

# Singapore Patent Search & Examination

Presentation for KL workshop, 29 Nov 2011

Sharmaine Wu

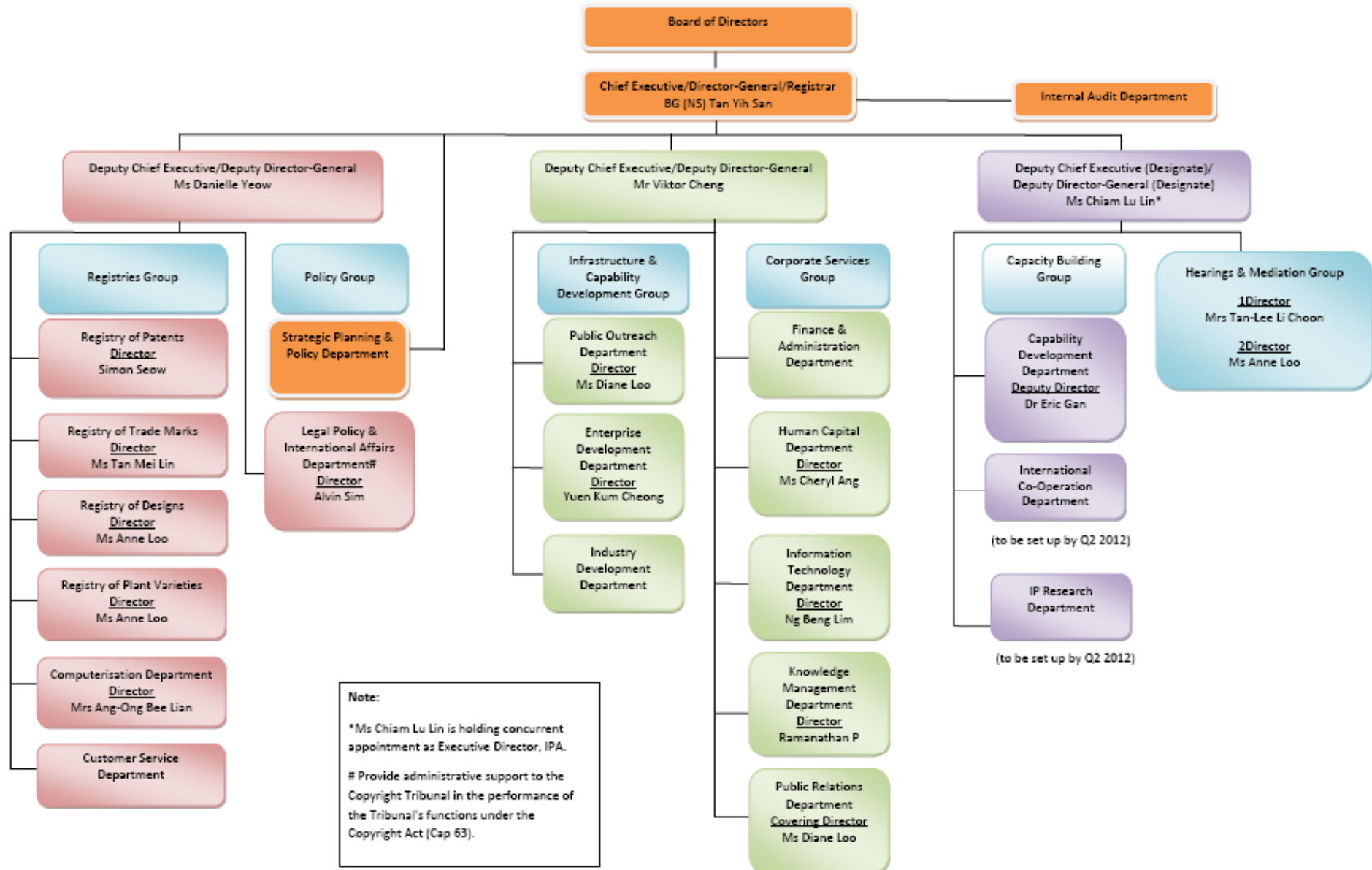
Assistant Director, Strategic Planning & Policy  
Department



