

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 ASEAN¹



Operates in **English**. To provide translation when required.



ASPEC requests may be made manually or electronically through the

- ASEAN IP Portal², or
- the designated Offices' electronic portal



One common form with **no additional fee**³

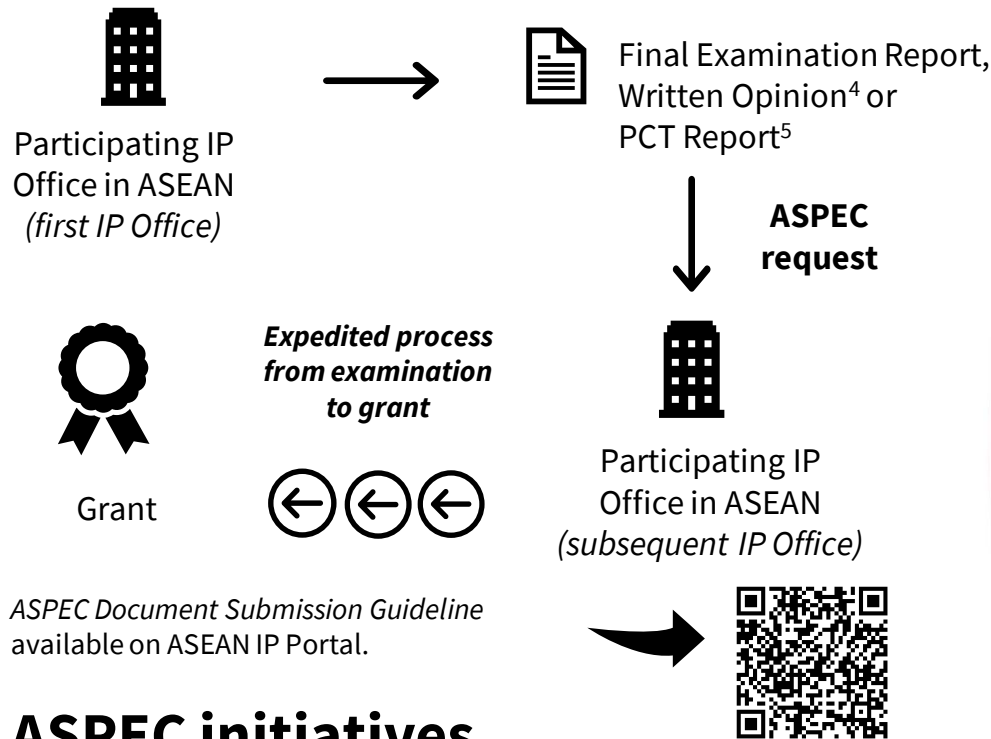
1: Available at www.aseanip.org

Electronic ASPEC filing is applicable for IP Offices of Singapore and Viet Nam. For more information on the acceptable filing modes and domestic requirements in the respective Offices, please refer to Annex B of the *ASPEC Document Submission Guideline*

2: Subject to national patent laws

3: Subject to the *ASPEC Document Submission Guideline*

ASPEC process



ASPEC initiatives

ASPEC AIM

(ASPEC Acceleration for Industry 4.0 Infrastructure and Manufacturing)

From 27 Aug 2019 to 26 Aug 2025

- First office action to be issued **within 6 months**
- Prioritise **Industry 4.0** patent applications
- Cap of 50 applications per year
- Use of same ASPEC Form⁶, **no additional fee**

PCT-ASPEC

(Patent Cooperation Treaty-ASPEC)

From 27 Aug 2019 to 26 Aug 2025

- Use of **PCT reports/written opinions established by ASEAN ISA/IPEA²**
- Cap of 100 applications per year
- Use of same ASPEC Form⁶, **no additional fee**

4: 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.

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.

Need more information?

Participating IP Offices	Contact Details for Enquiries
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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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