



GETTING A PIECE OF THE GLOBAL PIE

**“You can say this for ready-mixes – the next generation isn’t going to have any trouble making pies exactly like mother used to make.”
– Earl Wilson**

Having Your Pie and Eating It

IP is very much an international issue. In many ways, it has been the driving force behind the rapid spread of global business. To ensure that Singapore enjoys a credible piece of the growing IP pie, IPOS maintains a dynamic role and keeps abreast of worldwide IP developments through active involvement and contribution at a wide variety of IP fora and events. For FY 03, Singapore continued to play host to many international events to facilitate exchange of information and networking opportunities for businesses and IP practitioners.

Negotiating Bilateral Agreements

IPOS has been actively leading the negotiations for the IP chapters of the Korea-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, Pacific Three Free Trade Agreement (between Chile, New Zealand and Singapore), the India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement and the Jordan-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. Preparations for potential bilateral agreements with countries such as Sri Lanka, China, Canada and Mexico are also in progress.

Representing Singapore and IPOS at Regional and International Fora

Our officers regularly attend key meetings and conferences on various IP issues at WIPO, ASEAN, APEC, the World Trade Organisation and other international and regional fora. These include meetings of the ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation, the APEC Intellectual Property Experts Group, International Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties Council meeting and the WIPO standing committees on Trade Marks, Patents and Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. Our officers are also engaged in on-going discussions at the Standing Committee of Copyright and Related Rights in relation to Broadcasters' protection and Audio Visual Performers' protection.

In FY 03, IPOS co-organised with the European Patent Office, the first ever Europe-Asia Heads of

Intellectual Property Offices Conference at the Carlton Hotel. IPOS also participated in the 125th International Trademark Attorneys Association annual conference, held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, from 3 to 7 May 2003.



Sharing experiences in Indonesia.

Sharing Our Experience on Trade Marks

Our officers were invited by WIPO to share on Singapore's experience in implementing the Madrid Protocol system for the international protection of trade marks at two regional workshops. They were the WIPO Asia Pacific Sub-Regional workshop on the Benefits of the Madrid and Hague Systems for Developing Countries held in Jakarta from 21 to 23 October 2003, and the WIPO Asia Pacific Regional workshop on the Economic Benefits of protection of Trade Marks, Brand Names and the Role of International Protection Systems held in Bangkok from 2 to 4 March 2004.

The work of our Committee on International Classification of Goods and Services (ICGS) was also endorsed by WIPO through its selection of the Singapore Office as its representative to train the Directorate General of IP Rights, Indonesia, on ICGS matters during the National Workshop on the Classification of Trademarks for Goods and Services held in Jakarta from 12 to 16 January 2004.



Sealing deals at GFL2003.

Global Franchising and Licensing Fair 2003

Held from 17 to 19 September 2003 at Suntec Singapore, Global Franchising & Licensing Fair (GFL2003) was the region's most definitive event representing Asia's knowledge-based economy – a prominent and specialised licensing show which attracted more than 10,000 discerning business representatives from the region. IPOS was a supporting organisation at GFL2003.

IP & Technology Exploitation Forum 2003 (IP-TEF)

IPOS chaired a session on IP during the IP-TEF on 30 October 2003 organised by the Nanyang Technological University. This forum highlighted

pertinent issues and challenges in bringing technology to market in IP protection, valuation, portfolio management and technology transfer.

MOU Signed Between IPOS and EPO

On 20 November 2003, IPOS and the European Patent Office jointly concluded a Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral co-operation for 2004 – 2006 aimed at fortifying both parties' existing co-operation arrangements on IP.

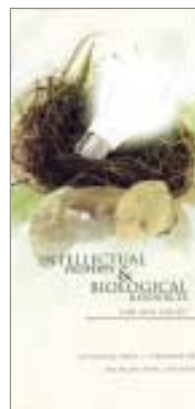


Protection of Plant Varieties

A seminar on the Protection of New Plant Varieties under the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plant or the UPOV Convention was held at IPOS from 20 to 21 November 2003. The event was co-organised by IPOS and the UPOV Union, with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. IPOS took the opportunity to introduce our proposed new plant variety laws to the public.

Intellectual Property and Biological Resources

The IP and Biological Resources Conference was launched on 1 December 2003 at the Pan Pacific Singapore by Senior Minister of State for Law & Home Affairs, Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee. The first of its kind held in Singapore, the conference was jointly organised by the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law of the National University of Singapore, the Intellectual Property Academy, IPOS and the Singapore Academy of Law.



Featuring 14 distinguished speakers, including international practitioners, academics, policy decision-makers and IP professionals from around the world, valuable views on topics surrounding IP and Bio-resources were exchanged.

Anti-Piracy Summit

On 5 December 2003, the Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia held an anti-piracy

summit as part of the Asia Media Festival organised by the Media Development Authority at Shangri-La Rasa Sentosa Resort.

IPOS' Director-General delivered the keynote address at the summit and gave an update on Singapore's anti-piracy efforts so far. In addition, she announced some of the measures and programmes to be put in place to further strengthen our IP regime moving forward.

Studying China

Our Director-General and two other officers went on a study visit to China from 9 to 11 February 2004. Hosted by the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of the People's Republic of China, the visit included calls on various Chinese IP administrative agencies, as well as sessions conducted by the Beijing University giving the officers a better understanding of the IP administration in China.

The highlight of the trip was the signing of two MOUs between SIPO and IPOS, and between Singapore's IP Academy and China's equivalent training centre, China Intellectual Property Training Centre, to facilitate stronger ties and future collaboration between the two countries in relation to IP.



Making Sense of Patent Information

IPOS, in collaboration with the European Patent Office, organised for the second time the Europe-Asia Patent Information Conference (EAPIC II) on 4 and 5 March 2004. Held at The Oriental hotel, EAPIC II was attended by more than 80 delegates from around the world.

Regional National IP Offices, leading patent information service providers and a total of seven distinguished speakers shared their valuable experiences on the effective use of patent information through a series of lectures and panel discussions.