

IPO TENTIAL

THE LATEST ASEAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY UPDATE



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Happy Mid-Autumn Festival

Greetings from Pintas IP Group

Pintas IP Group wishes you a joyous celebration and prosperous days ahead. Also, we are monitoring closely new directions from IP Offices in ASEAN countries.

In the interim, we are giving our best endeavors in ensuring operational continuity for your Asean IP needs through our customer service and e-services platforms, Pintas Digital Platform (eCommerce), and IP Hall Case Management System (management and monitoring module) accessible 24 hours every day.

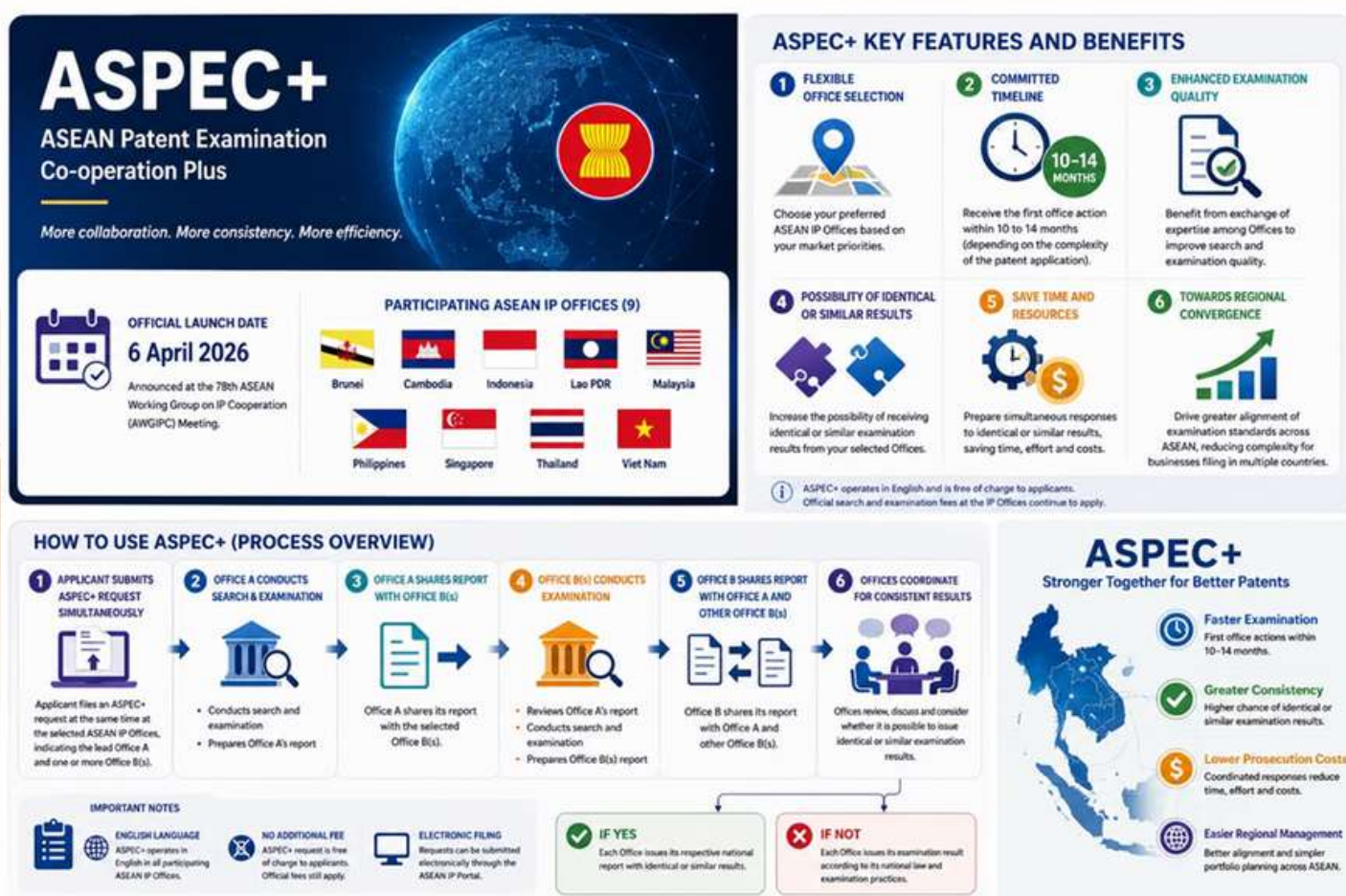
Once again we thank you for your continued support in this uncertain time, our thoughts go out to those who have been affected by this difficult time and we pray for your good health and well-being.



