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1. South-East Asia and the AEC: A background

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (South-East Asia)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or South-East Asia, was established in 1967 in Bangkok by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Since then, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and most recently Cambodia joined, putting in place what is at present the [ten Member States of South-East Asia](#).

As a regional grouping, South-East Asia aims to accelerate economic growth and social progress among its members, through the promotion of regional peace and security and through fostering stability in a region with a population of over 622 million in 2014 and spanning almost 4.5 million square kilometres (ASEAN stats).

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)

The goal of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is regional economic integration in South-East Asia. The AEC envisages the following key characteristics: (a) a single market and production base, (b) a highly dynamic and competitive economic region, (c) a region of fair economic development, and (d) a region fully integrated into the global economy.

The AEC's areas of cooperation include human resources development and capacity building; recognition of professional qualifications; closer consultation on macroeconomic and financial policies; trade financing measures; enhanced infrastructure and communications connectivity; development of electronic transactions through e-South-East Asia (agreement between the South-East Asia Member States regarding the application of information and communication technologies); integrating industries across the region to promote regional sourcing; and enhancing private sector involvement for the building of the AEC. In short, the AEC will transform South-East Asia into [a region with free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labour, and freer flow of capital](#).

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2. The ASEAN Economic Community and Intellectual Property

The South-East Asia Economic Community and Intellectual Property

As the AEC takes steps to become a more fluid and internally-accessible market through the introduction of free movement of capital and investment, goods, services and certain skilled labour, giving a combined population of over 600 million people a significant boost to the region's economy, **many challenges relating to the protection of valuable intellectual property (IP) across the AEC will arise.**

In the European Union (EU), there are systems in place that are designed to simplify the process to obtain IP protection across the region. These mechanisms are a necessity, because goods (as well as people, capital and services) can move freely within the EU. While South-East Asia will not go quite so far as to have the unlimited free movement of goods, **IP rights holders need to be aware that due to the increase in the movement of all types of goods in South-East Asia - and also those goods coming into South-East Asia countries - obtaining IP protection in South-East Asia is becoming of great importance for all countries within the region.**

South-East Asia IPR Action Plan 2011 - 2015

The South-East Asia nations have formed an action plan which is aimed at transforming the region into an **innovative and competitive** one through the use of IP.

Five strategic goals were identified for 2011–2015:

- a. **A balanced IP system** that takes into account the varying levels of development of Member States, and the differences in the institutional capacity of national IP Offices, to enable them to deliver timely, quality and accessible IP services, and to promote the region as being favourable to the needs of users and generators of IP.
- b. Development of national or regional legal and policy infrastructures that address the evolving demands of the IP landscape and facilitate **the participation of South-East Asia Member States in global IP systems** at the appropriate time.
- c. Advancement of the interests of the region through the **systematic promotion of IP creation, awareness and utilisation**, to ensure that IP becomes a tool for innovation and development; support for the transfer of technology to promote access to knowledge; and consideration for the preservation and protection of indigenous products and services and the works of their creative people in the region.
- d. Active **regional participation in the international IP community**, with closer ties to dialogue partners and institutions to develop the capacity of Member States and to address the needs of stakeholders in the region.
- e. **Intensified co-operation among South-East Asia Member States** and increased levels of collaboration to enhance the human and institutional capacity of IP Offices in the region.

As of March 2016, it has been reported that more than 80% of the 108 deliverables under the South-East Asia IPR Action Plan 2011-2015 have been completed.

Throughout 2011 to 2015, cooperation between South-East Asia countries in the IP field has improved the IP landscape in the region. In 2013, in conjunction with World IP Day, the South-East Asia IP Portal was launched.

A number of trade mark-related initiatives were also accomplished. They were primarily aimed at upgrading the administration and protection of trade marks in the region. The Common Guidelines for the Substantive Examination of Marks was prepared and adopted to guide and to focus the practices of South-East Asia IP Offices. Several tools were developed. These include the South-East Asia TM View, which is the online database that provides stakeholders with free-of-charge access to more than two million trade mark registrations and applications in effect in participating South-East Asia countries, and the South-East Asia TM class, an online consultation tool that offers free-of-charge access to a database of terms accepted by the participating South-East Asia IP Offices as suitable to identify goods and services for the purposes of the registration of marks. South-East Asia also invested a great deal of time and effort in addressing the turnaround times for trademark approvals. Many IP offices have undertaken the streamlining of processes and computerization to enable a shorter turnaround time for the benefit of businesses.

