

IPOPHL ON THE SPOTLIGHT

TRADEMARK PROTECTION DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES

JESUS ANTONIO Z. ROS
Director IV, Bureau of Trademarks



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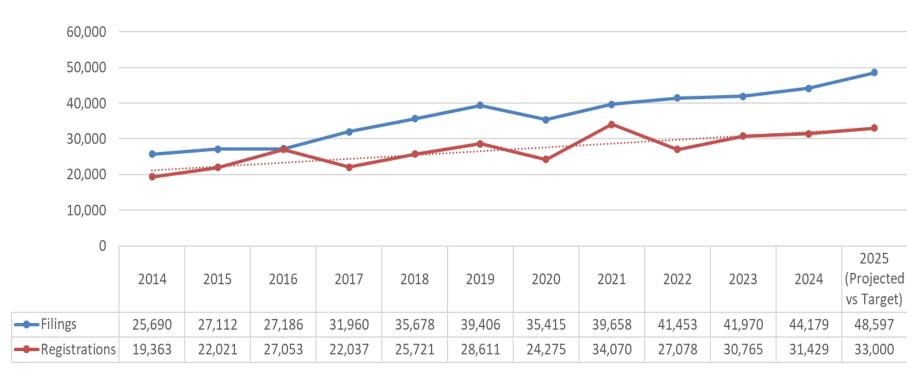


Trademark Status Report

FILINGS VS. REGISTRATIONS (2014 -2025)

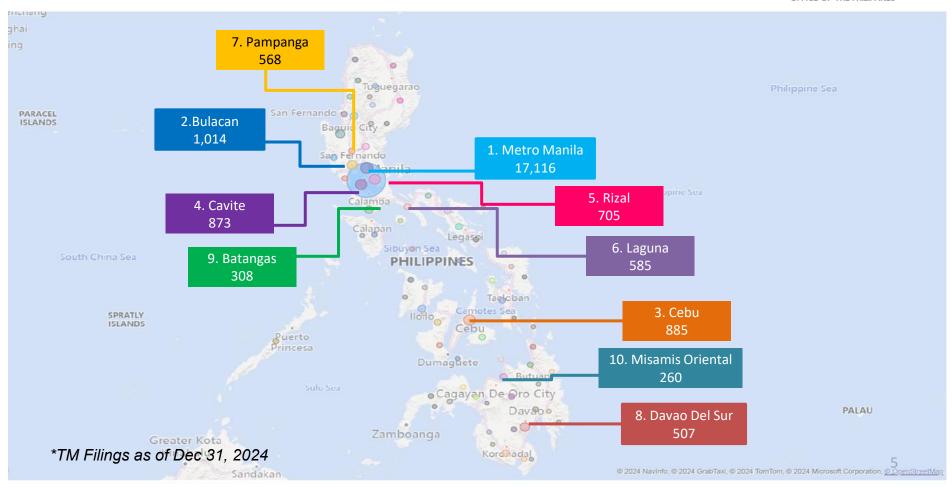


PH trademark filings and registration (National and Madrid)



MAINSTREAMING TRADEMARK PROTECTION





MAINSTREAMING TRADEMARK PROTECTION



CMCI TOP 10 PROVINCES (2019-2024)



The rankings of cities and municipalities are based on the sum of their scores on 5 Pillars: Economic Dynamism, Government Efficiency, Infrastructure, Resiliency, and Innovation.

AVERAGE TURNAROUND TIME IN MONTHS





10-year trend of average filing-to-registration TAT for national and Madrid applications (without objections and oppositions)

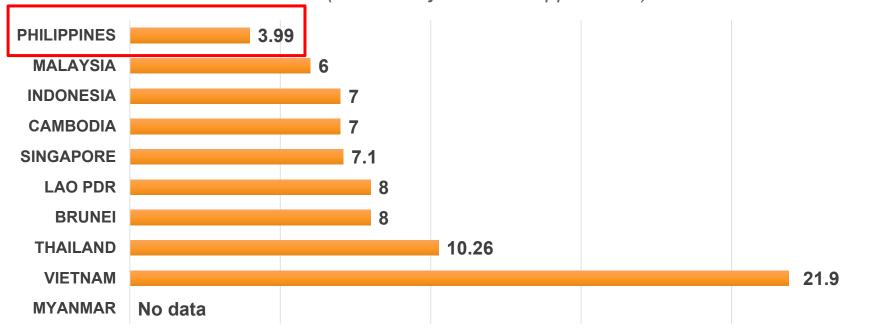
AVERAGE TM REGISTRATION PROCESSING TIME IN ASEAN



OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Average Filing-to-Registration TAT in ASEAN in 2024