ASPEC+: A SMARTER WAY TO OBTAIN PATENT PROTECTION ACROSS ASEAN

If your business is looking to protect an invention in several ASEAN countries, you may have noticed that obtaining patents across the region is rarely a straightforward process. Although the patent applications relate to the same invention, each country's patent office examines the application independently under its own laws and procedures. This often results in different examination timelines, separate office actions and multiple prosecution strategies, increasing both the time and cost of obtaining patent protection.

This is precisely the issue that ASPEC+ aims to address. Launched by the participating ASEAN Intellectual Property Offices on 6 April 2026, ASPEC+ builds on the existing ASEAN Patent Examination Co-operation (ASPEC) programme by encouraging closer collaboration between patent offices during the examination process. The objective is simple – to help applicants obtain patent protection across ASEAN in a more efficient, coordinated and consistent manner.



Under the existing ASPEC programme, a participating patent office may refer to the search and examination results issued by another participating ASEAN patent office when examining a corresponding patent application. While this helps reduce duplicated examination work, the programme generally operates on a sequential basis, requiring one participating office to complete its examination before another office can rely on those results.)

ASPEC+ introduces a more collaborative approach by allowing selected participating patent offices to examine corresponding patent applications in parallel while sharing their search and examination findings throughout the examination process. Although each office continues to apply its own national patent laws and makes its own examination decision, the exchange of technical findings allows examiners to benefit from one another's analysis at an earlier stage. Participating offices also aim to issue their first office actions within approximately 10 to 14 months, providing applicants with earlier certainty on the patentability of their inventions and increasing the likelihood of receiving identical or substantially similar examination reports across participating jurisdictions.

Difference between ASPEC and ASPEC+:-

NO.	FEATURE	EXISTING ASPEC	ASPEC+
1	EXAMINATION APPROACH	Examination generally takes place one country after another.	Selected patent offices examine the same invention in parallel.
2	COLLABORATION BETWEEN PATENT OFFICES	Relies on an examination report that has already been issued by another participating office.	Patent offices share search and examination findings throughout the examination process.
3	TIMELINE FOR FIRST OFFICE ACTION	Timing depends on when the first participating office completes its examination.	Participating offices aim to issue their first office actions within approximately 10–14 months.
4	APPLICANT'S RESPONSE	Applicants often prepare separate responses for each jurisdiction.	Greater opportunity to prepare coordinated responses across multiple jurisdictions.
5	EXAMINATION OUTCOME	Examination reports may differ depending on each office's independent assessment.	Greater likelihood of consistent or substantially similar examination reports where

1. WHY WAS ASPEC+ INTRODUCED?

Traditional patent filing in ASEAN can be complex and time-consuming.

THE CHALLENGE



THE SOLUTION: ASPEC+



ASPEC+ brings ASEAN IP Offices closer together to deliver faster and more consistent patent examination.

2. EVOLUTION OF ASPEC



3. HOW ASPEC+ WORKS



4. ASPEC vs ASPEC+ AT A GLANCE

FEATURE	ASPEC	ASPEC+
Examination approach	Sequential	Parallel
Collaboration	Relies on completed examination report from another office	Share examination findings throughout the process
First office action	Depends on when the first office completes examination	Target of 10–14 months
Applicant's response	Separate responses for each jurisdiction	Better opportunity for coordinated responses
Examination outcome	Reports may differ between jurisdictions	Greater likelihood of consistent examination reports