In addition, within these five (5) years, a number of South-East Asia countries have acceded to the international registration treaties administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): one (1) to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), two (2) to the Madrid Protocol, and one (1) to the Hague Agreement .

To date, the South-East Asia IPR Action Plan 2016-2025 has not yet been finalized and published by the South-East Asia Member States. However, during the South-East Asia-IPA Meeting & Conference on 4 -6 March 2016, the South-East Asia Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC) identified the following four (4) strategic goals for 2016-2025:

- “A more robust South-East Asia IP system is developed by strengthening IP offices and building IP infrastructure in the region;
- Regional IP platforms and infrastructures are developed to contribute to enhancing the ASEAN Economic Community;
- An expanded and inclusive South-East Asia IP ecosystem is developed; and
- Regional mechanisms to promote asset creation and commercialization, particularly geographical indications and traditional knowledge are enhanced.”

Strategic Goal 1 seeks “to improve IP services, particularly in the areas of patents, trademarks and industrial designs; promote improvement of IP services in term of timeliness and quality of output; accession to international treaties; and develop targeted and sustainable capacity building and office-initiated client-assistance programmes linked to levels of development, with special focus on Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.”

Strategic Goal 2 includes “developing new networks of integrated IP services, such as technology transfer offices and innovation technology support offices (patent libraries); improving service delivery of AMS through connected online services, i.e., IPRs search systems and online filing systems; adopting modern Information Technologies to improve quality of regional services, including the development of an automated (including translation) system for sharing of IPRs information, and regional IPRs database; improving and centralizing the management of the South-East Asia IP Portal.”

Strategic Goal 3 aims to “establish an ASEAN IP network (IP, judiciary, customs and other enforcement agencies to support parties in dispute, IP practitioners and judicial officers in the hearing of IP disputes, particularly complex copyright and patent cases IP Offices can facilitate access to the services of technical experts by making available an South-East Asia directory of local and foreign technical experts for niche technology areas. It also wishes to study the feasibility of a regional accreditation system; enhance intra and extra South-East Asia engagement with stakeholders and external partners including dialogue/ consultations with private sector/IP associations (e.g., AIPA, INTA, WIPO Singapore Office).”

Strategic Goal 4 focuses to “improve awareness and respect of IP in order to promote its protection and utilization, including development of supporting schemes for SMEs and creative sectors; develop an IP valuation service to create awareness of the value of IP as a financial asset; promote the commercialization of Geographical Indications in South-East Asia by improving the capacity of the productive sector in the development of protection and branding strategies; and promote a protection mechanism for Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions/Folklore.”



3. Recommended steps for SMEs

South-East Asia is increasingly being seen as ‘one area’ when it comes to IP protection. However, there is still no sign for a regional IP protection system which would be comparable to Community Trade Mark & Design systems and would help reducing costs for SMEs. It is perhaps most prudent that SMEs consider applying for IP protection in those South-East Asia countries which are of commercial interest to them. On the other hand, given the increasing prominence and attractiveness of the South-East Asia market, and the fact that South-East Asia is becoming a region with free movement of goods, services and investment with the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015, it is perhaps advisable that IP owners give all ten countries serious consideration, even if they do not have immediate plans to expand into the rest of the region, since it is increasingly common for local businesses to look outside of South-East Asia for “inspiration”, a trend that could easily lead to theft of brands, technologies and other IP assets developed and protected in Europe.

In other words, **SMEs should consider incorporating IP protection on an South-East Asia-wide basis into their regular IP strategy reviews** or at the least, through expanding their protection to prioritised countries within the region, proportionately to their financial resources.

Why is this?

