APAA 2026 PATENT COMMITTEE REPORT – TAIWAN

1. Filing and Grant Statistics

		Year	
Numbers of Applications		2025	2026 (Sep., 2025-Aug., 2026)
Filed	Patent	51,230	53,133
	Utility Model	14,000	13,184
Granted	Patent	42,037	41,862
	Utility Model	13,727	12,727

In 2025, TIPO received a total of 71,965 patent applications including invention, utility model, and design applications, representing an approximately 1% decrease from the previous year (2024). Among them, invention patent applications (51,230) increased by 1%, while utility model (14,000) and design patent applications (6,735) declined by 4% and 8%, respectively.

Meanwhile, the average first action pendency for invention patent applications decreased from 8.4 months in 2024 to 8.0 months. These improvements in examination efficiency help enterprises obtain their rights more quickly to strengthen their industry IP portfolios.

2. Changes of Practice

2-1. Revisions to the Directions for Deferral of Substantive Examination of Invention and Design Patent Applications Took Effect January 1, 2026

In 2024, TIPO revised the "Directions for Deferral of Substantive Examination of Invention and Design Patent Applications," allowing re-examination and divisional applications for invention and design patents to also be eligible for deferral of substantive examination. To further address stakeholder feedback, TIPO again amended the Directions in 2025, extending the maximum deferral periods. This initiative aims to support applicants in patent portfolio development and commercialization by providing greater flexibility.

The key changes are as follows:

1. Applicants for invention patents may apply for deferral only once, and extending the maximum period for deferring substantive examination and specifying a date for its continuation from three years to five years.
2. Applicants for design patents may apply for deferral only once, and extending the maximum period for deferring substantive examination and specifying a date for its continuation from one year to two years.
3. The grounds under which the patent authority may dismiss an application for deferral or terminate the deferral process.

2-2. Streamlining Patent Applications: TIPO and USPTO Launch Electronic Exchange Program to Boost Efficiency in Global Patent Portfolio Development

The Taiwan Intellectual Property Office (TIPO) announced that the Taiwan–U.S. Priority Document Exchange (PDX) Program would officially launch on September 4, 2026.

TIPO stated that to improve efficiency in cross-border patent applications, patent offices worldwide are striving to foster cooperative initiatives. Since 2013, Taiwan has established PDX programs with Japan and South Korea. Through electronic

exchange of priority documents, applicants claiming priority are no longer required to submit paper copies, thereby simplifying the international claim process, reducing time and costs, and streamlining patent examination procedures.

TIPO further noted that the United States has consistently been the top destination for Taiwanese patent applicants seeking patent protection abroad, with around 20,000 applications filed annually. Conversely, American applicants submit approximately 7,000 patent applications to Taiwan each year, making the United States the second-largest source of foreign applications in Taiwan. The Taiwan-U.S. PDX program further simplifies patent application procedures in both jurisdictions and reflects Taiwan's continued efforts to expand patent examination cooperation with major patent offices worldwide. Under the program, priority documents may be exchanged electronically between the two offices upon an applicant's request, thereby significantly reducing the burden on applicants. The program will benefit applicants in Taiwan seeking patent protection in the U.S., while also facilitating patent filings by U.S. applicants in Taiwan.

2-3. Pilot Program for Accelerated Examination of Invention Patent Applications Filed by Female Applicants Extended for Another Year from July 1, 2026

TIPO launched the Pilot Program for Accelerated Examination of Invention Patent Applications Filed by Female Applicants on a one-year trial basis on July 1, 2025, with the initial trial period ending on June 30, 2026. During the trial period, the average time from filing an application to receiving the examination result was only 44.2 days, demonstrating the program's effectiveness.

To encourage greater participation by women in innovation and invention and help them obtain patent protection more quickly, TIPO evaluated its examination capacity and decided to extend the pilot program for another year, through June 30, 2027. All eligible applicants are welcome to take advantage of this program.

Program eligibility is as follows:

a. Applicants for the invention patent must all be natural persons and include a female applicant. The female applicant must be the inventor or one of the inventors, and the application for the pilot AEP must be filed by the female applicant.
b. The application must be filed on TIPO's electronic application system.
c. Taiwanese pilot AEP applicants must include their national ID number on their electronic application. Foreign applicants must include documentation of their identity (including gender) with their application.
d. The pilot AEP application can be filed after the notification for substantive examination is issued but before the first office action is issued.

TIPO shall process all eligible applications and issue an office action or grant the patent within six months of receiving the pilot AEP application.

2-4. TIPO-ILPO Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Program Commences January 2, 2026, to Facilitate Global

Patent Portfolios for Businesses

The Taiwan Intellectual Property Office (TIPO) and the Israel Patent Office (ILPO) jointly announced the official launch of the TIPO–ILPO Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) program on January 2, 2026. This collaboration makes Israel TIPO's eighth PPH partner.

The PPH mechanism enables the mutual utilization of search and examination results between both offices, eliminating the need for duplicative examination and significantly shortening patent prosecution timelines. This streamlined procedure reduces administrative costs and burdens for applicants. TIPO expects this initiative to help businesses gain a first-mover advantage in the market and strengthen the development of comprehensive global patent portfolios, providing a solid foundation for domestic industries to enhance their international competitive edge.

