local youth influencers on Instagram share about their IP journeys.

CLICK ON THE IMAGE TO VIEW THE POSTS  $_{\chi_{\star}}$ 









Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry Of Trade and Industry



Content creator Benjamin Kheng, and entrepreneur Louis Liu, who is the founder and CEO of FOMO Pay Pte Ltd shared about their intellectual property (IP) journeys and tips on protecting IP.





Co-Deputy Head, Technology, Media and Telecommunications Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP



Musician, Actor, Writer, Director



Co-Host/Co-Founder of podcast 'Randomly Relatable SG'



## Inventor Assistance Programme

IPOS also launched the Inventor Assistance Programme (IAP) to help young inventors transform their innovations into commercial assets. The programme matches selected beneficiaries with a volunteer patent attorney or agent to help them navigate the patent system.

At the launch event held on February 2023, local entrepreneurs shared their experiences on using intellectual property (IP) with aspiring innovators.

FIND OUT MORE



Co-founder of Crunch Cutlery



GAVRIEL TAN

Co-founder of Altimate Nutrition

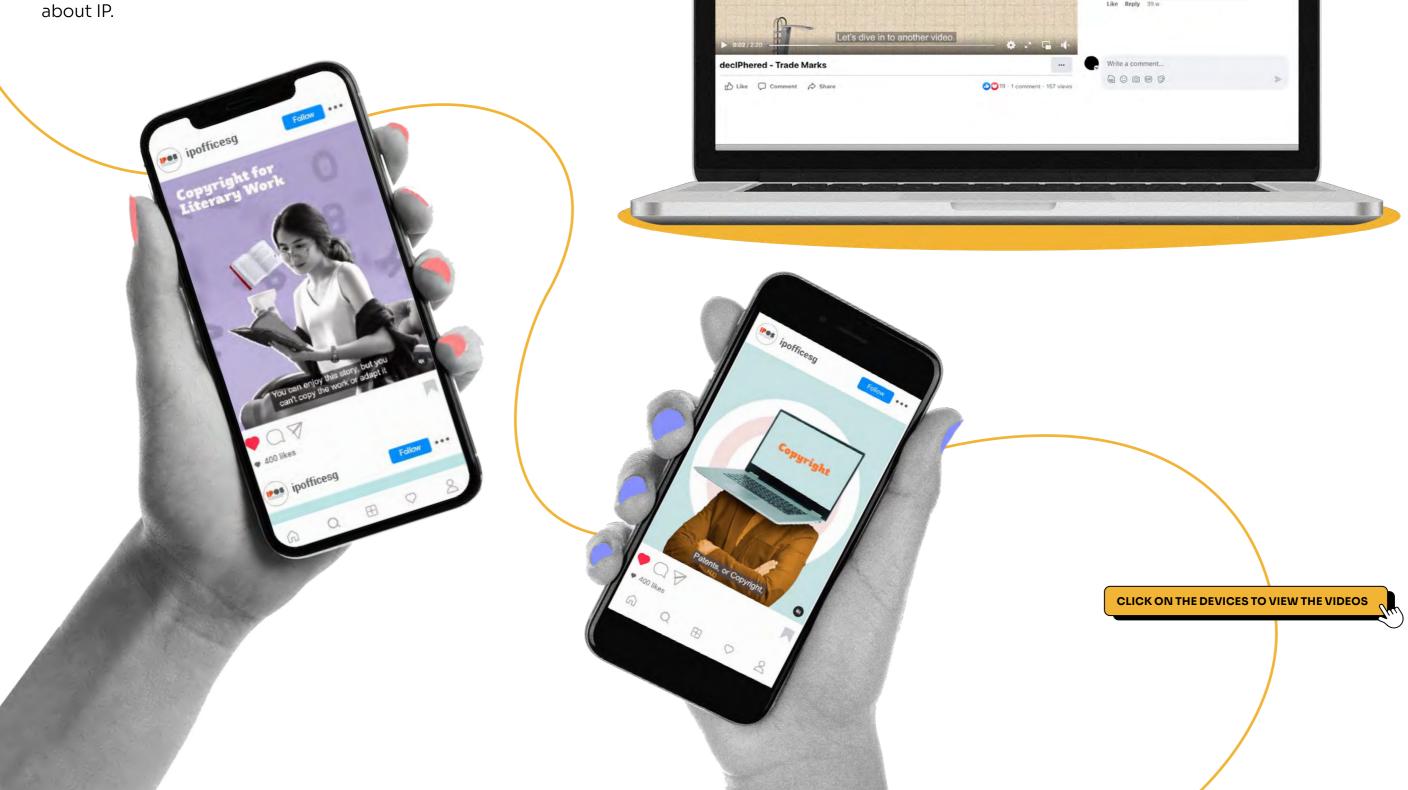


Chief Researcher of igloocompany



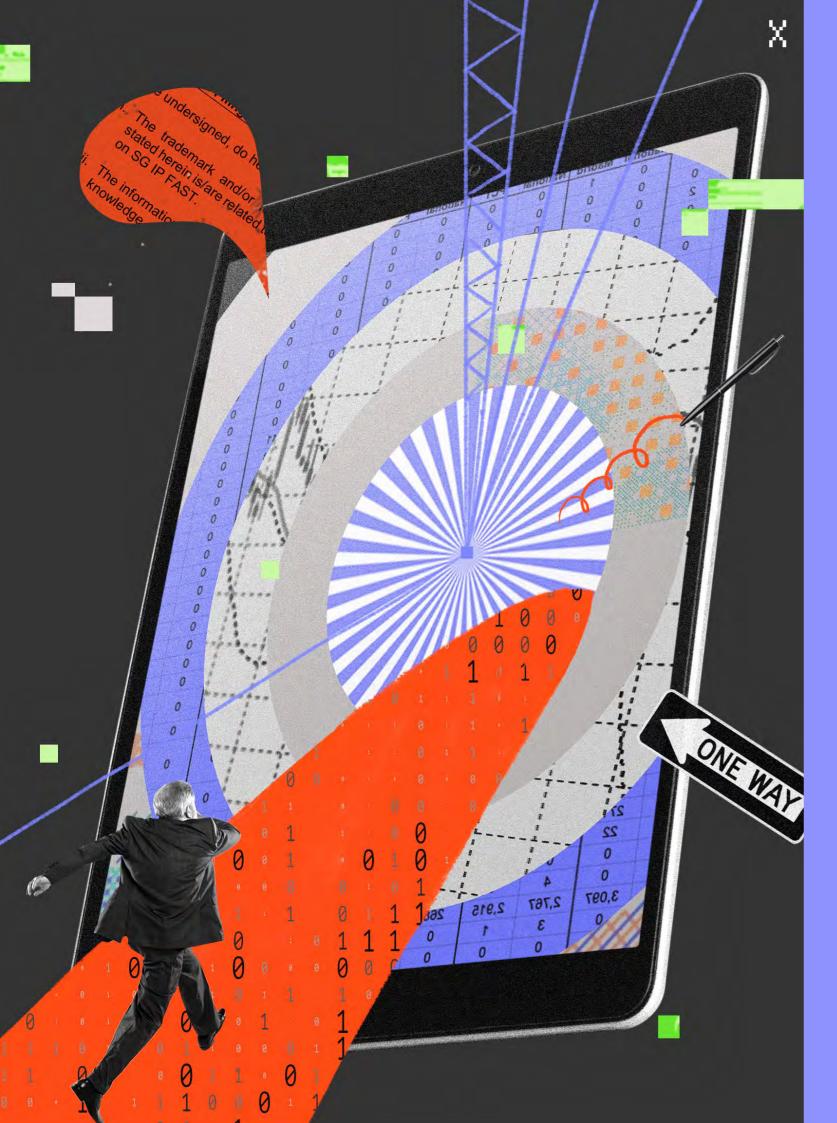
## Other Social Media Campaigns

IPOS also ran social media campaigns throughout the year to demystify intellectual property (IP) for youth and enterprises and encourage them to find out more about IP



DÈCIPHERED:





# STRENGTHENING DIGITAL CONNECTIONS

Launched on 2 June 2022, IPOS Digital Hub has replaced the now decommissioned IP<sup>2</sup>SG as IPOS' e-service portal for a simpler, smarter, and seamless IP journey. We also enhanced the IPOS Go Mobile App.



# **Benefits of Enhanced**

## **Digital Systems**

## **SMARTER**

## **INTELLIGENT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) SEARCH**

- Suggests search fields as you type
- Uses artificial intelligence (AI) to conduct similar mark search for images
- Offers comprehensive list of search fields

Q Search...



**QUICK LINKS** 

Access filing documents, common forms, and key functions as soon as you login.