- (1) The AEC allows the free movement of goods and services. Therefore, it is advisable to protect rights to the highest degree possible in all countries of potential interest. This means **obtaining registrations for trade marks, designs and patents and considering recordal of copyright**, where applicable.
- (2) The AEC has no ‘Community Trade Mark’ or regional patent and there are no plans to introduce this. Therefore, an **IP rights holder must register separately in every country in which it seeks protection**. Also, it is wise to consider individual trade secret and copyright laws, as it may be possible to record these at a national level.
- (3) The AEC ‘Single Window’ for Customs means that, similar to the EU, goods arriving from outside the AEC can enter the AEC market via one Customs entry point, and those goods are then free to circulate around the AEC. Therefore the likelihood of your goods being sold in an AEC country you had not previously anticipated, such as via the grey or parallel market, will increase significantly. Furthermore, foreign SME investors in the AEC should note that if they have a local distributor or licensing deal, this should be reviewed to control – as much as local laws will allow – the distribution of your goods or sublicensing, etc. As the regional market expands, local businesses will want to sell to potential customers further afield. **Your commercial agreements must anticipate and address this.**

4. Characterising the IP landscape across South-East Asia

It is very clear that different South-East Asia countries are at different stages of economic, commercial and legal development. This means that *SMEs should not expect the same level of IP protection in all South-East Asia Member States*. The above recommended steps of filing IP assets where you believe you may need protection, now or in the near future, are therefore especially relevant in South-East Asia.

South-East Asia IP Landscape

Country	IP standard
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has advanced registration and enforcement infrastructure, including border enforcement of IPR. It is generally more expensive to protect and enforce IP in Singapore than in other South-East Asia countries. Offers tax incentives on royalties for registered companies. The first IP office in South-East Asia to be appointed as an International Authority in Patent Search and Examination
Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Brunei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally comply with international standards on IP laws required by the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Enforcement options are available in case of infringement, but related processes tend to be slow. Customs are usually more experienced in IP matters such as the seizure of suspected infringing goods (with the exception of Indonesia).
Laos, Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively new IP regime and basic legal infrastructure in terms of protection and enforcement capacity.
Myanmar (Burma)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, there are no IP laws in place, but draft IP bills are in queue for deliberation in parliament. It is possible to record and publish a cautionary notice to assert your IP rights. This will be replaced by a registration system once the new laws are introduced.

As there is no formal registration process for trade secrets, they are often referred to as 'unregistered rights'.

Some snapshots on IP in South-East Asia

Thailand's government has allowed compulsory licenses of patents for certain cancer and AIDS drugs, denying patent protection and a monopoly right over such drugs. The Trademark Amendment Act B.E. 2559 will come into force on 28 July 2016, bringing Thailand closer towards the international standard of IP protection and construct the legal infrastructure for Thailand's accession to the Madrid Protocol.

Although already a member of the Madrid Protocol and PCT, **Vietnam** still has restrictive laws on franchising, which has hampered foreign direct investment. For example, a known coffee franchise has only just opened its first store there (also note that the protection of local coffee businesses was a factor here).

Singapore is advanced in terms of economic development, but it imports many goods and technologies. The Singapore government is actively supporting its domestic also has an increasing R&D capability - especially in Life Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, Services and Digital Economy and Urban Solutions and Sustainability.

Indonesian introduced implementing regulations for the 2014 Copyright Act, which create an online notification system for rights holders to request action against alleged infringing websites and is currently amending its trademark law to recognise non-traditional marks, bringing its trade mark law closer to meeting the requirements for ascension to the Madrid Protocol.

In recent years, certain South-East Asia countries have changed from original equipment manufacturer (OEM-) based manufacturers to more high-tech industries. **Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia** are examples.

Countries such as **Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia and Laos** are seen to be replacing Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia as a source of cheap labour. Manufacturers are shifting production from China to Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos. IP protection is weakest in these countries.

The annual international IP Index released by The Global Intellectual Property Center in 2016 measured the legislative, regulatory, and administrative strength of the IP environment of key global economies ranks Singapore's IP environment among best in the world. Malaysia was ranked 17th-, Brunei came in at 28th whilst Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam still require significant efforts to improve their IP landscape.