5. BENEFITS FOR BUSINESSES

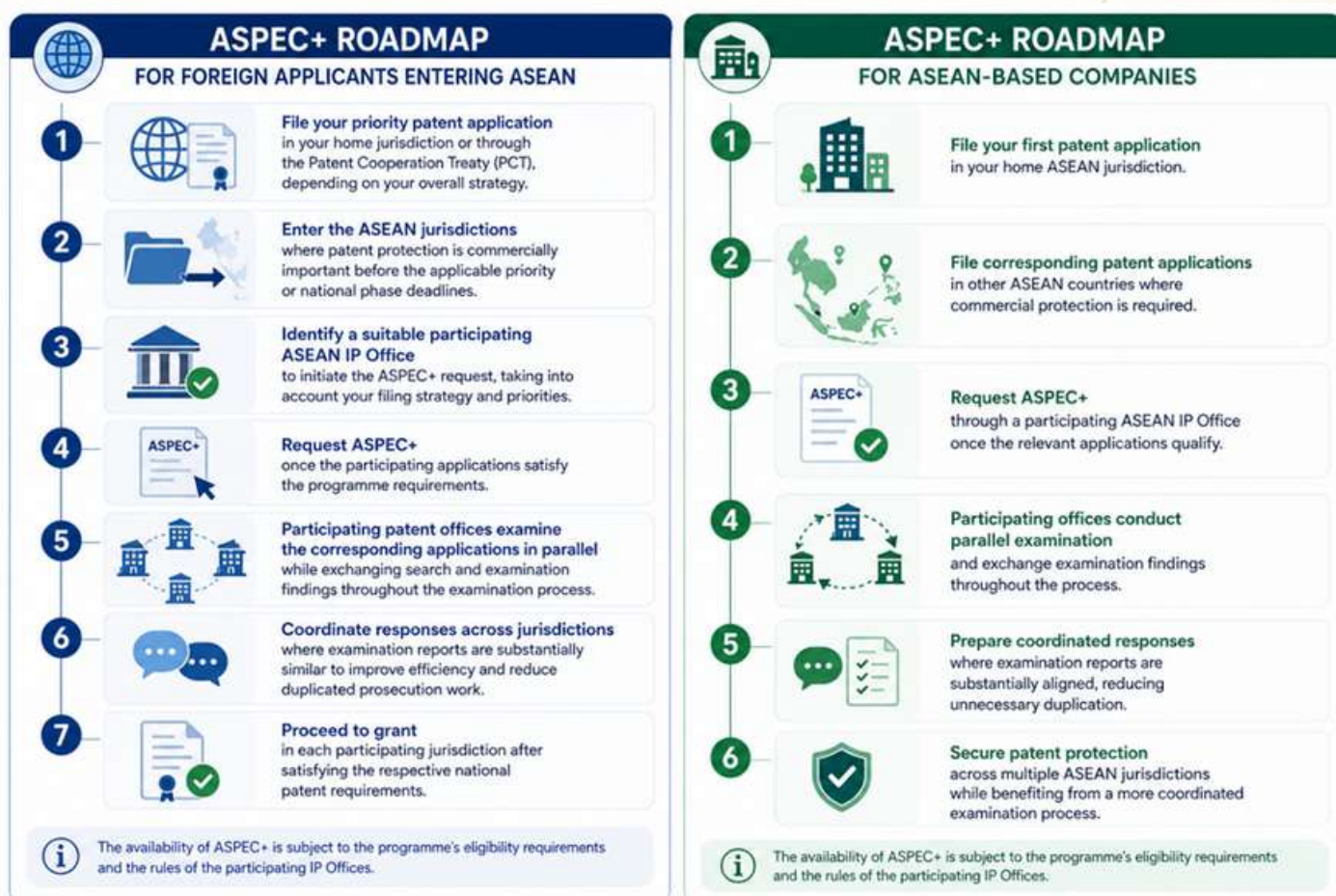


6. STRONGER TOGETHER FOR BETTER PATENTS



ASPEC+ is a significant step forward in regional patent cooperation—delivering faster, more consistent and more efficient patent protection across ASEAN.

How ASEAN-based companies or Foreign Applicant utilise the ASPEC+ mechanism?



ASPEC+ offers several practical advantages for businesses seeking patent protection across ASEAN. By enabling participating patent offices to collaborate throughout the examination process, applicants can receive earlier examination results, benefit from greater consistency across participating jurisdictions and prepare coordinated responses where examination reports are substantially similar. This reduces duplicated prosecution work, improves efficiency and may help lower overall prosecution costs.