**STEP-BY-STEP TIPS** 

Key actions at each stage of the IP registration process.

**AUTOMATED NOTIFICATIONS** 

Keeps you updated of the status of your applications, including approvals and follow-up actions.

## **SEAMLESS**

IP PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

Gives a bird's eye view of all your IP, filing history, current IP applications and deadlines. 2 IPOS GO MOBILE

Register your trade marks and designs, perform IP renewals, and manage your IP portfolio on the go.

(PLUS!) BRAND SEARCH

Find the perfect brand name on our mobile app with a 4-in-1 search function for business names, trade marks, domain names, and social media usernames.

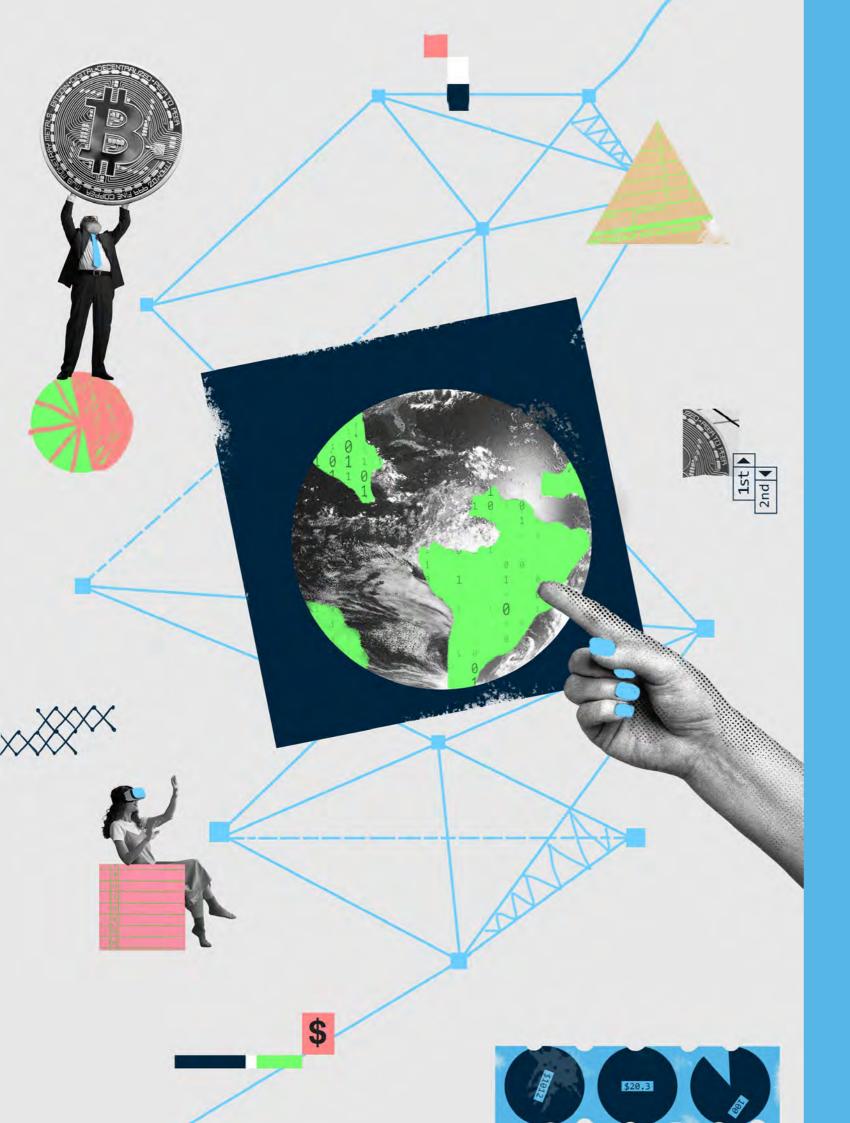
MORE ENHANCEMENTS ARE **COMING YOUR WAY!** 

CLICK HERE TO STAY UPDATED



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## **BRINGING THE IP WORLD** TOGETHER

IP Week @ SG 2022 saw a return of the full-scale physical event with over 4,500 participants from more than 60 countries.

## IP Week @ SG 2022

The event brought together leaders of intellectual property (IP) offices from the US, China, Japan, and Philippines who shared insights on how professional bodies and international organisations might work together to better harness intangible assets (IA) for business growth.

Industry leaders discussed the role of IP in trending topics such as non-fungible tokens (NFTs), Cryptocurrencies, and The Metaverse.