South-East Asia Patent Examination Co-operation (ASPEC) is a regional patent work sharing programme involving 9 of the 10 IP Offices in the South-East Asia Member Countries (only Myanmar is not yet involved). The objectives of ASPEC are to reduce complexity, achieve time savings and improve the quality of search and examination.

EU bilateral free trade negotiations are currently taking place with individual South-East Asia countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam. The EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA) text was concluded in late 2013, but still needs to be

ratified. In addition, the text of the EU-Vietnam FTA was published in earlier 2016, following the announcement of the conclusion of the negotiations in December 2015. Such treaties will offer huge export potential for EU industrial, agricultural and services businesses.



There exists a counterfeiting risk across all of South-East Asia. Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia tend to be a source of manufacturing, as well as sales, although the majority of counterfeit goods are still imported from China. Singapore is a small market for counterfeits, but as a large port receiving many goods from China, it serves as an entry- and transit-point for counterfeits.

Although the legal framework in most South-East Asia countries (excluding Myanmar) is relatively developed, major obstacles to an effective fight against infringement remain across the majority of South-East Asia countries. Piracy and counterfeiting are widespread, however relatively few IP cases are brought to court as the current amount of damages awarded often does not warrant the investment necessary to engage the litigation.

The judiciary of Malaysia introduced dedicated IP courts in 2007. The purpose of assigning a special IP court is to give proper attention to IP cases in the criminal and civil courts, and ensure that the judges hearing such cases are equipped to handle IP issues.

Customs authorities in Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines have effective customs recordal systems via which companies can request that customs proactively monitor and notify them of suspected counterfeit goods being imported.

For detailed information on the IP regime and practical tips in each South-East Asia country, please refer to the South-East Asia IPR SME Helpdesk IP Country Factsheets, available for free download at: <http://www.southeastasia-iprhelpdesk.eu/?q=en/country-factsheets>.

5. Corporate strategy, taxation, regulatory matters and the AEC

Singapore offers tax benefits for holding IP assets. Many companies are setting up a registered company in Singapore to hold their South-East Asia IP (and in some cases, worldwide IP). It is worthwhile obtaining local legal and tax advice on this point in order to manage your IP portfolio. Certain industries will also be able to benefit from incentives offered to R&D companies wishing to locate in one of Thailand's Science Parks managed by the Ministry of Science and Technology's National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA). It is advisable to explore similar possibilities across the region.

In addition, IP rich companies are beginning to make use of intangible assets to apply for financing. In 2013 Malaysia allocated RM200 million (approximately EUR 45 million) in funding to oversee the creation of an IP financing scheme. Similarly, Singapore has established an IP Financing Scheme, in which the first case of loan application using IP as collateral was approved in Singapore in June 2016.

Regulatory matters and the AEC

As well as IP issues, regulatory laws in relation to products, such as cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, food, medical devices, hazardous substances and agrichemicals, are also a key consideration in terms of market access and ease of doing business. South-East Asia is developing harmonisation in this area of laws and regulations. It is recommended that a strategy be devised to sit alongside the IP protection strategy in order to ensure that products can be imported into South-East Asia within the desired timeline. The following sectors are of particular interest:

- **Cosmetics.** On 1 January, 2008, South-East Asia Member States implemented the South-East Asia Harmonization Cosmetics Regulation Scheme. As a result, a streamlined system and an efficient registration process have replaced the previously chaotic system, and there is now just a solitary category for cosmetic products.
- **Pharmaceuticals.** One of the main concerns of Member States was that each local Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had different requirements for registering pharmaceutical products in each South-East Asia country. Therefore, the pharmaceutical industry was one of the first industries

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pushing for the implementation of a [harmonised regulatory scheme](#), to complement and facilitate the objective of developing an South-East Asia Free Trade Area and, in particular, the elimination of technical barriers to trade posed by these regulations. Other amendments to local laws are also under consideration, so as to be in line with the upcoming AEC harmonisation schemes. In addition, to facilitate the registration of products in each country, the Thai FDA is currently considering accepting bioequivalence studies that are conducted in foreign countries for generic products.