For businesses managing patent portfolios across multiple ASEAN countries, receiving examination reports within a more consistent timeframe also makes it easier to coordinate filing strategies, budgets and commercial timelines across the region. As ASEAN markets become increasingly interconnected, ASPEC+ provides businesses with a more streamlined pathway to securing regional patent protection.

For businesses looking to expand across Southeast Asia, ASPEC+ presents an opportunity to streamline regional patent filings, improve consistency across participating jurisdictions and manage patent portfolios more efficiently.

Whether ASPEC+ is suitable for a particular invention depends on several factors, including the countries in which protection is sought, the filing strategy adopted and the commercial objectives of the applicant. Obtaining the right advice at an early stage can help maximise the benefits offered by the programme and avoid unnecessary costs or delays.

At Pintas, we have over 20 years of experience advising businesses, innovators and multinational companies on patent protection across ASEAN and other major jurisdictions. Our patent professionals can assess whether ASPEC+ is suitable for your invention, develop a tailored regional filing strategy, coordinate filings with our network of trusted foreign associates and manage the patent prosecution process across multiple jurisdictions. Whether you are filing your first patent application or expanding an existing patent portfolio, we work closely with you to secure robust and commercially effective patent protection aligned with your business objectives.

If you are considering protecting your invention across ASEAN, contact Pintas to discuss how ASPEC+ can support your regional patent filing strategy.



SINGAPORE ENHANCES PATENT PROSECUTION HIGHWAY (PPH) WITH FASTER EXAMINATION AND UPFRONT FEE REDUCTION

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (“IPOS”) has introduced new measures to encourage greater use of the Patent Prosecution Highway (“PPH”), making accelerated patent examination in Singapore faster and more cost-efficient.

Under IPOS Circular No. 2/2026, the changes focus on two key areas: faster first office actions and a simpler fee arrangement.

A. First Office Action Within 6 Months

- For PPH requests filed on or after 1 July 2026, IPOS will endeavour to issue the first office action within 6 months from the date of the PPH request.

- The PPH allows applicants to make use of favourable examination results from participating patent offices to accelerate examination of a corresponding Singapore patent application.

- Singapore currently has more than 30 PPH partners, including the patent offices of China, Japan, Korea and the United States, as well as the European Patent Office. IPOS reports that PPH applications in Singapore have a 94% grant rate, with about 70% granted at the first office action.

B. 30% Fee Reduction Applied Upfront

- From 3 August 2026 to 31 December 2027, applicants who file a PPH request together with a new request for search and/or examination will only need to pay 70% of the prevailing official fees upfront.

- For example:

<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>NORMAL OFFICIAL FEE</u>	<u>PPH PAYABLE FEE</u>
Search & Examination (PF11)	\$2,050	\$1,435
Examination (PF12)	\$1,420	\$994

- Previously, applicants had to pay the full fee first and receive the 30% benefit as a refund. The new arrangement provides the same benefit immediately and removes the need to wait for reimbursement



IPOS CIRCULAR NO. 2/2026
10 JUNE 2026

SINGAPORE ENHANCES PATENT PROSECUTION HIGHWAY (PPH)

Faster Examination. Lower Costs. Greater Efficiency.

FASTER FIRST OFFICE ACTION

For PPH requests filed on or after **1 July 2026**, IPOS will endeavour to issue the first office action within

6 MONTHS from the date of the PPH request.

30% FEE REDUCTION APPLIED UPFRONT

From **3 August 2026** to **31 December 2027**, pay only **70%** of the prevailing official fees when filing a PPH request with a new search and/or examination request.

Old Approach

Pay full fee first, get 30% refund later

➔

New Approach

Pay 70% upfront, no refund needed

PART OF A GLOBAL PPH NETWORK

Singapore has more than **30 PPH PARTNERS** including China, Japan, Korea, USA and the EPO.

94% grant rate for PPH applications in Singapore

~70% granted at the first office action

EXAMPLES OF PAYABLE FEES (PPH period: 3 Aug 2026 – 31 Dec 2027)	Request	Normal Official Fee	PPH Payable Fee
	Search & Examination Report (PF11)	S\$2,050	S\$1,435
	Examination Report (PF12)	S\$1,420	S\$994

SMARTER PROSECUTION. STRONGER IP STRATEGY.