HELD FROM
6-7 SEPTEMBER 2022

Keynote IP Leaders' Plenary Charting our Future with IP

CONVENTION CENTRE







# WIPO-IPOS IP for Innovation Awards

The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the WIPO-IPOS IP for Innovation Awards took place at the event, where finalists and winners were evaluated on their ability to achieve outstanding growth using their intangible assets (IA) and intellectual property (IP).



## WIPO-IPOS IP For Innovation Award

DBS Bank Ltd Flexxon Pte Ltd MatchMove Pay Pte Ltd Vivo Surgical Pte Ltd

## **Users' Trophy**

MediaTek (Singapore) Pte Ltd

## WIPO Enterprise Trophy

Flexxon Pte Ltd







## Flexxon Pte Ltd

A global company headquartered in Singapore, Flexxon specialises in producing state of the art hardware cybersecurity solutions. Their flagship product, the X-PHY, utilises artificial intelligence (AI) to detect behavioural anomalies and prevent critical data loss.

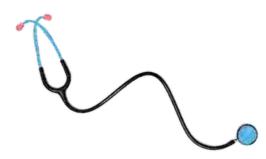


"We are deeply honoured to receive the overall winner's award and the WIPO-IPOS IP for Innovation Award this year and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the other winners as well. These awards serve as a strong vote of confidence not only for the genuine impact of the X-PHY, but also as a testament to the commercial value of a carefully calibrated intellectual property (IP) strategy in growing our business from the innovation hub of Singapore across the globe."



## Vivo Surgical Pte Ltd

A medical device company based in Singapore, Vivo Surgical is in the process of developing a disposable surgical robot and has already successfully created other medical devices to enhance surgical procedures in operating theatres.



"Intangible assets (IA) and IP are strategic components of our business as they have enabled us to engage with top health systems around the world to co-develop as well as implement our technologies. Our innovative IA and IP have also established our credibility in the eyes of our partners, distributors, as well as end customers."







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dings for Nice Classification, 11 uary 2022 to 31 December 2022

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## BUILDING BRIDGES

From developing intangibles assets (IA) financing to enhancing intellectual property (IP) dispute resolution services and cooperation between IP offices, IPOS continued to build bridges in 2022 to support enterprises, strengthen the global IP ecosystem, and promote global innovation.



## IA Valuation to Help Enterprises Monetise Their IP

IPOS worked on initiatives that would help enterprises monetise and collateralise their intangible assets (IA) and intellectual property (IP) to generate cashflow.

Together with our IP, business, and financial partners, IPOS developed a draft IA disclosure framework to help enterprises identify and communicate details of their intangibles. This will improve market transparency and open up more avenues for enterprises to commercialise and monetise their IA.

A public consultation for the framework was jointly launched in December 2022 by the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) and IPOS to seek views, especially from the accounting, valuation, legal, and finance sectors.

IPOS also worked with the International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC) to establish IVSC's first office outside Europe in Singapore to drive its advocacy efforts and promote the adoption of international IA valuation standards in Asia. IVSC is an independent global body responsible for international valuation standards, which are used extensively throughout the world.





# **Enhanced Dispute Resolution Services**

As the economic centre of gravity shifts to Asia and more businesses look to manage their growth through Singapore, demand for technology and intellectual property (IP) dispute resolution services is expected to rise.

To ensure a comprehensive suite of international IP dispute resolution services to meet business needs, IPOS launched the Revised Enhanced Mediation Promotion Scheme (REMPS) to encourage enterprises to choose mediation as a speedier and more cost-effective solution.

Enterprises can now also tap on a list of Singapore-based expert witnesses to assist in technology and IP disputes.

Every year, the Registrar of Trade Marks presides over technology and IP disputes between enterprises. Here are a few notable cases:



#### OF BABIES AND BAD FAITH

This dispute involved two consolidated trade mark opposition actions commenced by a French company, BEABA, against a Chinese company, Biba Nursing Products Co., Ltd's application to register "BEABA" in Classes 5 (for baby food, babies' diaper-pants, and other goods) and 16 (for paper, stationery, and related products). As the competing marks had a very high degree of similarity and the circumstances justified a

finding that the applications had been made in bad faith, the opposition succeeded on the ground of bad faith for Classes 5 and 16. Therefore, both applications were refused.