- **Agricultural products and livestock.** Harmonisation of the requirements for agricultural products is also well underway. For example, in 2006, the [South-East Asia Good Agricultural Practices for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables](#), or South-East Asia GAP, was adopted as a standard for the production, harvesting and post-harvest handling of fruits and vegetables in the region. Several other South-East Asia harmonisation standards have also been implemented, such as 13 criteria for the accreditation of livestock establishments and three criteria for the accreditation of livestock products.
- **Medical devices.** Each South-East Asia Member State are at different stages of implementing the policies and practises based on South-East Asia Medical Device Directive, with Singapore and Malaysia reporting significant progress on transposing the AMDD into national legislation. In 2016, South-East Asia members will focus their efforts on developing a Work Plan on Implementation of AMDD, with Singapore's Health Sciences Authority taking the lead on that initiative. The scope of the work plan will include developing common nomenclature, post-market surveillance guidelines and device grouping guidance.
- **Food.** Food safety is one of the main objectives of the AEC. Thus, in 2009, the AEC adopted the [South-East Asia Integrated Food Security Framework and Strategy Plan of Action for South-East Asia Food Security](#). The AEC is also considering using the Codex General Standards for Food Additives (GSFA) as the basis for harmonisation.

SMEs will need to register in each country in which they seek protection

6. Outlook and conclusions

The future: A positive outlook

- [Customs are constantly improving and seizures of goods are increasing](#). The role of Customs will become more important as the AEC free movement of goods circulates not only genuine, but counterfeit goods as well.
- Presently five of the ten South-East Asia countries, namely Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam are members of the Madrid Protocol/Agreement which will improve trade mark protection in the region and provide better access for local companies to register overseas. There is no South-East Asia-wide trade mark, but it is a possibility in the long term.
- [Local legal advice is vital](#) and firms are able to offer specific IP advice on registration, commercial exploitation and enforcement.
- Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia are moving from receiving solely assembly and manufacturing investment to developing and [protecting their own ideas and IP](#). Recognition and exploitation of geographical indications or traditional handicraft are obvious first choices. Industries such as biotech and petrochemicals research, medical devices, software development and agribusiness, however, will also play an important role. Local companies such as Thailand's PTT and Malaysia's Petronas (both petrochemicals) are good examples of companies investing in their own IP, as well as acquiring overseas IP assets.
- In relation to technology transfer and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the next step is to move on from just building assembly factories to [collaborate with European companies on R&D projects](#). Certain industries are already doing this (e.g., R&D on vaccines and other medicines to treat diseases of local importance such as malaria).

Conclusion

While it is expected that the AEC harmonization will significantly drive the regional economy and attract foreign investment, implementation of the AEC might have an unforeseeable impact on South-East Asia countries and will definitely present a host of challenges. The South-East Asia Free Trade Agreement has seen significant achievements in tariff reductions. Tariffs still exist on sensitive goods (such as rice), but that is not uncommon with FTAs in general. As measures of progress, more than 99% of the products listed in the Common Effective Preferential Tariff ("CEPT") of South-East Asia-6 which includes Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand have now been brought down to the 0-5 percent tariff range.

Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, are not far behind in the implementation of their CEPT commitments with almost 80% of their products having been moved into their respective CEPT ILS. Of these items, about 66% already have tariffs within the 0-5% tariff band.

In sum, South-East Asia's simple average tariff rate (inclusive of sensitive goods) stands at 0.05%, which is comparable to North American Free Trade Agreement 's (NAFTA's) 0.03%.

If the AEC is to work well, there should arguably be a high degree of alignment of IP laws across the region. To this end, South-East Asia adopted the Intellectual Property Rights Action Plan.

However, there are currently no plans to introduce regional trade mark, patent or design protection systems to the AEC that would help reducing costs for potential investors. Consequently, **SMEs will need to register in each country in which they seek protection**. Additionally, it is advisable to **consider individual copyright laws**, as it may be possible to record these at a national level.

