

Message from the Minister



“As the strategic value of intellectual property continues to rise, MOIP is committed to becoming a leading partner in the global innovation ecosystem.”

Across the world, the accelerating shift toward artificial intelligence (AI) is heightening the race to secure critical technologies. In this changing landscape, intellectual property (IP) is no longer simply a means of protecting inventions and creative ideas. It has become a strategic asset that shapes a nation's innovation capacity, industrial competitiveness, economic security, and prospects for future growth.

These challenges are not for any one country to address alone. Governments around the world are working to foster innovation while maintaining a fair and competitive marketplace. They are also seeking to build sustainable ecosystems in which creative ideas and technological advances are properly protected and IP is translated into industrial development and economic value.

Moving proactively to meet these challenges, the Government of the Republic of Korea elevated the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) to the Ministry of Intellectual Property (MOIP) in October 2025. This institutional reform marked a historic turning point, reflecting the Government's commitment to place IP at the heart of Korea's national growth strategy and position MOIP as the central control tower for coordinating national IP policy. In doing so, it laid a stronger foundation for coordinated government-wide policies spanning the creation, protection, utilization, and commercialization of IP.

Throughout 2025, we pursued a broad range of initiatives to strengthen the role of IP as a practical driver of national innovation and economic growth.

First, we reinforced the protection and enforcement of IP rights. The launch of MOIP was accompanied by an organizational restructuring that included the establishment of the IP Dispute Resolution Bureau to enable faster and more systematic response to IP disputes at home and abroad. We also expanded monitoring and enforcement actions against counterfeit goods across online and offline markets, while strengthening remedies for trademark and design infringement. Through these efforts, we worked to better safeguard the technologies and brands of Korean enterprises.

Second, we advanced digital transformation by leveraging AI and IP data. We opened IP datasets for AI training to the public for promoting AI innovation and enhancing industrial competitiveness. We also carried

out a comprehensive upgrade of the Korea Intellectual Property Rights Information Service (KIPRIS), Korea's search platform for IP information, to provide advanced search functions and improve usability. These initiatives were designed to broaden access to IP data and expand its practical use in support of data-driven innovation.

Third, we enhanced our examination systems. We established a dedicated biotechnology examination division, expanded accelerated examination for advanced strategic industries, and introduced a super-accelerated examination track for export-oriented enterprises. Within the trial and appeal system, we increased the number of specialized trial and appeal boards for advanced technology sectors and strengthened coordination between adjudication and mediation procedures. These reforms aimed to establish a framework for IP rights to be secured more rapidly and reliably.

Finally, we expanded our international cooperation networks to contribute more actively to the development of the global IP system. Korea hosted the 8th ROK–ASEAN Heads of IP Offices Meeting in Seoul, bringing together Korea and all ten ASEAN Member States. The meeting resulted in the adoption of a Joint Statement outlining three priority areas for cooperation: AI-based IP administration, IP protection and enforcement, and IP finance and commercialization. We also participated in discussions on shaping international norms and policies and broadened strategic cooperation with WIPO, the IP5, partners in the Middle East, and developing countries. These cooperation efforts underscored Korea's commitment to active engagement and leadership within the international IP community.

This Annual Report highlights the major developments and policy achievements of Korea's IP administration in 2025. The publication holds particular significance as the first Annual Report published following the launch of MOIP. I sincerely hope that it will provide readers with a clearer understanding of Korea's progress over the past year, as well as our vision for the future.

KIM Yong Sun | Minister