#### "THINK DIFFERENT"



APPLI

### "TICK DIFFERENT"



SWATCH



#### **COMPARING APPLES TO APPLES**

Apple overcame an opposition to successfully register the mark "THINK DIFFERENT" in Class 9 for, among other things, smartwatches. This application was opposed by Swatch (registered proprietor of the "Tick different" trade mark in Singapore) on grounds that the application was made in bad faith. Swatch made various arguments in this vein, including that: (a) Apple had no intention to use the mark

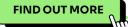
in Singapore; and (b) Apple intended to use the mark as a tool to stop others from applying for, registering, or using any two-word expression with "different" as the second word. However, the evidence did not support these allegations.

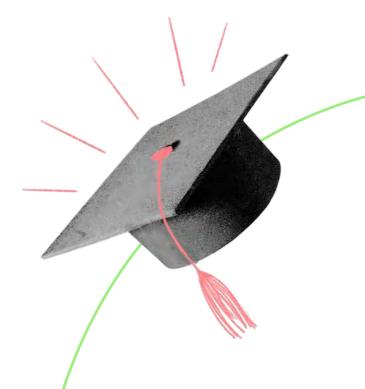


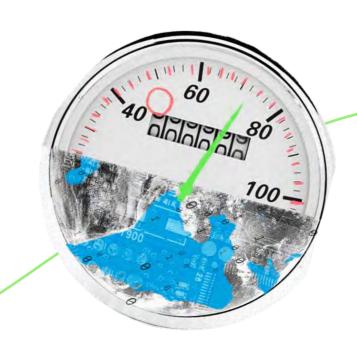


# Faster Processing for Enterprises Filing Patent Applications in Singapore and Vietnam

IPOS and the Intellectual Property Office of Viet Nam (IP Viet Nam) established a Collaborative Search and Examination (CS&E) programme, a first in ASEAN, to accelerate patent protection in Singapore and Vietnam. The programme enhances the patent application process for applicants who wish to file patent applications in both countries. The pilot programme will run from 1 March 2023 to 28 February 2025.







## IP Mentorship Gives Enterprises a Leg Up

IPOS provides resources, information, and services to help enterprises maximise the use of their intangible assets (IA).

In 2023, IPOS launched a Mentorship for Intangible Asset Transformation (MINT) Programme with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to provide local enterprises with one-on-one mentorship, training, and networking opportunities to help them better use IA for growth.

MINT is supported by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG), and the Singapore Business Federation (SBF).

Enterprises gained insights from a panel of experts curated by WIPO on how to better leverage their IA to support their entrepreneurial activities more effectively and strategically.



# Strengthening the Global IP Ecosystem

IPOS worked with various regional and professional bodies as well as intellectual property (IP) organisations in 2022 to strengthen the global IP ecosystem.

## 1 PRO

## PROMOTING IP COOPERATION IN ASEAN

With Southeast Asia slated to be the fourth largest economy in the world by 2030, creating a pro-business environment underpinned by intangible assets (IA) and IP will be key in promoting regional economic growth. IPOS continued to promote IP cooperation across Southeast Asia to catalyse business activity and innovation.

Over 40 international delegates congregated at IPOS to share best practices, exchange insights on digital transformation, and enhance IP collaboration at the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Community of Practice (CoP) in IP.

IPOS also hosted the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)-ASEAN IT Business Strategy Workshop on Government Digital Services where ASEAN IP offices discussed how emerging technologies can help them deliver better services faster. Delegates had a chance to learn about what other countries were doing to transform their IP offices.



## COLLABORATING WITH GLOBAL IP OFFICES

IPOS collaborated with various IP bodies including the Swiss Federal Institute of IP (IPI) and China IP Training Centre (CIPTC) to enhance bilateral cooperation in IP commercialisation, training, and exchanges in frontier technologies; and promote IP education and talent development.



IPOS and the Asia Pacific Institute of Experts (APIEx) will promote and train technical and valuation experts for IP and technology disputes. The partnership will raise awareness of the role, relevance, and importance of experts in the field of IA.



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## 167 Registrations J, 100 43,798 31,005 11,060 43,661 1,778 12,145 26,676 11,487 35,933 2,024 4,102 12,566 4,132 5,051

# BY THE NUMBERS

# Global Innovation Index 2022

Singapore moved up a spot to be the 7<sup>th</sup> most innovative nation out of 132 economies in the 2022 Global Innovation Index (GII) by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The 2022 edition of the GII tracked and ranked the most innovative economies in the world against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging challenges.