The AEC 'Single Window' for Customs means that, as in the EU, foreign goods will enter the AEC market via one Customs entry point, and are then free to circulate around the AEC with no additional border checks. This means that **European goods are now far more likely to be sold in an AEC country** manufacturers had not previously anticipated or intended.

In a nutshell, **businesses should not assume that the risks to their IP assets are reduced** by the measures being brought in under the AEC – **diligence and a sound protection strategy remain of utmost importance**.

In the meantime, it is important for companies planning investments in the South-East Asia region to monitor and seek local advice on the advances in IP laws and sectorial regulations within South-East Asia countries of particular interest.

7. Case Study

A European SME currently sells medical devices to a small Singaporean company for distribution to Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. There is no written agreement with this Singaporean company. The SME has patents covering its more recent products and intends to develop new and improved products both in Europe and in its new factories. It is in talks with a Malaysian company to manufacture some of the medical devices in Malaysia. This Malaysian company wishes to distribute the product across all ten South-East Asia countries.

In a similar situation, make sure to consider the following:

- Consider registering your trade marks in all ten countries.** Of vital importance would be to register in countries you are actively trading in (Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand) but to sensibly assess the likelihood of sales in all other South-East Asia nations.
- Unless it is too late, **the same approach to patents and designs should be taken** as with trade marks above.
- Invest in time and in **local legal advice to draw up a**

comprehensive agreement to cover the manufacturing and distribution with the Malaysian company. Sales into certain markets may require different terms and conditions.

- If the agreement with the Malaysian company will be exclusive, it is worthwhile taking **local Singaporean legal advice on how best to end the unwritten arrangement**, if necessary. If the agreement with the Malaysian company will be non-exclusive, then it would be a good opportunity to formalise the arrangement with the Singaporean company in the form of a written agreement.
- Consider having **a Singaporean company registered to license to other companies around South-East Asia**, if this fits in with your corporate structure.
- Review your regulatory compliance position. Usually, local distributors will obtain a regulatory approval. Coordination of this is the key to ensure smooth market entry.
- R&D and improvements may occur in the factory in Malaysia. **Ensure that all agreements provide for ownership** of this and that confidential information and/or trade secrets are protected. A consistent internal patenting strategy should also be part of this expansion plan.

8. Useful links

- South-East Asia IPR SME Helpdesk Series on 'Protecting your Intellectual Property in South-East Asia'
 - Visit www.ipr-hub.eu to download our FREE business-focused guides on:
 - 'Protecting your Copyright in Southeast Asia'
 - 'Protecting your Trade Mark in Southeast Asia'
 - 'Protecting your Trade Secrets in Southeast Asia'
 - 'Protecting your Online IPR in Southeast Asia'
 - 'Patent Protection in Southeast Asia'
 - 'Technology Transfer to Southeast Asia'
 - 'Protecting your IP at Trade Fairs in Southeast Asia'
 - 'Top20 IP Considerations when Entering a New Market'
 - 'Using contracts to protect your IP in Southeast Asia'
- South-East Asia cooperation on IP – <http://www.asean.org/communities/asean-economic-community/item/cooperation-in-intellectual-property>
- South-East Asia Intellectual Property Portal – <http://www.aseanip.org/ipportal/>
- South-East Asia Intellectual Property Rights Action Plan 2011-2015 – http://www.asean.org/images/2012/Economic/sectoral_aem/service/agreement/ASEAN%20IPR%20Action%20Plan%202011-2015.pdf
- Office of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Singapore – <http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/offices/singapore/>
- Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) – <http://www.ipos.gov.sg/>
- ECAP III (Phase 2) - The EU-ASEAN Project on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights – <http://www.ecap-project.org/>
- ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint – <http://www.asean.org/archive/5187-10.pdf>

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The South-East Asia IPR SME Helpdesk provides free, business-focused advice relating to South-East Asia IPR to European Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Helpdesk Enquiry Service: Submit further questions to the Helpdesk via phone or email (question@southeastasia-iprhelpdesk.eu), or visit us in person and receive free and confidential first-line advice within three working days from a South-East Asia IP expert.

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