

IPOP HL MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 2021-003

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY FILING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UNDER MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2019-004 UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2021

Whereas, IPOP HL in its effort to strengthen the country's innovative capacity, IPOP HL secured its designation as the 23rd International Searching Authority and Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA) by the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Union Assembly last October 5, 2017 and commenced operations on May 20, 2019;

Whereas, as an International Authority, IPOP HL seeks to assist Filipino inventors and applicants in protecting their inventions internationally through the PCT system and promote the use of the PCT for Filipinos as well as foreign applicants eligible for reduction of PCT fees who use IPOP HL as the Office of First Filing;

Whereas, IPOP HL Memorandum Circular No. 2019-004 issued on May 16, 2019 on the Patent Cooperation Treaty Filing Assistance Program which waives IPOP HL Search Fee and Preliminary Examination Fees for small entities and big entities until December 31, 2019 and extended until December 31, 2020 pursuant to Memorandum Circular No. 2020-015 issued by Director Rowel S. Barba on May 23, 2020;

Whereas, there is a need to extend the PCT Filing Assistance Program to encourage the filing of foreign inventions with IPOP HL as Office of First Filing as well as its services as an International Authority for PCT users.

Now, therefore, IPOP HL hereby extends the **Patent Cooperation Treaty Filing Assistance Program**. Under this program, IPOP HL will provide assistance to promote the use of the PCT system for Filipino inventors and ITSO institutions.

Section 1. Objectives

The Patent Cooperation Treaty Filing Assistance Program aims to:

- 1.1 Assist Filipino inventors, applicants and ITSO institutions to protect their inventions internationally through the Patent Cooperation Treaty;
- 1.2 Promote IPOP HL as Office of First Filing for foreign inventors; and,
- 1.3 Promote the services of IPOP HL as an International Authority for the PCT users.

Section 2. Eligibility

The following applicants are eligible for the PCT Filing Assistance Program:

- 2.1 Individual Filipino inventor/applicant;
- 2.2 Higher Educational Institutions which are members of the Innovation and Technology Support Offices (ITSO) network; and,

2.3 Foreign inventor/applicant from States included in the WIPO List of Eligible Nationals or Residents for 90% Reduction in Certain PCT Fees which designated IPOPHL as a competent International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA) and where IPOPHL is the Office of First Filing from March - December 2021.

Section 3. Waiver of Fees under the PCT Filing Assistance Program

3.1 Under this program, IPOPHL shall provide the PCT Filing Assistance:

- a. Waive IPOPHL Search Fee of US\$ 400 for small entities and US\$1,000 for big entities;
- b. Waive IPOPHL Preliminary Examination Fee of US\$ 200 for small entities and US\$ 500 for big entities; and,
- c. Provide information and technical consultation regarding the PCT system and process.

3.2 Request for Availment

Inventors or applicants wishing to avail of the benefits of the Program shall submit the duly accomplished form attached herein as Annex "A" to the Bureau of Patents. The form shall be submitted together with the request for International Search Report (ISR).

Section 4. Program Monitoring and Implementation

- 4.1 The Bureau of Patents (BOP) is tasked to implement this Program.
- 4.2 The Documentation, Information and Technology Transfer Bureau shall monitor the availment of ITSO institutions of this Program.
- 4.3 The BOP shall consolidate the report of all applications under this Program for submission to the Director General not later than January 15, 2022 for those filed in 2021 and the terminal report after thirty (30) days after the effectivity period has lapsed.

Section 5. Effectivity Period

The extension of the PCT Filing Assistance Program is hereby extended from March 1, 2021 until December 31, 2021.

Done this 26th day of February 2021, Taguig City.


ROWEL S. BARBA
Director General

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DATE: **FEB 26 2021**

PIA ANGELICA S. GABRIEL
Administrative Officer V
FMAS



REQUEST FOR PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT) FILING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Request No. _____ /100

PCT Application No.	
Date of Receipt:	
Name of Applicant/s:	
Name of Institution/s:	
Name of Inventor/s:	
Title of Invention:	
Priority Document/s (if applicable):	

Please check one:

*use separate sheet if necessary

Eligibility:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1) Individual Filipino Inventor / Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) Higher Education Institution which is a member of the Innovation and Technology Support Offices Network (ITSO)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3) Foreign Inventor/Applicant from States included in the WIPO list of eligible nationals or residents for 90% reduction in certain PCT fees where IPOPHL is the Office of First Filing from January - December 2019 which designated IPOPHL as a competent International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority (ISA /IPEA)
Fee:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1) International Search Report Fee
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) International Preliminary Examination Report Fee

Name and Signature of Applicant/Inventor or in case of an Institution, Representative:	Received by:


CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
DATE: **FEB 26 2021**

PIA ANGELICA S. GABRIEL
Administrative Officer V
FMAS