

Expanding Global IP Cooperation

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Expanding Global IP Cooperation

In 2025, Korea continued to expand its international IP cooperation through bilateral, regional, and multilateral frameworks. Working with major IP institutions and partner countries around the world, MOIP exchanged policy and administrative experience and advanced cooperation in response to evolving needs in the global IP environment. The scope of cooperation extended across the IP lifecycle, from education, examination, and IP protection and enforcement to commercialization and finance, while also encompassing automation and AI-based IP administration. Through these engagements, Korea contributed to the broader international IP community by supporting institutional capacity-building, sharing practical expertise, and participating in discussions on the development of more effective and responsive IP systems.

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Korea-Europe IP Cooperation

Across Europe, Korea deepened cooperation with major IP institutions, including the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the European Patent Office (EPO), the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA), and the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM). Cooperation covered not only examination and IP administration, but also SME support, commercialization and finance, anti-counterfeiting, and responses to emerging technologies.

IP Utilization, Protection, and SME Support

In March and July, MOIP held heads-level meetings with the EUIPO to discuss the implementation of “EU-ROK IP Action,” which aims to strengthen cooperation between the EU and Korea in the areas of IP protection and enforcement, particularly in the digital environment. Under the initiative, it was agreed to share policy experience on preventing and blocking the online distribution of counterfeit goods. MOIP and EUIPO also agreed to renew

their comprehensive cooperation MOU and continue cooperation through the TM5 and ID5 frameworks.

Cooperation with OEPM placed greater emphasis on supporting SMEs in the utilization and commercialization of IP. MOIP and OEPM discussed sharing policy experience in areas such as R&D support using patent big data and IP finance for commercialization. The two offices also agreed to cooperate on the development of a Spanish-language version of IP Panorama 2.0, a global IP learning platform and concluded an amendment to the existing comprehensive cooperation MOU.

Patent Administration and Emerging Technologies

In April, MOIP held separate heads-level meetings with the EPO and the DPMA in Munich, Germany, focusing on patent administration, user support, and cooperation in emerging technology fields. With the EPO, MOIP agreed to hold a briefing session for Korean users on the European Unitary Patent system and discussed the Global Assignment initiative. The two offices also exchanged policy and institutional information on IP commercialization and finance.

With the DPMA, MOIP revised the comprehensive cooperation MOU originally concluded in 1994, marking its first revision in 31 years. The two offices also agreed to resume an examiner exchange program covering emerging technology fields such as AI and green technologies and to pursue the launch of a Collaborative Search Program (CSP).

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IP5 Cooperation

Since its establishment in 2007, the IP5 framework has continued to evolve in response to changing user needs and developments in patent administration. Against this

backdrop, the IP5 members gathered for the 18th IP5 Heads of Office Meeting and the IP5 Heads of Office and Industry Meeting in Tianjin, China in May 2025. At the meetings, MOIP discussed measures to improve the efficiency and convenience of patent procedures, while also examining the implications of emerging technologies such as AI for patent administration.

A key area of progress was the Global Assignment initiative, which aims to simplify procedures for recording changes in patent ownership across the IP5 offices. MOIP led the development of a common application form, which was completed in 2025 and marked an important step toward implementing a more streamlined assignment process. Once implemented, the initiative is expected to reduce the administrative burden on patent holders by allowing assignment information to be submitted through a common procedure, rather than requiring separate filings with each IP5 office.

IP5 cooperation also continued to broaden beyond examination and administrative procedures to the utilization and commercialization of IP. Under the strategic topic “Promoting IP Utilization and Commercialization,” MOIP shared Korea’s policy experience in areas including IP finance, valuation, and technology transfer. It also presented a report compiling SME support policies and practices, contributing to discussions on how IP systems can better support SMEs in commercializing their IP and expanding into overseas markets.

*IP5: A cooperation framework established in 2007 comprising the world’s five largest IP offices—Ministry of Intellectual Property (MOIP), China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), European Patent Office (EPO), Japan Patent Office (JPO), and United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

At the global multilateral level, MOIP participated in WIPO’s 66th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States (WIPO Assemblies) in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2025, where it took part in discussions on major developments in the international IP landscape and exchanged views with WIPO and partner IP offices on areas of common interest. Discussions focused on the growing importance of IP in supporting innovation and economic growth amid global economic uncertainty, as well as the implications of technological change for IP policy and administration.

In its address to the Member States, MOIP emphasized the importance of IP in sustaining innovation. It introduced recent developments in Korea’s IP administration, including the application of AI, the recruitment of private-sector experts as patent examiners, and the use of AI-based monitoring to prevent the online distribution of counterfeit goods. Korea also shared its experience in supporting IP capacity-building in developing countries through the WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust.

This policy direction was developed further at the high-level policy dialogue hosted by the WIPO Director General. MOIP emphasized the need for IP strategies to respond to demographic change and rapid technological transformation, highlighting the importance of securing high-value, premium patents and making greater use of AI and big data in R&D and IP creation.