Leverage Singapore's PPH and other acceleration programmes such as ASPEC and CS&E with Vietnam and Indonesia to build an efficient patent strategy across ASEAN.

Pintas IP Group has practical experience in patent prosecution and acceleration programmes in Singapore, Malaysia and across ASEAN.

PPH requests made before 3 August 2026 will follow the previous arrangement (30% refund after payment).

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What Does This Mean for Patent Applicants?

The changes strengthen Singapore's position as a useful jurisdiction for applicants managing patent portfolios across multiple countries.

Where an applicant already has favourable examination results from a PPH partner, the Singapore PPH may offer a practical route to reduce prosecution time and examination costs.

Singapore can also form part of a wider ASEAN patent strategy. Depending on the patent portfolio, applicants may consider PPH together with other available acceleration programmes such as ASPEC and Singapore's collaborative examination programmes with Vietnam and Indonesia.

Pintas IP Group assists patent owners, businesses and overseas IP firms in developing and managing patent filing and prosecution strategies across Singapore, Malaysia and the wider ASEAN region.

With practical experience in regional patent prosecution and acceleration programmes, Pintas can assist applicants in assessing whether PPH, ASPEC or other available routes may provide a faster and more cost-effective path towards patent protection in ASEAN.



CHINA-INDONESIA PPH: FASTER PATENT EXAMINATION IN INDONESIA

Patent applicants seeking protection in Indonesia now have an additional option to accelerate examination through the China National Intellectual Property Administration (“CNIPA”)–Directorate General of Intellectual Property (“DGIP”) Patent Prosecution Highway (“PPH”) between China and Indonesia.

From 1 August 2026, CNIPA and Indonesia’s DGIP commenced a PPH pilot programme. Under the programme, applicants may request accelerated examination in Indonesia where CNIPA has already found one or more corresponding Chinese claims to be patentable or allowable.

Importantly, the Chinese patent does not need to be granted first. A favourable finding in a CNIPA office action may be sufficient. The Indonesian claims must sufficiently correspond to the allowable Chinese claims, and the PPH request must generally be filed before DGIP begins substantive examination. Applicants may need to provide CNIPA office actions, allowable claims, cited references and a claim correspondence table.

The programme also extends to certain PCT applications where CNIPA-issued international examination work products identify at least one claim as patentable. The programme can help patent owners obtain earlier examination results, reduce duplicated prosecution work and improve consistency between corresponding Chinese and Indonesian patent applications.

However, timing is important. Applicants should submit the PPH request at an early stage, as it generally must be filed before DGIP begins substantive examination.

With around 20 years of experience in intellectual property protection across Southeast Asia, Pintas IP Group assists businesses with patent filing and prosecution, PCT national-phase applications, PPH and other acceleration strategies, patent portfolio management and wider IP commercialisation matters.

By combining international insight with local experience across Southeast Asia, Pintas helps businesses develop practical and coordinated patent strategies for the region. Contact Pintas for a complimentary consultation to explore whether the CNIPA–DGIP PPH or other accelerated examination options may benefit your patent portfolio.

Faster Patent Examination in **Indonesia**

China–Indonesia PPH at a Glance

A practical overview for innovators and IP owners

INDONESIA
IDEAS MOVE
THE REGION
FORWARD

PEOPLE
EXPERTISE
OPPORTUNITIES
A STRONGER
SOUTHEAST ASIA

1 What is China–Indonesia PPH?

The Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) allows applicants to request accelerated examination in Indonesia based on patentable or allowable claims identified by China's CNIPA.



Launched: 1 August 2026



PPH pilot programme between CNIPA and Indonesia's DGIP



Chinese patent grant not required first

2 Key Benefits



Earlier examination results in Indonesia



Reduced duplication of prosecution work



Improved consistency between corresponding Chinese and Indonesian applications



Better regional patent strategy

3 Procedure Overview

1



Obtain a favourable CNIPA examination result

2



Ensure the Indonesian claims sufficiently correspond

3



File the PPH request before DGIP begins substantive examination

4



DGIP examines the Indonesian application under the PPH pathway

Key Requirements



- ✓ Corresponding Chinese claims found patentable or allowable
- ✓ Claim correspondence table
- ✓ Relevant CNIPA work products
- ✓ Request filed before substantive examination begins

4 Typical Documents



CNIPA office actions



Allowable or patentable claims



Translations where required



Cited references



Claim correspondence table



Relevant PCT work products, where applicable



PCT route may also be available where CNIPA-issued international examination work products identify at least one claim as patentable.

