

S&I International Bangkok Office Company Ltd.

<http://www.siasia.co.th>

IP News No. 187, September 2023

Editorial

Myanmar has made a new progress on IPRs protection by enacting of the Industrial Design Law (“*Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 2/2019*”) which will be enforced approximately in October 2023. The English translation of the law is available at https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/project/myanmar/028/materials/ku57pq00003sxp77-att/industrial_design_en.pdf.

For an Industrial Design to be registrable under this new law, it must be domestically and internationally novel. The right of priority could be claimed within six months from the priority date if the applicant is in any countries of WTO members. The examination will be formality examination only. Once there is no opposition, the design application will be granted and obtained the protection for 5 years with two successive 5-year renewals. Therefore, the total maximum term is 15 years. The Copyright Law is also expected to be passed at the same time of the Design law. We shall continue to provide the date of enforcement and further updates once a notification of rule and regulation is issued. Under these new legal frameworks, we hope the country can encourage domestic innovation and foreign investment which are essential for economic growth.

Apapan S. Milde

Patent Attorney

1. China EVs eye Thai auto mart

(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, July 11, 2023)

Thailand – Thailand’s Siam Motor partnered with Nissan Motors since 1962 that transformed the company from a car dealer to an automotive pioneer. Today, the Thai family-owned group is seeking new partnerships with several Chinese automakers about potential partnerships, particularly for high-end electric vehicles. The move reflects a rapid shift underway in Thailand, where Chinese investments worth \$1.44 billion since 2020 – including by BYD and Great Wall Motor. China surpassed Japan as Thailand’s top foreign investor last year, boosted by BYD’s investment in a new plant set to start up in 2024. By 2030, Thailand aims to convert around 30% of its annual production of 2.5 million vehicles into EVs with ambitions to become the main regional production hub.

2. Anutin calls on Thai pharma industry to aim high at regional expo

(From www.nationthailand.com, July 12, 2023)

Thailand – Thailand runs the region’s largest exhibition of “CPHI South East Asia 2023” to showcase pharmaceutical technologies, solutions and packaging. The expo gives Thai manufacturers the opportunity to broaden their network and build connections in both public and private sectors. Under the theme “At the Heart of Pharma”, it showcases more than 390 pharmaceutical companies and expects to attract 8,000-plus visitors. The talk sessions and discussions aim to inspire new ideas and share updates on industry trends, rules and regulations related to pharmaceutical product registration, technologies, research on Thai herbs, and how to commercialise and increase economic value from research findings.

3. Ajinomoto develops clean and Mosaic Disease-free cassava stems, aiming to promote the sustainable productivity of Thai farmers

(From www.nationthailand.com, July 13, 2023)

Bangkok – FD Green (Thailand) Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of Ajinomoto Thailand, has successfully developed the preparation of clean and Mosaic Disease-free cassava stems that will effectively reduce risk and prevent the spread of cassava Mosaic disease in Thailand. The company has delivered the qualified cassava stems to Asia Modified Starch company and King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi to test the effectiveness before distribution to farmers in next year. This will be a part of the sustainable cultivation while boosting productivity through using of clean and high-quality cassava stems.

4. North of Thailand showcased as global MICE destination for tea, coffee

(From www.nationthailand.com, July 13, 2023)

Thailand – Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) is working to make the northern provinces of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai international centres for tea and coffee. It implements three major projects, firstly, to expand creative economy and local community products by sponsoring events the “World Tea and Coffee Expo” for two years running. The second is to assist communities with the potential markets and destinations. The third will combine business travel marketing with creative MICE concepts to develop new routes and related products. Capacity-building initiatives will be implemented to link farmers in the North and producers from outside to make upper Thailand a center of tea and coffee production, trade, investment and business travel.

