



# **The Importance of Patent Protection for EU Businesses in Singapore**

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# Core Services – What we offer

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# Speaker's Bio

**Name:** Ms. Chan Wai Yeng  
**Firm:** Taylor Vinters Via LLC  
**Location:** Singapore



Wai Yeng is a registered Singapore patent agent with over 10 years of experience in Intellectual Property. She is responsible for drafting of patent specifications, issuing of freedom to operate opinions, local and foreign patent registrations and advises rights owners in relation to patenting strategy and enforcement.

In her previous role, she was based in Yangon and headed the IP practice of the largest foreign law firm in Myanmar that supported rights owners in relation to the enforcement, border control, due diligence and protection of IP rights.

As an external expert for SEA IPR SME Helpdesk, she has conducted numerous IP briefings and provided IP advice to EU led trade missions to Singapore.

# An Island Nation In The Heart Of Asia

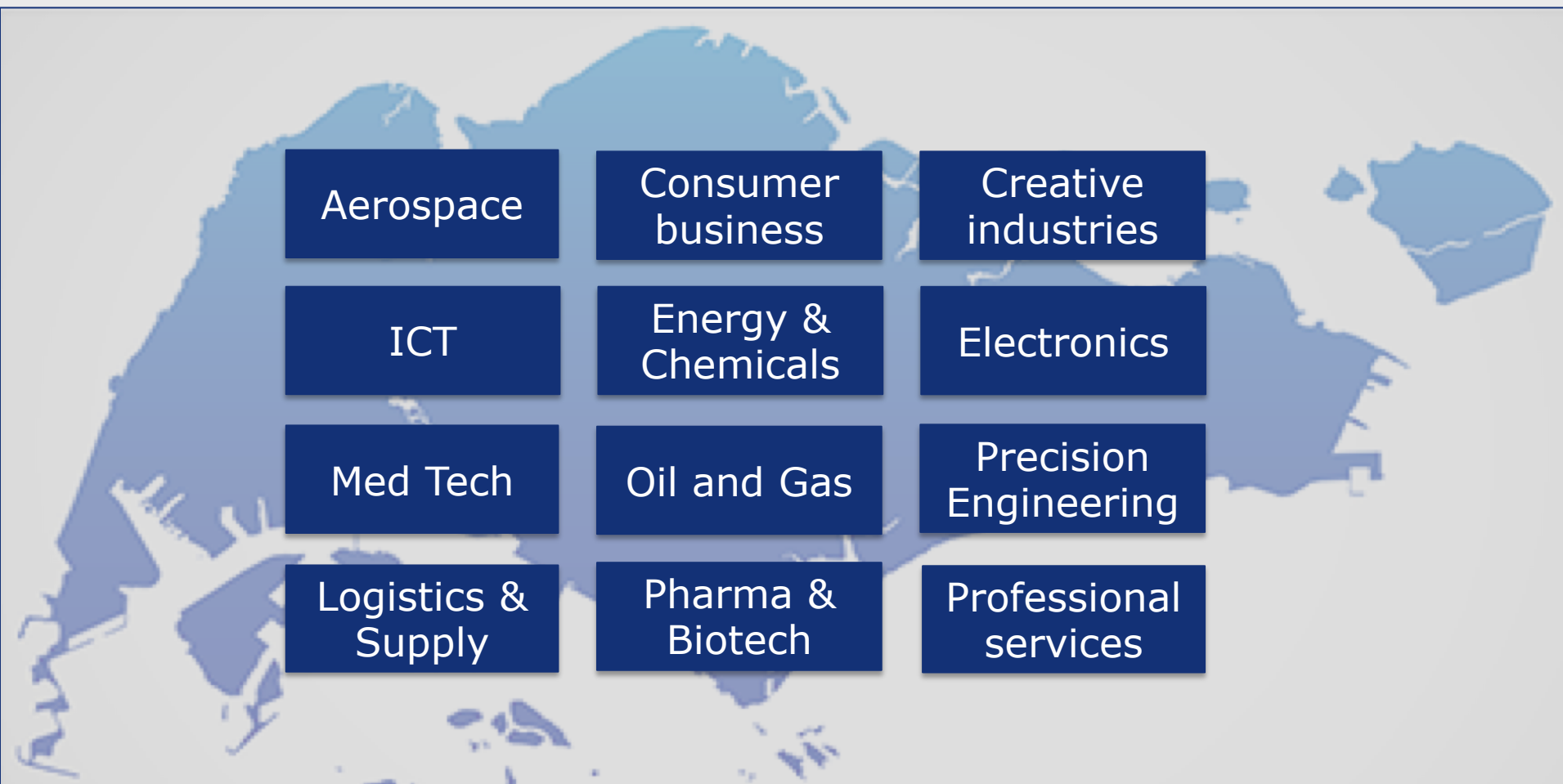


#1 most competitive economy in the world

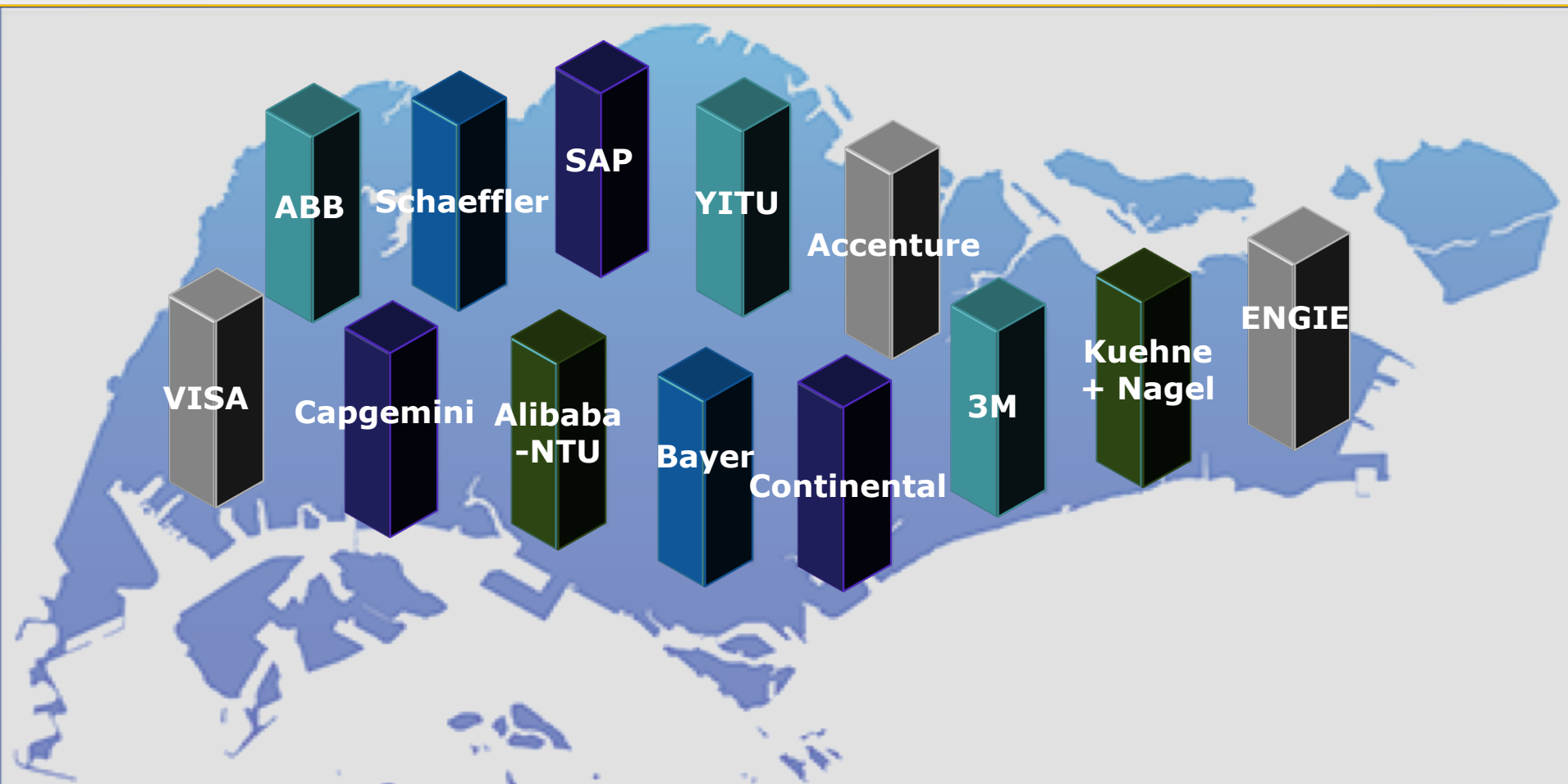
#2 in the world for ease of doing business