5 Why It Matters to IP Owners



Earlier clarity on patentability



More efficient portfolio management



Useful for Chinese applicants entering Indonesia



Supports coordinated cross-border filing strategies

How Pintas Can Help

Pintas IP Group supports patent filing, prosecution, PCT national-phase applications, PPH and other acceleration strategies across Southeast Asia.

Contact Pintas for a complimentary consultation.



LOCAL INSIGHT
REGIONAL REACH
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



INNOVATION
PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES



Timing is important: applicants should submit the PPH request at an early stage, as it generally must be filed before DGIP begins substantive examination.

Source: CNIPA–DGIP PPH pilot programme information.

Upcoming IP2Profit Case Study Webinar



2026 IP₂P IP2Profit Case Study Series
Learn How The World's Top Companies Capitalize on Patent Rights to Protect Their Sustainable Competitive Advantage

Hosts:
Lok Choon Hong, Director of Pintas IP
Lee Jia Ee, Director of GIP Malaysia

Logos: dyson, Tetra Pak, Qualcomm, LEGO

Sessions:
Dyson IP2Profit Case Study: 5 Mar 2026
TetraPak IP2Profit Case Study: 28 May 2026
Qualcomm IP2Profit Case Study: 15 Oct 2026
Lego IP2Profit Case Study: 26 Nov 2026

QR Code: REGISTER NOW >

The **2026 IP2Profit Case Study Series** is an upcoming webinar series designed to uncover how some of the world's most innovative companies strategically use patents to protect their market position, foster innovation, and achieve sustainable competitive advantages. Hosted by **Lok Choon Hong, Director of Pintas IP Group**, and **Lee Jia Ee, Director of GIP Malaysia**, the series is aimed at intellectual property (IP) professionals, entrepreneurs, innovators, and business leaders seeking actionable insights into patent strategies that drive success.

This series will be conducted live via Zoom and feature comprehensive analyses of patent-driven success stories from globally recognized brands. Below are the key sessions scheduled:

Dyson IP2Profit Case Study

Date: March 5, 2026

Explore Tesla's innovative approach to patents and how the company uses open patents and proprietary IP to dominate the electric vehicle and clean energy markets. This session will delve into Tesla's balance between open innovation and protecting key technologies.

TetraPak IP2Profit Case Study

Date: May 28, 2026

Learn how Nestlé, a global leader in food and beverage, leverages its extensive patent portfolio to drive innovation in product development, sustainability, and packaging technologies. Discover how IP plays a central role in maintaining market leadership in a competitive industry.

Qualcomm IP2Profit Case Study

Date: September 24, 2026

Dive into Huawei's comprehensive IP strategy, which has enabled the company to thrive in the highly competitive telecommunications and consumer electronics sectors. This session will highlight Huawei's investments in R&D and its effective use of patents in global markets.

Lego IP2Profit Case Study

Date: November 27, 2026

Understand how Spotify's innovative patent strategies in music streaming and content recommendation algorithms have helped it maintain a leading position in the digital entertainment industry. This session will focus on how Spotify protects its proprietary technologies while driving customer engagement.

What You'll Learn:

Patent Monetization: Strategies for transforming patents into revenue-generating assets.

Competitive Positioning: Insights into how companies use patents to protect and extend their market leadership.

Innovation Strategies: Best practices for aligning R&D efforts with intellectual property protection.

Global IP Management: Tips for navigating international IP systems and safeguarding technologies in global markets.

This webinar series promises to deliver actionable knowledge and real-world case studies, making it a must-attend for anyone involved in innovation, business strategy, or intellectual property management. Don't miss this opportunity to learn directly from industry experts—register now by scanning the QR code on the poster!

Register Here:



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