

ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC)



Where can I obtain more information on ASPEC?

For more information, you may wish to refer to the ASPEC Notice and Procedures available at the respective AMS IP Offices' websites or the ASEAN IP Portal (<http://www.aseanip.org>).

Participating AMS IP Office	Participating AMS IP Office Website Address	Contact Details for ASPEC Enquiries
Brunei Darussalam	http://www.brunei-patents.com.bn/	+673 223 0111 ext 170
Cambodia	http://www.cambodiaip.gov.kh/	+855 23 218030
Indonesia	http://www.dgip.go.id/	+62 21 5790 5606
Lao PDR	http://www.aseanip.org/	+856 21 240784
Malaysia	http://www.myipo.gov.my/	+603 2299 8700
The Philippines	http://www.ipophil.gov.ph/	+632 238 6300 loc. 407
Singapore	http://www.ipos.gov.sg/	+65 6330 8612
Thailand	http://www.ipthailand.go.th/	+66 25474716
Viet Nam	http://www.noip.gov.vn/	+84 4 3858 5223

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A regional work-sharing initiative by participating ASEAN Member States IP Offices



IP OS
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
OFFICE OF SINGAPORE

ASPEC Programme

What is ASPEC?

The ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC) is the first regional patent work-sharing programme among 9 participating ASEAN Member States (AMS) IP Offices of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Applicants will be able to take advantage of expedited processes at participating AMS IP Offices from the time of filing an ASPEC request until grant.

“Applicants desiring to file regionally in ASEAN will benefit from ASPEC due to substantial time and cost savings”

Benefits of using ASPEC

The objectives of ASPEC are to reduce complexity, achieve time savings, and improve the quality of search and examination.

Reference to earlier work done by another AMS IP Office could help an examiner to develop his search criteria or strategy more quickly, reducing searching and/or assist the examiner to understand the claimed invention faster. One AMS IP Office might also have access to databases unavailable to an examiner in another AMS IP Office, and hence the opportunity to refer to these search and examination results could provide the examiner with information on and assessment of prior art which he or she would otherwise not have access to.

ASPEC operates in the **English language** in all participating AMS IP Offices. An English translation of documents submitted need not be verified by a translator or by the patent agent unless requested for by the Office.

Processes at AMS IP Offices will be **advanced out of turn** until grant when an ASPEC request is filed. Therefore, applicants desiring to file regionally in ASEAN will benefit from ASPEC due to substantial time and cost savings.



How do I qualify for ASPEC?

An ASPEC request can be filed at any participating AMS IP Office. You will qualify for ASPEC if you have (i) filed a corresponding patent application for the same invention in any other participating AMS IP Office and the applications are linked by a Paris Convention priority claim and, (ii) you have search and examination documents issued by any one of the other participating AMS IP Office with at least one claim determined to be allowable/patentable.

Is there a cost to using ASPEC?

ASPEC is free-of-charge to the applicant at any participating AMS IP Office. However local search and examination fees at AMS IP Offices will still apply.

When can I request for ASPEC?

ASPEC can be requested at any time before the final decision of grant or refusal.

How do I request for ASPEC?

In general, to request for ASPEC, a patent applicant simply files a duly completed ASPEC Request Form (available at respective AMS IP Offices' websites) accompanied by a copy of the search and examination documents of a corresponding patent application for the same invention issued by any of the other participating AMS IP Offices, and a copy of the claims referred to in the reports submitted.