5. Japan, Thailand wrap up more GI registrations

(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, July 24, 2023)

Bangkok – Thailand has successfully registered geographical indication (GI) for Doi Chang coffee and Doi Tung coffee in Japan, while Japan has registered GI for Tajima beef and Kagoshima beef in Thailand. Thailand is currently ranked 4th among coffee exporters in Asean and 24th in the world. In the past year, Thailand exported coffee to Japan worth 36 million baht. There are 189 Thai GI-registered products in various categories, such as food, agricultural products and appliances. There are now eight Thai products in 32 countries with GI registration where the Department of Intellectual Property aims to expand trade opportunities for agricultural products and promote identity and culture that generate income for local communities.

6. FTI launches recycling project for businesses

(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, July 24, 2023)

Bangkok – The Federation of Thailand Industries (FTI) has joined with two state agencies to work on project to turn industrial and agricultural waste into raw materials or new products in a move to reduce waste under the circular economy concept. The National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) signed a memorandum of understanding on the project with the FTI and the Department of Industrial Works. The department also will issue regulations to support better waste disposal and increase business operational efficiency. The FTI also cooperates with Thailand Science Research and Innovation to give financial support to waste reduction projects under the FTI's Innovation One program which is in line with BCG and campaigns against global warming.

7. Agency urges upgrading coffee production, branding

(From Bangkok Post, Thailand, August 17, 2023)

Bangkok – The Trade Policy and Strategy Office revealed its study that found coffee exports are increasing by 7.7% year-on-year in the first half of this year. Last year, Thailand produced 18,689 tonnes of coffee, including 9,135 tonnes of the arabica variety, mainly grown in the North. Some 9,554 tonnes of the robusta varieties were largely produced in the South. Key coffee bean export markets included Japan (21.8%), Cambodia (19.1%), the US (12.2%), Singapore (11.6%) and Canada (5.21%). The office advised Thailand to establish centralized processing and distribution centres across various regions and develop brands, technologies and value-added processes to upgrade to specialty coffee.

8. Thailand now has 36 smart cities in 25 provinces

(From www.nationthailand.com, August 21, 2023)

Bangkok – The government has named 36 towns or municipalities in 25 provinces “smart-cities”. To get a “smart city” tag, towns/municipalities are expected to have at least one of the following criteria: smart telecom, smart energy, smart living, smart industry and retail, smart mobility, smart environment and smart healthcare. From November 22 to 24, the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (depa) will hold a “Thailand Smart City Expo” to bring all sectors together to integrate their input and cooperation to build smart cities around the country. The expo would feature technologies and innovations from 300 leading firms.

9. Takeover of G Steel, unit fails to inspire

(From [Bangkok Post, Thailand](#), August 22, 2023)

Bangkok – G Steel Plc (GSTEEL) and its subsidiary GJ Steel Plc (GJS) have both reported continuous financial losses since Nippon Steel took over the majority of shares 18 months ago. The book value of G Steel fell by 59% to 0.09 per share and the company recorded a net loss of more than 2.5 billion baht, while the book value of GJ Steel fell by 23.8% to 0.48 per share and the company recorded a net loss of more than 3.6 billion baht. Despite the statement issued by Nippon Steel Group about investment in a steel plant in Thailand to support the demand for hot-rolled steel in the market, their value of sales still declined in the first half of 2023. A large part of their losses was attributed to machinery being idle.

10. Thailand-Pacific Alliance FTA benefits GDP and trade

(From www.nationthailand.com, August 23, 2023)

Bangkok – The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Pacific Alliance (PA) has raised Thailand’s gross domestic product (GDP) by 0.04% and boosted trade by 16.75%, benefiting various Thai exports, according to the Department of Trade Negotiations. Thailand currently has FTA with Chile and Peru. The PA is the world’s 8th largest combined economy, representing 36% of Latin America’s GDP and a population of over 225 million. In 2022, trade between Thailand and the PA was valued at 6.24 billion. Key exported items included cars, car parts, canned and processed seafood, laundry machines, and rubber products. Key imported items include various non-metallic minerals, fresh, chilled, and frozen aquatic animals, paper and paperboard, teakwood, processed wood products, and plant-based products.