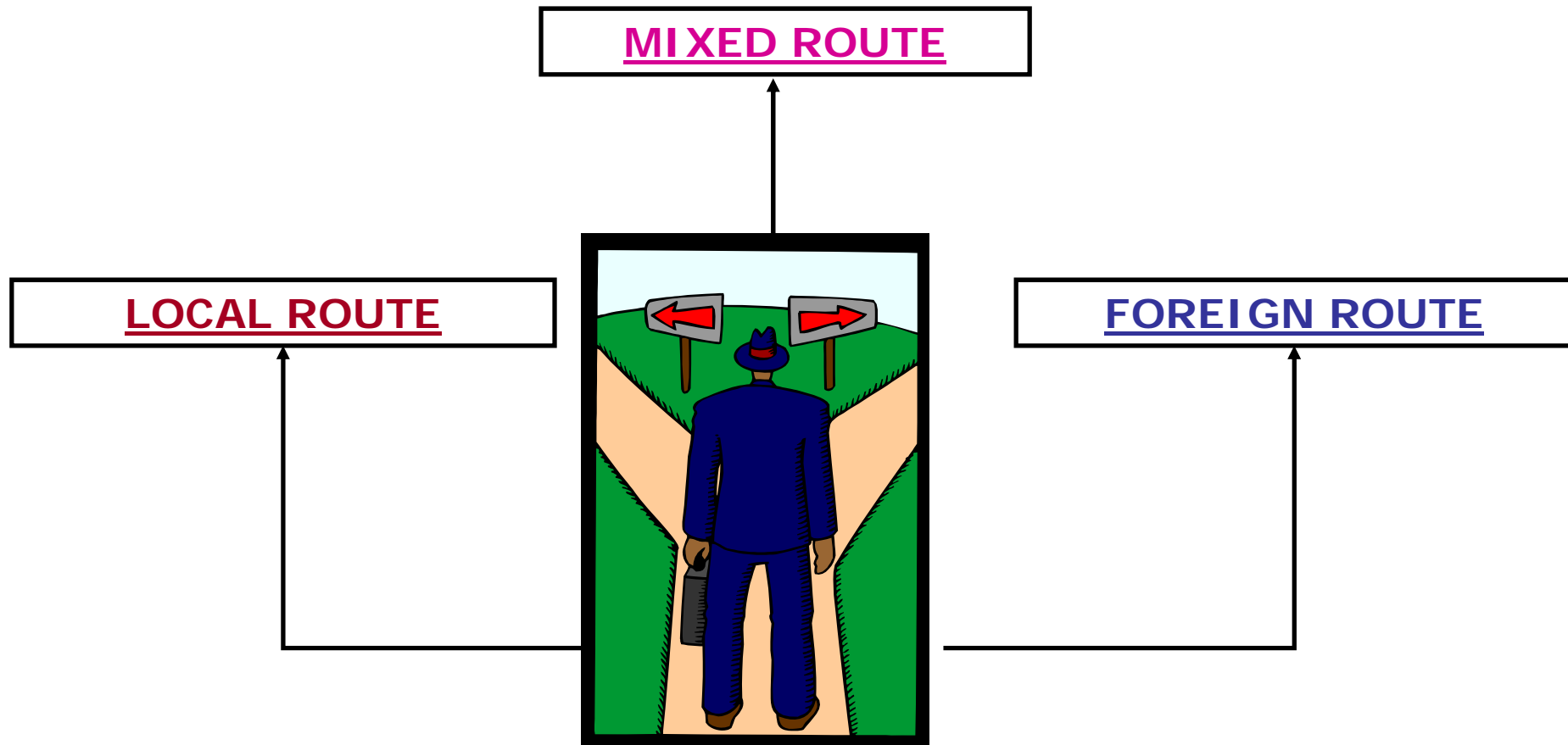
# Introduction on IPOS

- The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) is a statutory board formed under the Ministry of Law since April 2001
- It is the lead government agency that advises on and administers intellectual property (IP) laws, promotes IP awareness and provides the infrastructure to facilitate the development of IP in Singapore.
- Our activities are in 3 key areas as aligned to our Vision:
  1. Strengthening IP regime
  2. Enabling IP Capabilities
  3. Positioning Singapore in the international IP arena