# An Island Nation In The Heart Of Asia



# A Global Hub For Innovation



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# EU and Singapore

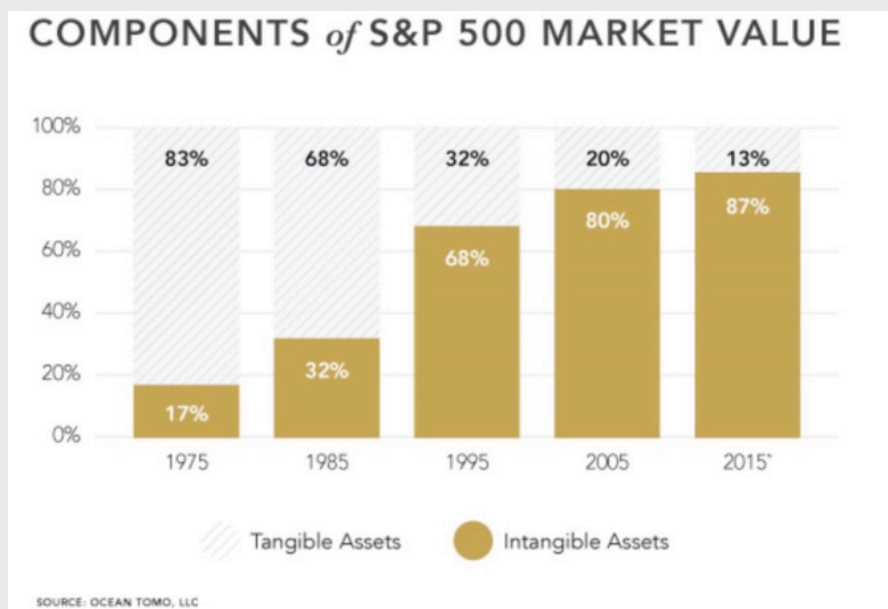


- 14th largest trading partner in goods
- largest commercial partner ASEAN
- major destination for European investments in Asia
- third largest Asian investor in the EU
- Over 10,000 EU companies are established in Singapore
- EUSFTA and EUSIPA

# Rise of the intangible economy

Unmistakable shift towards intangible assets

As of 2015, more than 80% of S&P 500 market value is in intangible assets












# Benefits of filing patents

Exclusionary rights are granted to patents rights holders

- return on investment in innovation
- commercial advantage
- technological advantage
- revenue generation (licensing, selling)
- pull-factor when attracting investors
- positive effect on consumer perception

Companies are becoming increasingly strategic in their patenting behaviour and usage of patents.

# Filing statistics

Flag	Country	Applications	Publication coverage
	Brunei	1444	1979.03.14 - 2019.09.26
	Cambodia	38	2009.05.27 - 2019.08.09
	Indonesia	135826	1987.12.02 - 2019.07.05
	Laos	13	2013.06.19 - 2018.02.01
	Malaysia	164765	1986.08.18 - 2019.02.28
	Philippines	26118	2000.08.14 - 2019.07.24
	Singapore	202512	1995.11.28 - 2019.07.30
	Thailand	143957	1980.08.13 - 2019.09.23
	Vietnam	69101	1997.05.25 - 2019.06.25

Leader in patenting activity across South East Asia



# Filing statistics (Singapore)

## Medtech

IPC	No. of records
A61B - DIAGNOSIS; SURGERY; IDENTIFICATION	2,231
A61C - DENTISTRY; APPARATUS OR METHODS FOR ORAL OR DENTAL HYGIENE	237
A61F - FILTERS IMPLANTABLE INTO BLOOD VESSELS; PROSTHESES; NURSING OR CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES...	2,657
A61H - PHYSICAL THERAPY APPARATUS, e.g. DEVICES FOR LOCATING OR STIMULATING REFLEX POINTS IN THE BODY; ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION; MASSAGE; BATHING DEVICES...	346
A61J - CONTAINERS SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR MEDICAL OR PHARMACEUTICAL PURPOSES; DEVICES FOR ADMINISTERING FOOD OR MEDICINES ORALLY...	438

