

Bills Committee on the Patents (Amendment) Bill 2015

Patent application statistics in selected economies

Purpose

At the meeting on 22 December 2015, the Government was requested to provide the following information -

- (i) the patent filing statistics of Singapore following the setting up of the “original grant” patent (“OGP”) system in 1995; and
- (ii) the causes for the decrease in the total count of patent applications filed in Brunei Darussalam in 2012 (31 applications) and 2013 (35 applications) comparing to the same in previous years upon the setting up of its OGP system in 2012, and for the drastic increase in the total count of applications filed in 2014 (117 applications).

2. This paper provides the information sought.

Patent filing statistics of Singapore from 1995 to 2014

3. **Annex** sets out the annual patent filing statistics of Singapore since the implementation of its OGP system in 1995 up to 2014.¹ Same as in the earlier paper LC Paper No. CB(1)334/15-16(01), the statistics in Annex comprise the total count of patent applications² as well as the total count and percentage of resident applications.³

¹ The statistics are retrieved from the World Intellectual Property Organization (“WIPO”) IP Statistics Data Centre. While this database by now generally contains the global statistical data for the period from 1980 to 2014, there is no statistics available for Singapore about its patent filing volume after the mid-1980 up to 1994 before the setting up of its own OGP system in 1995.

² The total count of patent applications is the sum of the count of “direct applications” and the count of “national phase entries of PCT applications” filed with the patent office in Singapore. In this connection,
(a) “direct applications” refers to applications directly filed with the patent office; and
(b) “national phase entries of PCT applications” refers to those patent applications filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (“PCT”) that have entered the national phase before the patent office in Singapore.

³ Resident applications refer to patent applications (both direct applications and national phase entries of PCT applications) filed with the patent office in Singapore by applicants residing in Singapore.

4. Apart from a marked overall increase in the annual patent filing volume (from 2 557 in 1995 to 10 312 in 2014) in Singapore over the 20-year period since the implementation of its OGP system, one can observe a gradual increase in the proportion of resident applications (from 5.7% in 1995 to 12.6% in 2014) and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of non-resident applications (from 94.3% in 1995 to 87.4% in 2014).⁴

Patent filings in the post-OGP regime of Brunei

5. In respect of the relatively low patent filings in 2012 and 2013 following implementation of the OGP system in 2012, we are unable to identify any underlying reason based on the limited information and materials available to us.

6. On the other hand, as regards the remarkable increase of patent filing volume from 2013 to 2014, it has been reported⁵ that the Brunei Intellectual Property Office attributed such increase partly to the increase of public awareness of IP in Brunei and the results of the Government's efforts in conducting a comprehensive public awareness campaign.

Presentation

7. Members are invited to note the information provided in this paper.

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Intellectual Property Department
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⁴ There were some fluctuations during the period, i.e. there was a sharp rise in the total annual number of patent applications from 2 557 in 1995 to 12 581 in 1996 which was then dropped to about a half, i.e. 6 336 in 1997, whereas the percentage of resident applications decreased from 5.7% (in 1995) to 1.8% (in 1996) and then increased to 4.5% (in 1997).

⁵ See the report dated 26 April 2015 from the Brunei Times at <http://www.bt.com.bn/news-national/2015/04/26/brunei%E2%80%99s-ip-protection-need-surgin>.

Annual Statistics on Patent Applications in Singapore (1995-2014)

Year	Total count of patent applications	Count of resident applications (percentage)	Count of non-resident applications (percentage)
1986 - 1994	N/A	N/A	N/A
1995	2 557	145 (5.7%)	2 412 (94.3%)
1996	12 581	224 (1.8%)	12 357 (98.2%)
1997	6 336	288 (4.5%)	6 048 (95.5%)
1998	6 678	311 (4.7%)	6 367 (95.3%)
1999	7 053	374(5.3%)	6 679 (94.7%)
2000	8 236	516 (6.3%)	7 720 (93.7%)
2001	8 656	523 (6.0%)	8 133 (94.0%)
2002	8 199	624 (7.6%)	7 575 (92.4%)
2003	7 874	626 (8.0%)	7 248 (92.0%)
2004	8 585	641 (7.5%)	7 944 (92.5%)
2005	8 605	569 (6.6%)	8 036 (93.4%)
2006	9 163	626 (6.8%)	8 537 (93.2%)
2007	9 951	696 (7.0%)	9 255 (93.0%)
2008	9 692	793 (8.2%)	8 899 (91.8%)
2009	8 736	750 (8.6%)	7 986 (91.4%)
2010	9 773	895 (9.2%)	8 878 (90.8%)
2011	9 794	1 056 (10.8%)	8 738 (89.2%)
2012	9 685	1 081 (11.2%)	8 604 (88.8%)
2013	9 722	1 143(11.8%)	8 579 (88.2%)
2014	10 312	1 303 (12.6%)	9 009 (87.4%)