# IPOS Organisation Chart



# Patent Search & Examination



The information stated herein is confidential and is accurate as of 24 Nov 2011.  
It is intended as a guide only and does not amount to legal advice.  
Professional advice must be sought prior to acting on any matter contained within this presentation.

- Search and examination is done in Singapore via partnering patent offices (Austria, Denmark, Hungary)
- Applicant can request for search report and then for examination report; or request for a combined search & examination report
- Search & examination is done according to Singapore laws and requirements
  - Patents Act
  - Patents Rules
  - S&E Guide (available on our website at [www.ipos.gov.sg](http://www.ipos.gov.sg))
  - Case law
- Minimum documentation are to be referred to for search purposes

- Reliance on search results of a corresponding application/patent + request for examination in Singapore
- Results from these patent offices are acceptable
  - AU, CA\*, JP, KR, NZ, UK, US, EPO\*      \* Applications filed in English only
- Examination is done in Singapore via partnering patent offices (Austria, Denmark, Hungary)
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  - Patents Act
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  - S&E Guide (available on our website at [www.ipos.gov.sg](http://www.ipos.gov.sg))
  - Case law



# Deadlines for Local & Mixed Routes

Actions	Default	With block extension of period
Request for Search Report	13 months	n.a.
Request for Combined Search & Examination Report	21 months	39 months
Request for Examination Report	21 months	39 months
Respond to Written Opinion	5 months*	n.a.
Establishment of Examination Report	39 months	57 months
Request for Certificate of Grant	42 months	60 months

\* Deadline cannot be extended. If the applicant does not respond or responds after the deadline, Examiner will proceed to establish the examination report without a response to the written opinion.

# Foreign Route

- Reliance on search & examination results (“prescribed information”) from a corresponding application/patent
- Results from these patent offices are acceptable
  - AU, CA\*, JP, KR, NZ, UK, US, EPO\*      \* Applications filed in English only
- No substantive examination
- About 50% of granted patents proceeded under the foreign route





# Deadlines for Foreign Route

Actions	Default	With block extension of period
Furnishing of prescribed information	42 months	60 months
Request for Certificate of Grant	42 months	60 months

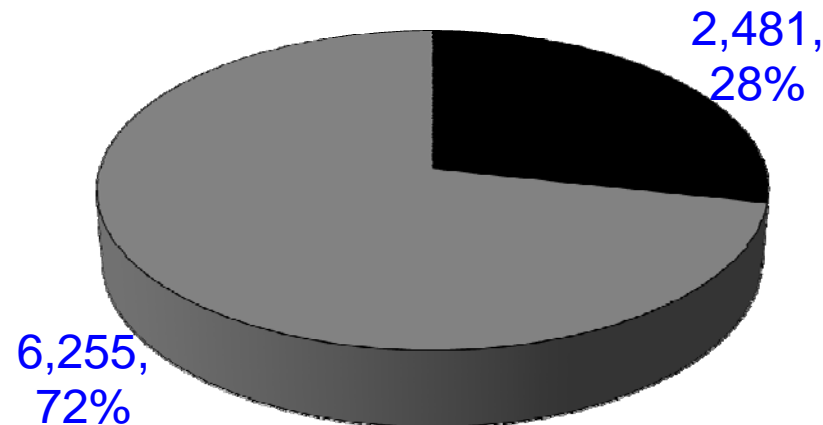
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# Statistics: National v PCT national phase