Several indicators were used to determine the overall ranking, of which Singapore continued to perform well in.



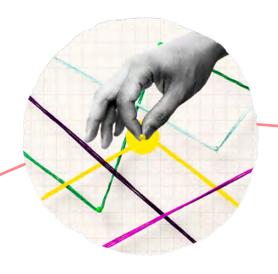
## Institutions

2022	<b>]</b> st
2021	]st



#### Infrastructure

2022	11 <sup>th</sup>
2021	15 <sup>th</sup>







## **Business Sophistication**

2022	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2021	3 <sup>rd</sup>

Human Capital & Research

202	2 2 <sup>nd</sup>
2021	3 <sup>rd</sup>

## Market Sophistication

2022	4 <sup>th</sup>
2021	5 <sup>th</sup>

The findings revealed that local businesses are investing more in R&D and innovation, and that innovation linkages, such as university-industry R&D collaborations, are getting stronger.

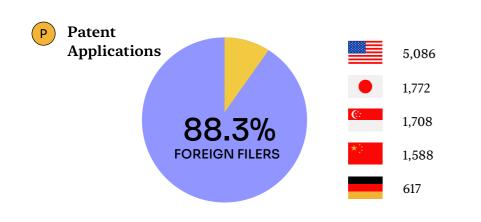


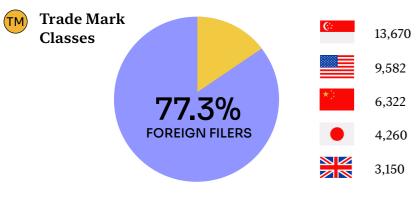
## Singapore IP Filings & Insights

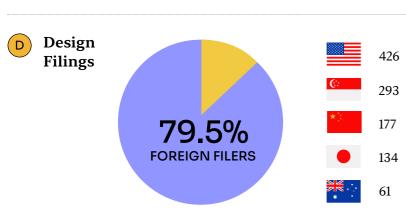
### HIGH FOREIGN FILINGS

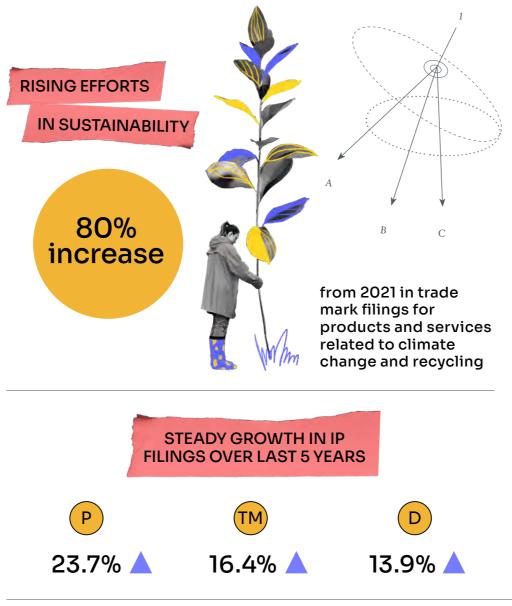
As a global intellectual property (IP) hub, Singapore continues to see the majority of IP filings coming from foreign-based innovators and enterprises.

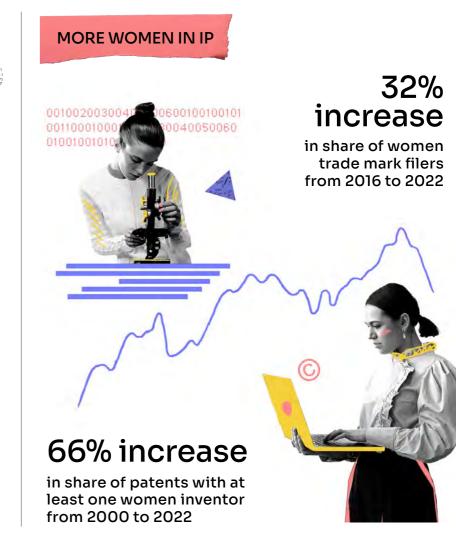
TOP 5 COUNTRIES











## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2022, **Patent Prosecution Highway**(**PPH**) applications
continued to see:



High grant rate
(>90%) with about
70% of applications
granted at the first

office action

First office actions issued in as fast as **6 months** 

Final decisions issued in as fast as 8 months

ACCELERATE YOUR PATENT PROCESS WITH THIS AND OTHER IPOS PROGRAMMES







