

## Editorial

Patent application filings worldwide have experienced significantly decreasing in 2020 from the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact influenced companies to tighten their intellectual property budgets, increase in abandoned applications, shifting examiners to remote work affect productivity in patent prosecutions, and other evolving challenges.

Although the pandemic triggered disruption to the global economy. After the rate of infections steadily dropped in 2021, numbers of IP filings became robust recovery of in many parts of the world. To drive forward national and global growth, entrepreneurship has been increasing confidence and utilizing technology, innovation and digitalization to drive growth. According to the official statistic of the Department Of Intellectual Property, the number of patent application filings in Thailand has shown fast recovery and got a turbo-boost from the year 2020. It reached the highest number of patent filing in the Thai history since 1979 (*Patent fever: How Thai inventions soared during Covid-19, March 7, 2023, [www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40025476](http://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40025476)*). Currently, Thailand ranked the 3<sup>rd</sup> among ASEAN Countries and ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in the Global Innovation Index (GII) of WIPO. The official statistic reveals growth and hope us to a sustainable and truly social recovery that leap to the new era of creativity and economic uplift this year.

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### 1. Thailand showcases new tech at regional awards

*(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, January 11, 2023)*

**Thailand** – The Association of Thai ICT Industry (ATCI) said the country has the potential to develop its own innovations and technologies to serve digital transformation and create differences while reducing dependence on imported tech. Members of the ATCI comprise computer hardware and software manufacturers, distributors and service providers, representing more than 80% of the local ICT market. Thailand also was third out of 16 countries at the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Awards (Apicta) 2022 in terms of the number of tech projects winning awards. Meanwhile, eight leading private and state organizations also won awards from the Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (Asocio) for their IT technologies that can empower organizations and users. A total of 24 countries are in the organization.

## **2. Yala durian registered as GI product Designation expected to give a boost to sales and exports of unique fruit**

*(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, February 8, 2023)*

**Thailand** – A type of durian unique to the southern border province of Yala has been given official geographical indication (GI) designation. The Intellectual Property Department announced the registration of “durian sadet nam Yala” in line with a government policy to strengthen the community-level economy and generate income for small-scale farmers. The GI designation is hoped to spur export of Thai fruits to foreign markets, particularly China and Malaysia. The fruit sells for as much as 190 baht per kilogram. It generates as much as 2.8 billion baht a year for local growers and related businesses. It grows well in hilly areas 100 metres above sea level and higher and can be harvested between July and September.

## **3. Foreigners set to invest B100bn this year**

*(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, February 24, 2023)*

**Thailand** – The Commerce Ministry is confident about Thailand’s foreign investment prospects, forecasting a minimum of 100 billion baht in inflows this year. It is supported by the country being fully open in both of tourism and investment, as well as anticipated expansion of production bases in Thailand by international firms, particularly industries of electric vehicles manufacturing, agriculture, food, bio-technology, tourism, health and various digital businesses. In January, 52 foreign investors were granted permission to invest in businesses under the Foreign Business Act of 1999, with a combined investment of 5.12 billion baht.

## **4. Patent fever: How Thai inventions soared during Covid-19**

*(From [www.nationthailand.com](http://www.nationthailand.com), March 7, 2023)*

**Bangkok** – The creativity of inventors in Thailand got a turbo-boost from Covid-19, according to official data. The number of patent applications soared from 5,430 in 2020 to 7,903 in 2021, and 8,431 in 2022. Applications for intellectual property – such as trademarks and formulas – averaged over 60,000 per year. In 2020, a total of 66,580 applications were filed, up 2.21% from the year before. Those figures dropped slightly in 2021 and 2022, to 61,984 and 60,082 applications respectively. Applications for product design patents stayed roughly the same level across the three years, at 5,430, 5,452 and 5,231.