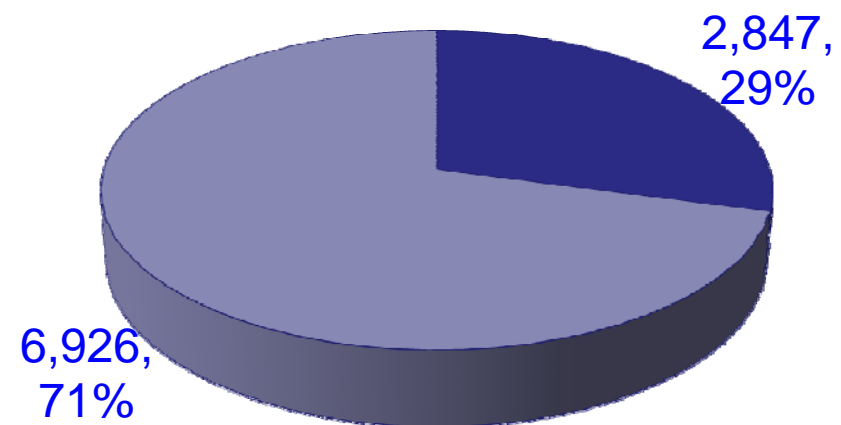
Patent applications lodged  
in 2009

■ National ■ PCT national phase



Patent applications lodged  
in 2010

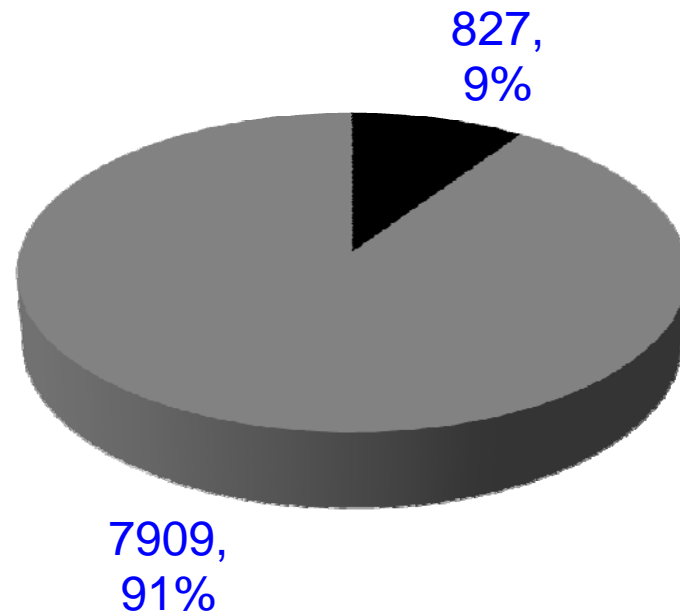
■ National ■ PCT national phase



# Statistics: Domestic applicants v Foreign applicants

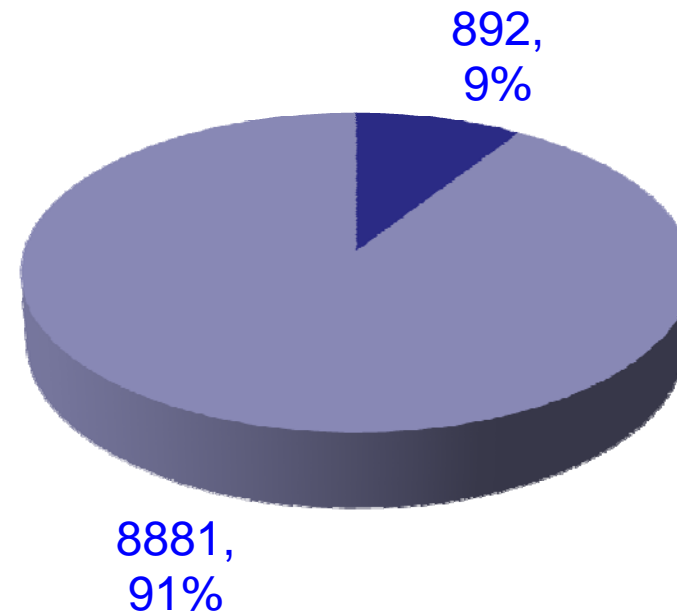
Patent applications lodged  
in 2009

■ Local ■ Foreign



Patent applications lodged  
in 2010

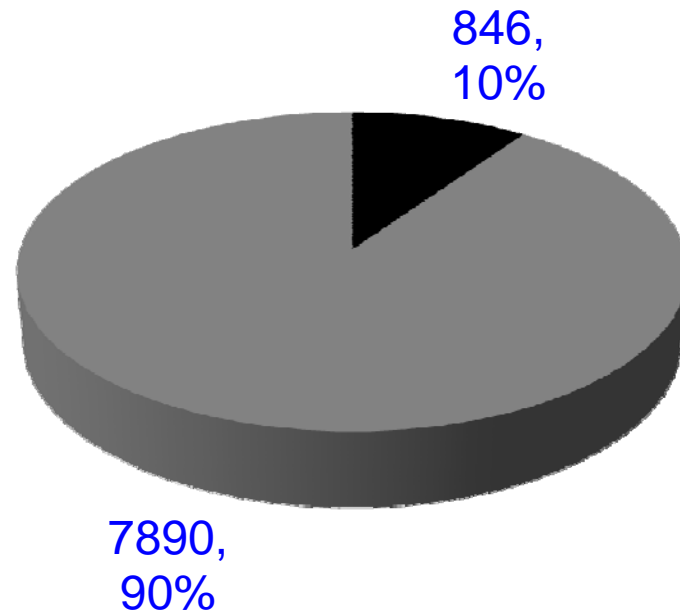
■ Local ■ Foreign



# Statistics: With or without priority

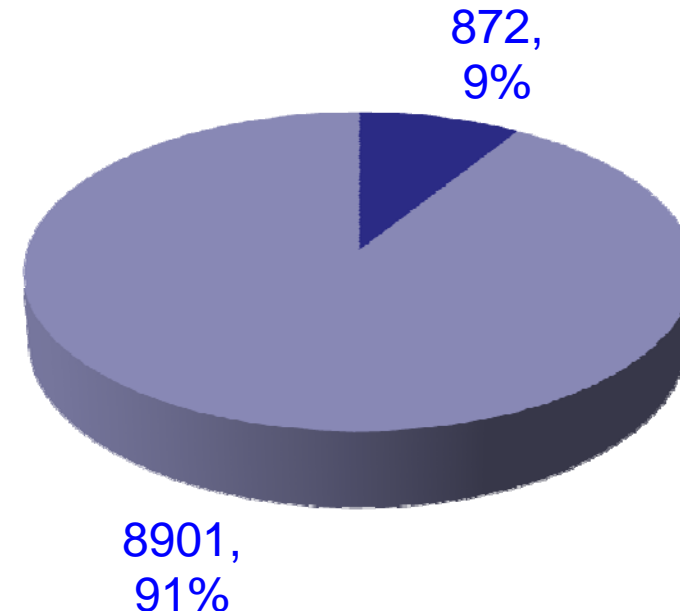
## Patent applications lodged in 2009

■ No Priority   ■ with Priority



## Patent applications lodged in 2010

■ No Priority   ■ with Priority





# Proposed changes to the patent system

- Public consultation in Jul 2009
- Key changes proposed in Jul 2009:
  - Move from current self-assessment system to a positive grant patent system
  - Simpler deadlines (move from 2-track deadlines system to a single-track deadlines system)
  - Introduce some checks for the foreign route
  - Introduce a review process for applicants who received a final examination report with outstanding objections
- Second public consultation in Nov/Dec 2011



# THANK YOU

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