

The Intellectual Property Office of Papua New Guinea
(IPONG) is the Administrative centre of
The administration of the Intellectual Property
system in PNG



Formerly, the office was known as the Trade Marks Office because of the administration of the *Trade Marks Act 1978* Chapter 385. In 1999 the Government approved the establishment of the IPO PNG within the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) as part of the Business Registration and Regulation Division. The Office is headed by a Registrar.

In Papua New Guinea, the only IP rights that existed before then were the Trade Marks Chapter 385 and the Copyrights Act. Of the two legislation, only the Trade Marks Act was operational. In June 2000, the IPR Bill which includes the *Patent & Industrial Designs and Copyright and Neighboring Rights* were passed by parliament and certified by the National Executive Council on 08 November 2000 and 19 January 2001 respectively.

IPOPNG administers Trade Marks, Patents and Industrial Designs. The National Cultural Commission of Papua New Guinea administers the copyright and neighboring rights legislation. The Office plays a coordinating role in consultation with other enforcement agencies like Customs (Internal Revenue Commission), the Judiciary, Attorney General and the Police in the administration and enforcement of the IP laws.

World Intellectual Property Organization

IPOPNG is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

WIPO assists developing countries to understand the importance of intellectual property in trade and investment. WIPO provides technical assistance as well as helps to build human resource of an IP Office by conducting training and seminars. PNG has benefited from all of these assistance and continues to work closely with WIPO to build an effective administration and enforcement system for IP in PNG.

Intellectual Property - Basic Definitions

Patent - An exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process that provides a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem. A patent provides protection for the invention to the owner of the patent for a limited period, generally 20 years.

Trademark - A trademark of brand-name is a distinctive sign which identifies certain goods or services as those produced or provided by a specific person or enterprise. The period of protection for a trademark varies, but can be renewed indefinitely.

Industrial Design - An industrial design, or simply a design, is the ornamental or aesthetic aspect of an article produced by industry or handicraft. Registration and renewals are provided for, in most cases, up to 15 years.

Copyright and Related Rights - Copyright is a legal term describing rights given to creators for their literary and artistic works (including computer software). Related rights are granted to performing artists, producers of sound recordings and broadcasting organizations in their radio and television programs.

Geographical Indications - A geographic indication is a sign used on goods that have specific geographical origin and often possess qualities or a reputation that are due to the place of origin.

Trade Secrets / Undisclosed Information - These are protected information which are not generally known among, or readily accessible to, persons that normally deal with the kind of information in question; has commercial value because it is secret; and has been subject to reasonable steps to keep it secret by the person lawfully in control of the information.

For more information contact us at:

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