# Filing statistics (Singapore)

## Fintech & AI

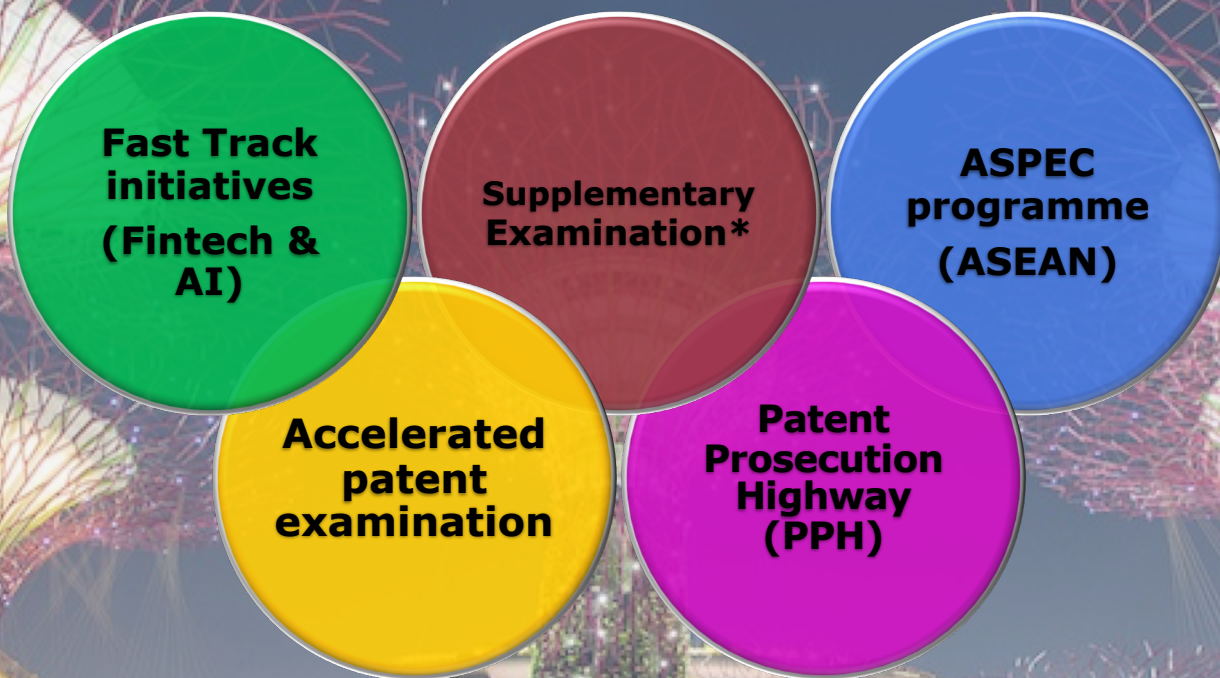
IPC	No. of records
G06Q 20/00 - Payment architectures, schemes or protocols	167
G06Q 30/00 - Commerce, e.g. shopping or e-commerce	393
G06Q 40/00 - Finance; Insurance; Tax strategies; Processing of corporate or income taxes	346
G06N - Computer systems based on specific computational models	182
G06F 17/20-28 - Digital computing or data processing equipment or methods for natural language processing	340+

# IP regime of Singapore

Singapore is ranked third in the world for having the best IP protection regime

- Accelerated grant
- Chinese searching capabilities
- Quality of examination
- Quality of patent professionals
- Part of global patent network
- Specialised IP judges

# Fast grant of patents in Singapore



Patents granted within 3 months in Singapore

# ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC)

Sharing of search and examination results between the participating offices

- ✓ Free
- ✓ May be applied directly by the applicant
- ✓ Operates in English language
- ✓ Average pendency rate to first office action after ASPEC request : 8.4 months
- ✓ Allowance rate at final decision: 100%
- ✓ PCT-ASPEC
- ✓ ASPEC-AIM



**ASEAN**  
Intellectual Property Portal

**SOUTH-EAST ASIA**  
**IPR SME HELPDESH**

# Quality Search and Examination



- Professional search tools
- Extensive library of non-patent literature
- About 100 patent examiners
- Nearly all examiners are PhD holders
- Many examiners are bilingual in English and Chinese
  - Search and analysis of Chinese prior art conducted in native Chinese
  - Higher chances of finding novelty destroying Chinese prior art

First IP office in ASEAN to be appointed as an ISA/IPEA



# Quality patent professionals

Stringent criteria applied to join the profession

- University degree/equivalent or above preferably in Science, Engineering or other technology
- IP specific graduate/masters course
- 12 months internship
- Patent Agents Qualifying Examinations

## Patents (Patent Agent) Rules

*A relevant patent agent shall ensure that the appropriate expertise (including technical expertise) is applied when any work is undertaken for his client*