(without objections or oppositions)



Avg. TAT (Months) of AMS in 2024

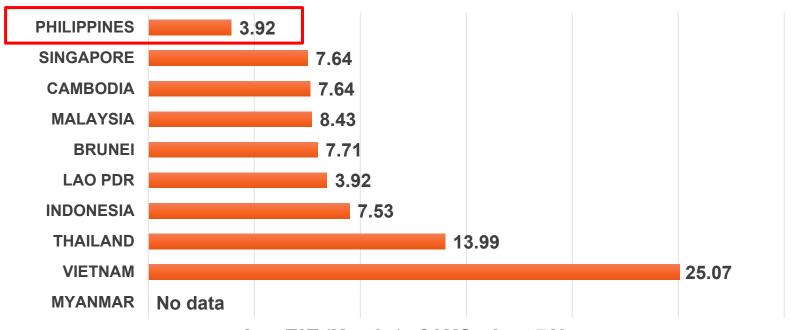
• Based on the 17th ASEAN TM Task Force submissions last February 2025. No data available for Myanmar.

AVERAGE TM REGISTRATION PROCESSING TIME IN ASEAN



States (2040, 2024)

Average Filing-to-Registration TAT in ASEAN Member-States (2018–2024) (without objections or oppositions)



■ Avg. TAT (Months) of AMS – Last 7 Years

[•] Based on the 17th ASEAN TM Task Force submissions last February 2025. No data available for Myanmar.

COMMON GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL



- Around 67% of the objections in 2024 filings was <u>based on absolute grounds</u> (e.g., generic, descriptive) and other formality requirements (e.g., submission of other documents and disclaimers).
- Around 33% of the objections was based on relative grounds, particularly, confusingly similar marks.

HOW DOES IPOPHL KEEP UP WITH THE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES RELATING TO TRADEMARK PROTECTION?





Advancing Digitalization and Automation

Amending the 2017 Trademark Regulations

Establishing the Register of Well-Known Marks

Implementing Initiatives to Curtail Bad Faith Filings

Streamlining the Examination Process

Elevating the Quality of Examination

Laymanizing Office Actions and Conducting Tutorials

Professionalizing TM Practice

DIGITALIZATION AND AUTOMATION



Roadmap 2025-2030: Quality Protection & Global Integration

IPAS with Al-assisted classification, search, examination and appeals					
2025 (BASELINE)	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
IPAS 3.6 fully deployed	Al solutions procured and workflow design finalized	Al-assisted classification of goods and services, and figurative elements deployed	AI- assisted TM search deployed	Al-assisted TM examination deployed	Al-assisted appeal procedure deployed

DIGITALIZATION AND AUTOMATION



- eTMFile with e-Payment capability
- FMS
- IPAS
- eCORR (office actions, notices, certificates)
- eDOCFile
- eGazette TM
- Madrid Online Filing
- GBD
- Online Search and Classification Tools (MGS)
- ASEAN IP Register

TM REGULATIONS OF 2023



- Amendments to the wordings for clarity
- Formal adoption of the online filing systems
- Mode of filing/transmission and reckoning dates
- One-time payment of basic fee (inclusive of filing and first publication fees; issuance and second publication fees for renewals)
- Clarifying acceptable proofs of use
- Inclusion of visual non-traditional marks (e.g., motion marks, 3D and holograms)
- Use of prescribed forms

REGISTER OF WELL-KNOWN MARKS



- Establish a formal Register of Well-Known Marks in the Philippines to institutionalize special protection for marks recognized as well known
- Provide a transparent, ex-parte procedure for declaring a mark as well known
- Define clear criteria and documentation requirements for well-known status
- Strengthen legal protection against dilution, unauthorized use, unfair competition



IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2025-009 took effect on 28 April 2025