To facilitate implementation of the program, TIPO has established a dedicated "TIPO–ILPO PPH" section under "Patent Application / PPH" on its official website. This section provides detailed operational guidelines and a direct link to information on filing PPH requests with the ILPO.

2-5. TIPO Launched New Patent Annuity Reduction Policy: One-Time Application for Multi-Year Continuous Eligibility, Effective on January 1, 2026.

To improve administrative efficiency and simplify the application process, the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office (TIPO) has streamlined the procedures for applying for patent annuity reductions.

The new policy applies to two categories of patentees:

(1) domestic and foreign enterprises that meet the criteria set forth in the "Standards for Identifying Small and Medium-sized Enterprises," and

(2) foreign educational institutions accredited by the Ministry of Education. Under the revised procedures.

Patentees may now apply for patent annuity reductions when paying the patent certificate fee and the first-year annuity. Alternatively, after the patent right has been granted, they may submit a single "Patent Annuity Reduction Application Form" covering the second through sixth years. This streamlined procedure eliminates the need to submit annual applications, provided that the patentee continues to meet the eligibility requirements, thereby reducing administrative burdens and simplifying the application process.

TIPO reminds patentees that, while benefiting from these streamlined procedures, they remain responsible for providing truthful and accurate declarations. Once a fee reduction has been granted, patentees must verify their continued eligibility each year and pay the applicable reduced fees in accordance with the Regulations of Patent Fees. Failure to comply may result in additional fees calculated on a pro rata basis or, if the required fees are not paid in full, the lapse of patent rights.

2-6. TIPO Extends (AEPRe) pilots program for Another Year, Effective September 1, 2026

TIPO has extended the Accelerated Examination of Invention Patent Reexamination (AEPRe) pilot program for another year from September 1, 2026,

following positive results since its launch in September 1, 2024.

The AEPRe program applies to patent applications in which only certain claims were rejected during the initial examination. Applicants may amend the rejected claims in accordance with the examiner's findings and the scope deemed allowable, thereby qualifying for accelerated reexamination.

From September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2026, TIPO received 83 AEPRe applications. Among the 78 cases for which examination results were issued, the average processing time was only 24.5 days, significantly shorter than the 10–13 months typically required for ordinary reexamination cases.

In view of these positive results, TIPO decided to extend the pilot program for another year to help applicants obtain patent protection more quickly and facilitate the development of their patent portfolios.

2-7. Proactive Patent Examination Pilot Program for Startup Companies Extended for Another Year, Effective January 1, 2026

On January 5, 2021, TIPO launched the "Proactive Patent Examination Pilot Program for Startup Companies" to support startups in accelerating patent portfolio development and streamlining examination procedures. The initiative has since won broad acclaim from applicants and patent agents alike, prompting the pilot period to be extended for an additional year, starting January 1, 2026.

In 2025, the average duration from application filing to receiving the notice of examination results was only 66 days (2.2 months). This timeframe was significantly shorter than that of the standard invention patent examination route, effectively enabling startups to rapidly develop their patent portfolios.

The program is available to three categories of applicants:

(1) startup companies established for less than eight years;

(2) companies with innovative R&D capabilities that have received qualifying national awards within the preceding two years; and

(3) companies receiving guidance from organizations commissioned by TIPO under government technology development programs.

2-8. IPC Version 2026.01 Implementation: Effective Dates for New Patent Applications

The information regarding the 2026.01 edition of the International Patent Classification (IPC) is now available on TIPO's official website. Starting March 6, 2026, TIPO will classify all newly filed patent applications according to this updated edition. Consequently, the Patent Gazette and the Invention Publication Gazette will begin implementing the 2026.01 edition of IPC in their issues released on March 21 and May 16, 2026, respectively.

The updated IPC edition incorporates revisions to classification categories to reflect technological developments and improve the accuracy and consistency of patent classification. TIPO has made the updated classification materials and comparison tables available on its official website for applicants and patent practitioners.

2-9. Electronic Receipts for Official Fee Payments, Effective January 6, 2026

TIPO issued electronic receipts for all official fee payments. Applicants and patent agents who file and pay online can download their receipts directly. For other payment methods, TIPO provides an electronic receipt list with instructions for obtaining the receipts. Users without an e-filing account can scan the QR code and provide an email address to receive their receipts.

The change simplifies recordkeeping, reduces paper consumption, and facilitates the storage and sharing of payment records. TIPO also confirms that electronic receipts may be used as supporting documents for business expense reporting.

2-10. Taiwan's New Classification System for Green Technology Patent Applications, Effective September 2, 2026

Applicants filing invention or utility model patent applications may identify their inventions as green technologies by entering the relevant Y02 classification codes under the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) system in the application form.

The initiative covers technologies relating to climate change mitigation or adaptation, including energy conservation, new energy, new energy vehicles, carbon reduction, and resource conservation.

Following TIPO's review and confirmation, the classification information will appear with the application's publication or the patent's grant announcement.

This measure is intended to make green technology patents easier to identify and help businesses develop patent portfolios aligned with their sustainability objectives. Applicants working in these fields should consider the relevant Y02 classification when preparing their Taiwan applications.

Once reviewed and confirmed by TIPO, the relevant classification information will be included in the patent application publication or patent grant announcement.

3. Significant Court or Patent Office Decisions

N/A

4. Name of Contributor

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