## **5. Japanese firms vow to stay in Thailand**

*(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, March 15, 2023)*

**Bangkok** – The Japan Business Federation, known as Keidanren, and chairman of the Japan-Thailand Trade and economic Committee, met with Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit to reaffirm their continuing of investment and using Thailand as a key production base and raw material supply chain, especially for the food industry. Mr. Jurin also encouraged Japanese investors to ramp up their outlays in the government's flagship Eastern Economic Corridor and existing special economic zones. "Thailand is aiming for 2% growth in exports to Japan this year", he added. Japan was Thailand's third-largest trading partner (after China and the US) in 2022, with a bilateral trade value of US\$59.3 billion, down 2.30% year-on-year.

## **6. Unlicensed animal food plant raided**

*(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, March 15, 2023)*

**Bangkok** – The Department of Livestock Development (DLD) has cracked down on an unlicensed factory that produces and distributed animal food and medications in Bangkok and confiscated over 100 items worth in excess of 50 million baht. The DLD's Cyber Unit, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Consumer Protection Police Division (CPPI) followed complaints on social media about an unlicensed animal food and drug factory being illegally operated in Bangkok. Since online shopping has popularity, the DLD needs to check social networks for substandard animal food as it could be contaminated with ractopamine, toxic heavy metals or some latent disease, as well as exaggerated advertisement.

## **7. Pact with Japan to bolster trade and investment**

*(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, March 17, 2023)*

**Bangkok** – The Japan Business Federation signed a memorandum of understanding with the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) to strengthen trade, investment and economic cooperation between Japan and Thailand. According to the Federation of Thai Industries and JSCCIB, the two parties vow to explore more opportunities for cooperation, collaboration and agreed to promote regular exchanges of economic, trade and business information and entrepreneurial expertise. At the leadership level, both countries agreed to elevate their relationship from a strategic partnership to a comprehensive one, resulting in increased cooperation in many areas.

## **8. Thailand to sue Chinese factories producing fake jasmine rice**

*(From [www.nationthailand.com](http://www.nationthailand.com), March 18, 2023)*

**Bangkok** – The Department of Foreign Trade (DFT) is ready to sue three Chinese rice producers for allegedly manufacturing fake Thai jasmine rice. The department received complaints from Thai rice exporters that these mills were adding artificial fragrance to imitate the signature aroma of Thai “hom mali” or jasmine rice. The department had alerted Beijing and the three factories had been shut. The authorities have reportedly found that the factories violated several other laws related to food safety, product quality and advertising. There is no record of these factories ever importing rice from Thailand. Last year, Thailand exported 142,146 tonnes of jasmine rice valued at 3.99 billion baht to China, up from 3.46 billion baht earned in 2021.

## **9. Thai Northeast braces for boom as China-Laos passenger railway opens**

*(From [www.nationthailand.com](http://www.nationthailand.com), April 18, 2023)*

**Nong Khai province**– Passengers boarded the first train from China’s Kunming in Yunnan province to Lao capital of Vientiane on April 13. Nong Khai and neighboring northeastern province are set to benefit after the Laos-China high-speed railway launched cross-border passenger services. The new gateway is expected to bring an influx of tourists and investment to Nong Khai and surrounding provinces. The private sector in Nong Khai has already benefited from the Laos-China railway freight services, which have helped boost employment and new business opportunities in the area. The railway will eventually extend through Thailand to Singapore as part of Beijing’s Belt and Road project to link China with the rest of Southeast Asia.

## **10. First quarter new business registrations dominated by real estate, restaurants**

*(From [www.nationthailand.com](http://www.nationthailand.com), April 19, 2023)*

**Bangkok** – Last month alone, there were more than 9,179 new business registrations with a combined capital investment of nearly 300 billion baht. Data from the Department of Business Development showed real estate as the top sector with 752 new business registrations, accounting for 8%, followed by construction with 699 registrations, accounting for 7%, and restaurant/hotel with 440 registrations, accounting for 5%. There were 26,182 new business registrations, an increase of 17% year on year. It is estimated that the number of newly registered businesses in the first half of the year will be around 40,000-42,000 and about 72,000-77,000 for this year.