# Use of Singapore patent to accelerate grant of patents overseas

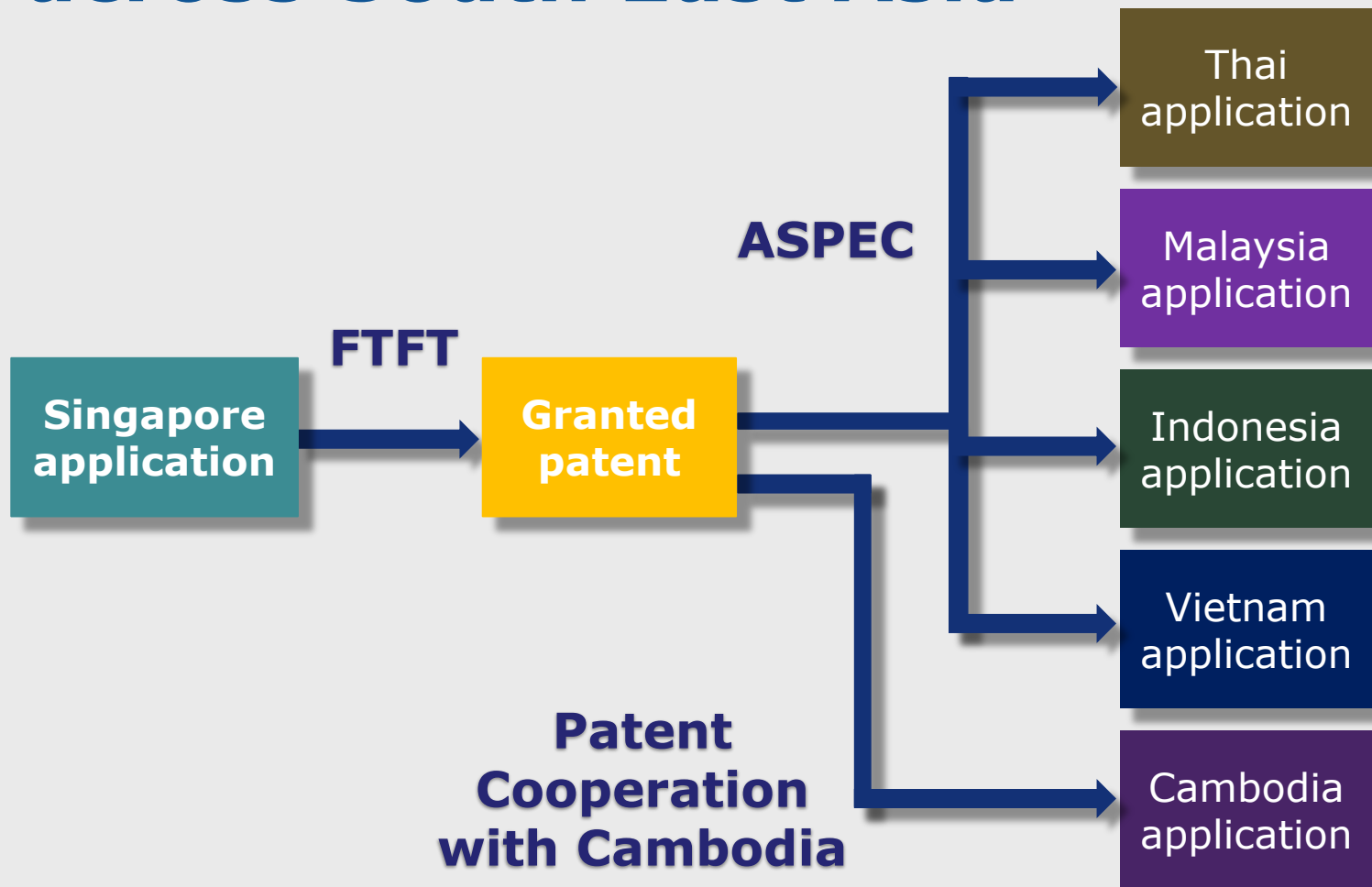
- ASPEC program
- Patent prosecution highway
- Patent Cooperation with Cambodia

# Accelerated grant of patents via ASPEC

		2 <sup>nd</sup> AMS								
		BN	KH	ID	LA	MY	PH	SG	TH	VN
1 <sup>st</sup> AMS	BN									
	KH									
	ID					5			7	1
	LA									
	MY			6					18	10
	PH			1		1		1	10	3
	SG			42		122	13		97	51
	TH									
	VN								3	

ASPEC requests filed predominantly using IPOS as 1<sup>st</sup> AMS

# Accelerated grant of fintech patents across South East Asia



# Enforcement of patents

- ✓ Specialised bench of IP judges at the High Court
- ✓ WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center
- ✓ Intellectual Property Dispute Bill

The Ministry of Law and the Supreme Court are looking into the introduction of a specialised track for litigation of IP disputes with simplified process and cost saving features.



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