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE REGULATIONS



- Ex-Parte Declaration of Well-Known Status

 Enables the Director of Trademarks to declare a mark well-known through an ex-parte process in addition to the adversarial procedures (e.g., opposition, infringement cases).
- Clear Filing and Evidence Requirements
 Application must be notarized and supported by documents proving compliance with Rule 5 (4 mandatory criteria), along with a sworn statement regarding any pending related cases.
- Third-Party Observation Mechanism

 The declaration may be contested via third-party observations, to be reviewed by a

 Consultative Committee (IPRS V and AD of BOT, and adjudication officer from BLA).
- 10-Year Protection, with Renewal Well-known status is valid for 10 years, renewable for additional 10-year periods upon proof of continuous use and submission of required evidence.
- Prima Facie Evidence and Inclusion in the Register

 Declaration of WK marks are prima facie evidence of well-known status and are listed in the Well-Known Marks Register

REGISTER OF WELL-KNOWN MARKS





IPOPHL launches new rules to give well-known marks enhanced protection



IPOPHL welcomes Jollibee as first registered well-known mark in the Philippines under the new regulations.

INITIATIVES TO CURTAIL BAD FAITH FILINGS



- Emphasizing "Bad Faith" as a Ground for Refusal and as a Ground for Opposition and Cancellation
- Requirement to submit Affidavit of Ownership and/or Sworn
 Statement of Good Faith Filing at the discretion of the examiner in case of doubt
- Training in collaboration with international partners such as WIPO, EUIPO, USPTO, JPO
- Partnerships with e-commerce platforms and big brands or multinational companies
- Public access to trademark search tools
- Push for legislative amendments (proposed IP Code amendments)

STREAMLINING EXAMINATION PROCESS



- Workload management (JET, HyJET, BEST)
- Publication of trademarks for opposition (3 to 4 times a week)
- Pushing of certificates for the Director's signature immediately after three (3) working days from the last day of the 30-day publication when there is no opposition. Director signs within three (3) days from tagging.



STREAMLINING EXAMINATION PROCESS



- "TM in TM" Trademark applications without objection or opposition are registered within two months from filing date.
 - ✓ 2,828 were registered in two months in 2024.
 - √ 7,054 were already registered in two months
 as of September 15, 2025.





Highlight Human Capital

Capacity-building Initiatives

- Empowered human resources will deliver quality customer service
- Competency Based Framework
- More trainings and workshops
- ITLMS-TM (WIPO Collaboration)





Elevate the quality of examination

Improving Customer Service

- Enhanced QMS for examination and non-examination-related functions
- More dynamic and proactive QAT
- Actively monitor Work Process Improvement
- Conduct regular ISO Audit
- PGS Island of Good Governance

LAYMANIZING OFFICE ACTIONS; PRESCRIBED FORMS

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINES

- Examination: Genericness, descriptiveness, confusing similarity, etc.
- Post-Examination and Post-Registration: Declaration of Actual Use, recordal, amendment, and related matters.
- Ready forms/templates for requests, other relevant filings/submissions (Revival, Renewal, Assignment, etc.)





Adapt to Changing Times

- Propose amendments to the IP Code
- Accept non-visually perceptible marks and other non-traditional marks; series marks
- Prevent bad faith registration
- Promote the registration of collective marks, certification marks and geographical indications
- Integrate AI into the systems



Professionalize TM Practice

- Train competent TM
 Representatives, Agents, and
 Attorneys
- Recognize trained TM Professionals
- Ensure business owners especially MSMEs are competently represented.
- Lawyers are neither regulated nor prohibited from practicing before IPOPHL



Madrid Protocol

PH AS DESIGNATED COUNTRY



PH as DESIGNATED CONTRACTING PARTY



The total filings as of September 15, 2025 is

77,405.

