

C. N 3937

The Chair of the Coordination Committee of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Ambassador François Rivasseau, presents his compliments and has the honor to refer to Note C. N 3926, dated September 30, 2019, inviting candidates for nomination to the post of Director General of WIPO.

A copy of the letter from His Excellency Mr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, received on November 6, 2019, proposing the candidacy of Mr. Daren Tang for the said post is enclosed.

November 6, 2019



Enclosure: Letter of His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE

MINISTER

6 November 2019

H.E. Mr. François Rivasseau
Chair, WIPO Coordination Committee
34 Chemin des Colombettes
CH 1211 Geneva 20
SWITZERLAND

Yours Excellency

I am writing to formally propose Mr Daren Tang for the position of Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Mr Tang's candidature enjoys the full support of the Singapore Government.

Mr Tang is the Chief Executive of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS). He transformed IPOS from a regulator into an innovation agency with IP expertise and networks to enable businesses and innovators to take their IP from Singapore and through Singapore to international markets.

Mr Tang is an experienced and inclusive leader who is able to balance the interests of all stakeholders to forge consensus. He is familiar to the WIPO community, serving as Chair of the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) for the past two and a half years. His international experience in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations have delivered regional and international cooperation programmes that have benefitted the IP community.

With his understanding of how IP can be used to support socio-economic development and his ability to forge consensus, Mr Tang possesses the qualities to strengthen and further the good work of WIPO and its members. He looks forward to working inclusively with Member States to ensure that IP supports the developmental goals of our economies and societies.

In line with WIPO Circular C.N 3926-04 of 30 September 2019, we enclose Mr Tang's curriculum vitae. On behalf of the Singapore Government, I sincerely commend his candidature to all WIPO Member States.

Yours sincerely



DR VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN

Curriculum Vitae of Mr Daren Tang
(Chief Executive, Intellectual Property Office of Singapore)

Year of Birth: 1972

Nationality: Singaporean



ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- 2013** **Advanced Management Program**
Harvard Business School, USA
- 2006** **Master of Laws (LL.M) with Distinction**
Georgetown University Law Centre, USA
Fellow, Institute of International Economic Law
- 1997** **Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) with Honours**
National University of Singapore

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2015 – present** **Chief Executive**
Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)
Ministry of Law, Singapore

Drove the strategic transformation of IPOS from an intellectual property (IP) registry and regulator into an innovation agency that helps to build Singapore's future economy:

- *Launched a series of world's first IP products including a mobile app for trademark application, and a national-level IP skills and jobs framework. Initiated and oversaw a collaboration with a local university to provide one of the few post-graduate programmes in IP and Innovation Management in the world.*
- *Put in place legislative reforms to the IP civil litigation system to make it more accessible for SMEs and strengthen IP mediation.*

- *Developed new capabilities at IPOS covering IP strategy and patent analytics, as well as the release of the world's first mobile app for trademark applications.*
- *Supported the use of IP by enterprises for business growth by providing training to 5000 persons in 2018, engaging 800 enterprises from 2017 to 2018, and collaborating with private sector to provide IP insurance to enterprises.*

For these efforts, IPOS was recognised as Asia's most innovative IP office and ranked 2nd in the world by World Trademark Review in 2019. Singapore has also been ranked 2nd in the world for IP protection by the World Economic Forum (2018/2019) and one of the top 10 countries in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Global Innovation Index (2015 to 2019).

Member of the Committee for the Future Economy tasked with reviewing Singapore's economic strategies. Updated the IP Hub Masterplan in 2017 to broaden the mandate of IPOS to include IP commercialisation. Forged agreements with regional and international partners covering over 70 markets.

2012 – 2015 Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Legal Counsel
Intellectual Property Office of Singapore
Ministry of Law, Singapore

Oversaw key projects as IPOS broadened its mission and developed its regional and international networks:

- *Singapore's appointment as the 19th International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority and the 1st in ASEAN under the WIPO-Patent Cooperation Treaty.*
- *Singapore's accession and ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty.*

- *Establishment of the 2013 national IP Hub Master Plan, a 10-year blueprint to guide Singapore's development as a Global IP Hub in Asia.*
- *Redevelopment of the IPOS registry filing system and implemented IP²SG, a one-stop integrated online platform for IP registration in Singapore.*
- *Major IP legislative and policy reforms to Singapore's patent, trademark, registered design and copyright regimes.*

Helped to steer ASEAN's IP agenda during Singapore's term as Chair of the ASEAN Working Group on IP Cooperation (AWGIPC) and strengthened the patent eco-system for ASEAN. The AWGIPC covered 28 initiatives and 108 deliverables across the ASEAN IP Review Action Plan, including Singapore's hosting of the ASEAN IP Portal – an integrated IP centre linking all ASEAN IP Offices on matters related to IP.

Chaired IP negotiations in Free Trade Agreements, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Led and concluded negotiations for the IP chapter of the EU-Singapore FTA.

2003 – 2012 Senior State Counsel

International Affairs Division
Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore

Senior legal counsel and negotiator for various international law matters of critical importance to Singapore, including Free Trade Agreements, Double Taxation Agreements, International Investment Agreements, Law of the Sea matters, ASEAN regional agreements and UN-related issues. Part of the Singapore legal team that argued a territorial dispute before the International Court of Justice.

2001 – 2003 Legal Consultant

Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore

Lead negotiator and legal counsel for Singapore in the US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, the US' first FTA with an Asian nation.

1997 – 2001 State Counsel/Deputy Public Prosecutor

Held various appointments at both the Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore, and at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore.

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

**Chairperson, Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR),
WIPO**

Appointed as Chairperson in May 2017. Advanced discussions amongst the Member States on the agenda of the SCCR, including the Treaty to Protect Broadcasting Organisations (Broadcast Treaty), and Limitations and Exceptions. Brokered a consensus for SCCR members to put a recommendation relating to the Broadcast Treaty in 2018 and 2019 before the WIPO General Assembly.

Member, Singapore-Guangdong Collaboration Council (SGCC)

Established an intergovernmental IP collaboration in the Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City.

**Member, Manufacturing Sub-Committee of the Future Economy Council,
Singapore**

**Member, Modern Services Sub-Committee of the Future Economy Council,
Singapore**

**Member, Research, Innovation and Enterprise Strategy Committee (RIE SC),
Prime Minister's Office, Singapore**

**Member, Research, Innovation and Enterprise Executive Committee (RIE Exco),
Prime Minister's Office, Singapore**

Co-Chair, National IP Working Group, Prime Minister's Office, Singapore

Advisory Board Member, Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP)

Member, Group of Experts on IP Office of the Future Project, International Trademark Association (INTA)

Board Chairman, IPOS International

Board Member, EW Barker Centre for Law & Business, National University of Singapore

Board Director, Fraunhofer Singapore

Coordinator and Principal Examiner, Intellectual Property Law Course for the Singapore Bar Exam run by the Singapore Institute of Legal Education

HONOURS

2016 Public Administration Medal (Silver)
Prime Minister's Office, Singapore

2006 Fellow
Institute of International Economic Law, Georgetown University, USA

LANGUAGES

English, Chinese