Beyond the policy discussions, MOIP continued its practical cooperation with WIPO through a bilateral meeting with the Director General. The two sides reviewed personnel exchange and capacity-building projects supported through the WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust, including assistance for the establishment of an IP office in Timor-Leste. Through these projects, Korea continued to share its experience in IP administration while supporting the development of institutional capacity in partner countries.

The WIPO Assemblies also provided an important platform for engagement with national and regional IP

institutions, allowing MOIP to review ongoing cooperation and discuss areas for further collaboration. MOIP held bilateral meetings with the USPTO covering areas such as patent administration, trade secret protection, and anti-counterfeiting, while exchanges with other partner institutions, such as JPO, addressed opportunities for broader institutional cooperation. In particular, MOIP and the Gulf Cooperation Council Patent Office (GCCPO) agreed to pursue a comprehensive cooperation MOU covering areas including automation, patent examination, and capacity-building. MOIP and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) also agreed to amend their existing comprehensive cooperation MOU, providing a basis for further cooperation in Africa.

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Korea-ASEAN Heads of IP Offices Meeting

Regional cooperation also advanced through the Korea-ASEAN framework. In September, Korea hosted the 8th Korea-ASEAN Heads of IP Offices Meeting in Seoul, bringing together all ten ASEAN Member States for the annual high-level dialogue on IP cooperation, with Timor-Leste participating as an observer. Since concluding a Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of IP in 2018, Korea and ASEAN have held the heads meeting annually, gradually broadening cooperation in response to changing policy and industry needs.

At the meeting, Korea and ASEAN adopted the Korea-ASEAN Joint Statement on IP Cooperation, setting out priorities for future cooperation amid rapid technological change and the growing importance of effective IP protection and utilization. The Joint Statement identified three key areas for enhanced cooperation: advancing AI-based IP administration, strengthening IP protection

and enforcement, and promoting IP finance and commercialization. The statement provided a common framework for expanding cooperation beyond traditional exchanges on IP administration toward emerging technologies, enforcement, and the commercial use of IP.

The high-level discussions were complemented by the Korea-ASEAN IP Symposium. The symposium brought together representatives of ASEAN IP offices, Korean companies, patent attorneys, and other stakeholders to exchange practical information on IP utilization and protection. Korea introduced relevant policy experience, while ASEAN participants shared information on their IP systems, dispute resolution mechanisms, and issues relevant to companies seeking to enter ASEAN markets.

An exhibition held alongside the symposium introduced anti-counterfeiting and authentication technologies developed by Korean companies, including holograms, watermarks, and product-authentication labels. By presenting practical technological approaches to preventing the distribution of counterfeit goods, the exhibition added an industry-oriented dimension to the broader discussions on IP protection and enforcement.

Bilateral Cooperation and Capacity-Building

In parallel with the regional cooperation framework, Korea pursued bilateral arrangements and capacity-building projects with the individual ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste. With Singapore, MOIP concluded a reinforced cooperation MOU that expanded existing cooperation to include information exchange on AI, IP finance, and valuation. With Viet Nam, Indonesia, and Cambodia, MOIP established work plans specifying cooperation in areas such as laws and systems, education, protection, trademark cooperation, and awareness-raising.

Korea also continued longer-term capacity-building cooperation tailored to the needs of individual partners. With Cambodia, MOIP pursued the National Invention and Creativity Education (NICE) project, a three-year initiative

from 2025 to 2027 aimed at strengthening the country's invention education framework. In May, an MOU was exchanged with Cambodia's Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and Ministry of Commerce to support the project's implementation. With Timor-Leste, Korea began supporting the establishment of a National IP Office, through its cooperation with WIPO, extending capacity-building cooperation to the development of national IP administration.

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Korea-Middle East IP Cooperation

With Middle Eastern partners, Korea expanded its IP cooperation by combining support for national IP strategy and institutional capacity-building with broader cooperation in emerging areas such as AI, commercialization, and IP protection.

In July, MOIP established a Strategic Partnership Program on the Establishment of a National Intellectual Property Strategy and the Enhancement of Capacity Building with

Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI). Building on this framework, MOIP concluded a Contract on the Establishment of a National Intellectual Property Strategic Plan for the State of Qatar in December, moving from an initial cooperation framework toward supporting the development of Qatar's comprehensive national IP strategy.

MOIP and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) also deepened the scope of their existing IP cooperation. On the occasion of the Korea-UAE summit in November, MOIP concluded an arrangement with the UAE Ministry of Economy and Tourism (MOET), expanding on the reinforced IP cooperation MOU concluded in 2023. The new arrangement broadened cooperation to emerging and increasingly important areas, including the use of AI in IP administration, IP commercialization, and IP protection and enforcement.

Taken together, these engagements strengthened Korea's institutional links with international partners while supporting continued exchange and cooperation across the global IP community. Building on this foundation, MOIP will continue to deepen international cooperation and contribute to discussions on emerging IP issues as technological and economic conditions continue to evolve.