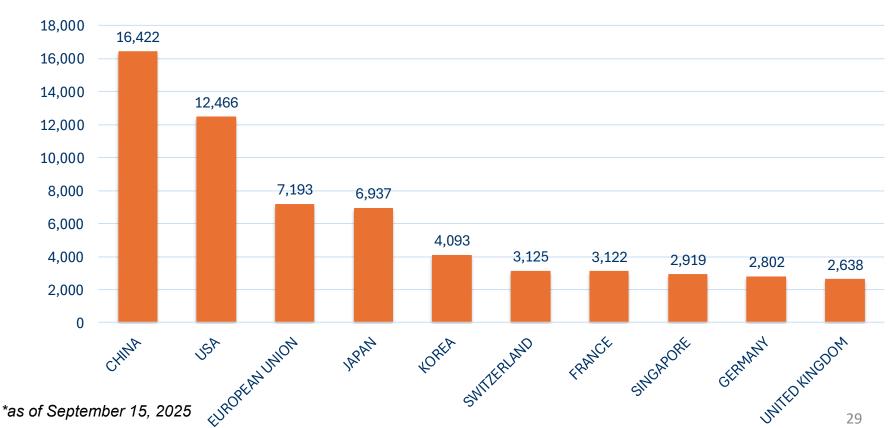
We can infer from the figures that Madrid accession has brought in new businesses in the Philippines.

*as of September 15, 2025

PH AS DESIGNATED COUNTRY



TOP 10 COUNTRIES DESIGNATING PH



PH AS DESIGNATED COUNTRY



TOP 10 CLASSES (PH as DCP)



OUTBOUND APPLICATIONS



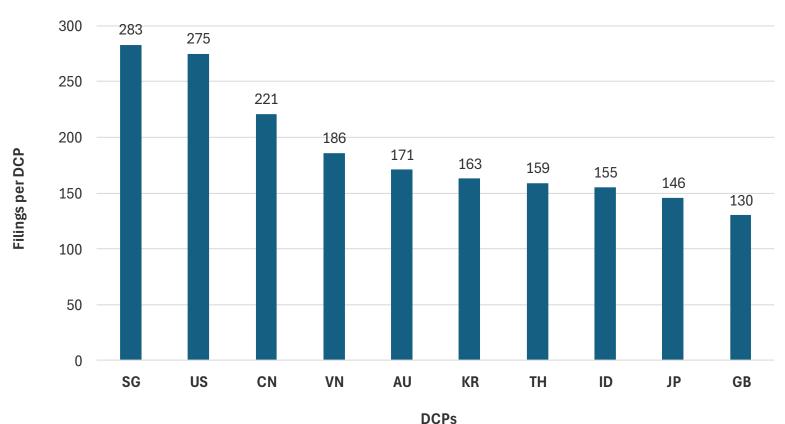
TOTAL IAs = 764



Years of Filing

TOP 10 DCPs of OUTBOUND IAS

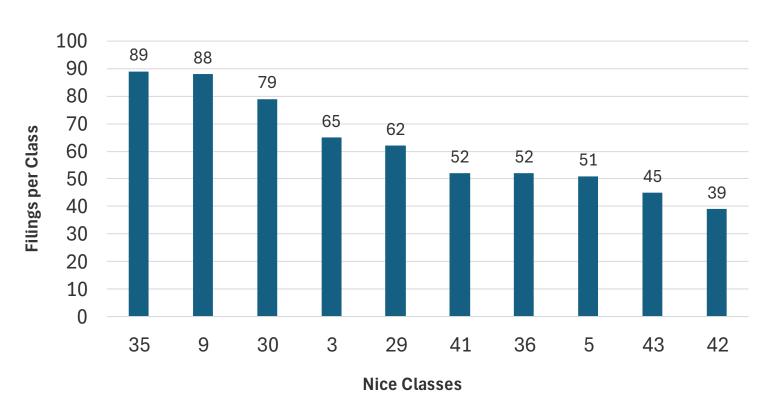




*as of September 15, 2025

TOP 10 CLASSES OF OUTBOUND IAS





Juan for the World

This is an incentive program of IPOPHL for MSMEs.

01

Register Filipino trademarks owned by MSMEs under the Madrid Protocol with the assistance of IPOPHL in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry and a private organization or industry association.

02

Aims to impress upon the MSME local trademark owners the importance and benefits of registering their marks abroad.

03

In cooperation with other public and private partners, this project aims to provide the trademark owners with the necessary technical and financial assistance with respect to branding and registration as well as in expanding its market reach abroad.

04

From the macroeconomic perspective, this public-private partnership endeavors to contribute to the nation's inclusive growth by empowering MSMEs through international trademark registration.

Key Objectives - JFTW

JUANA MAKE A MARK



- This incentive program reduces the cost of trademark registration for women entrepreneurs.
- Waiver of filing and first publication fees
- More than 7,500 MSMEs already benefited





THANK YOU!

"Be On Time!"

"Be On Top!"