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**WIPO SEMINAR SERIES ON  
“THE ECONOMICS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY”**

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**Patent Rights and Economic Growth: Evidence from  
Cross-Country Panels of Manufacturing Industries  
(Professor Ivan P.L. Png)**

*Organized by*  
the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

**Geneva, November 30, 2010**

13.30 – 13.40 Introduction

Moderator: Mr. Carsten Fink, Chief Economist, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva

13.40 – 15.00 Patent Rights and Economic Growth: Evidence from Cross-Country Panels of Manufacturing Industries

Speaker: Mr. Ivan P.L. Png, Professor, NUS Business School, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Abstract: The objective of patent rights is to foster innovation and economic growth. However, to date, there is little robust evidence that patents “work” as intended. Rather than asking whether countries with stronger patent rights experience faster economic growth, we are asking whether more patent-intensive industries grow relatively faster than less patent-intensive industries in countries with stronger patent rights. In this study of 54 manufacturing industries in up to 72 countries between 1981 and 2000, we show that, empirically, stronger patent rights were associated with faster growth in more patent-intensive industries, which effect was stronger in more advanced economies.

Time will be reserved for an open discussion.

*The session will start at 13.30 p.m., on Tuesday, November 30, 2010, at the headquarters of WIPO, 34, chemin des Colombettes, Geneva (Conference Room B).*

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