

WIPO-ASEAN Sub-Regional Workshop on the Establishment of an Information Technology Infrastructure for the Effective Utilization of Patent Examination Results of other Intellectual Property Offices

Tokyo, Japan, September 6 to 7, 2012

Country Presentation

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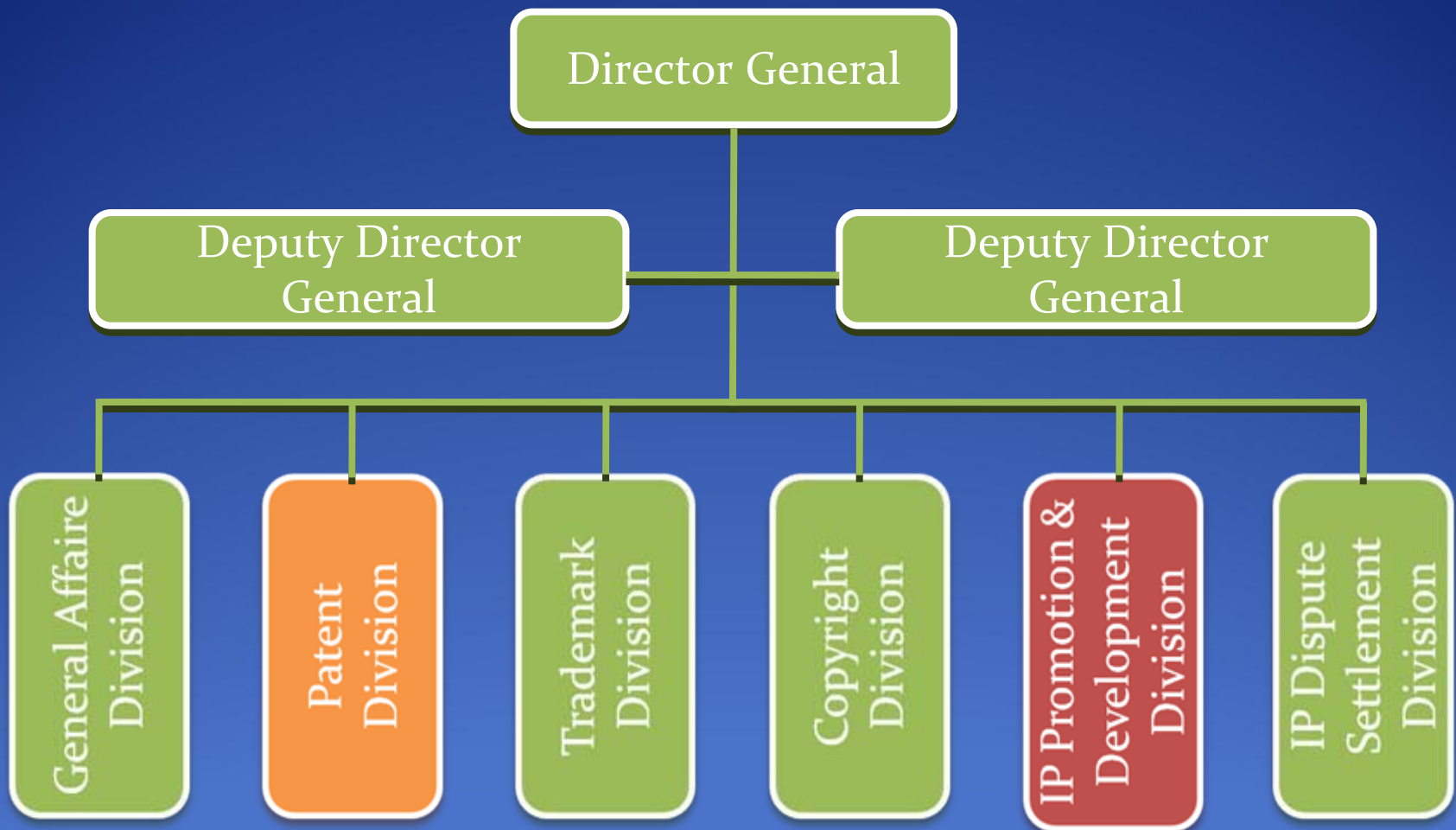
Director of IP Promotion and Development Division

Department of Intellectual Property

Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

Lao PDR

Department of Intellectual Property Organization Chart



Total staffs of DIP including DG and DDG: 23 persons

Patent Division

Patent Division in the Department of Intellectual Property was established in 2011 and have 3 staffs:

- 1 Acting Director
- 2 Examiners

Patent Application

Lao PRD has to received the Patent Application since the end of year 2004.

Year	Application		Grant	
	LA	FC	LA	FC
2004	x	11	x	x
2005	3	4	x	x
2006	2	11	x	x
2007	3	20	x	x
2008	3	35	x	x
2009	x	12	x	x
2010	x	20	x	x
2011	x	43	x	x
2012 – up to 31 August	1	33	x	x
Total	12	189	0	0

Patent Procedure in Lao PDR

➤ Formalities Examination

- ❖ The Patent Division will conduct a formality examination of each Patent applications to ensure that the application is complete, in correct form, and that fees have been paid. The Patent Division will notify the applicant whether the application is sufficiently complete to receive a filing date.
- ❖ If the application is sufficiently complete to receive a filing date but it appears that the application is incomplete or otherwise incorrectly filed, the Patent Division will inform the applicant to complete the application within 60 days of notification.

Patent Procedure in Lao PDR

➤ Substantive Examination

- ❖ The substantive examination shall be based on a search of existing technical knowledge.
- ❖ Where the application has previously been subject to a search or examination by another authority the applicant may submit a copy of the report of such office and request that it be accepted in lieu of conducting a search in the Lao PDR.
- ❖ If the applicant is unable to provide substantive examination reports for the invention which is the subject of the application, the applicant may submit a request to the Patent Division to examine as to substance the application. The Patent Division will undertake the examination within the following time frames: 32 months from the date of filing the application or the priority date.
- ❖ However, all expenses incurred in the request for the examination of the invention registration application shall be the burden of the requestor.

Current situation with regard to IT and Office Automation in Lao PDR

- Lao PDR used WIPO Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) since the year 2004
- The IP Promotion and Development Division is responsible for the IPAS as included Trademark, Patent, Petty Patent and Industrial Design database.
- Lao PDR doesn't have digitalization of information on patent applications, e-dossier and e-filing

Future perspective on IT and Office Automation in Lao PDR

- Digitalization of information on patent applications, e-dossier and e-filing
- Joint the ASEAN Patent Search and Examination Cooperation (ASPEC)

Thank you