



KICK-OFF OF PHASE 2 UNDER JICA PROGRAM ON STRENGTHENING CAPACITY IN PATENT AND TRADEMARK EXAMINATION AT IP VIETNAM

Hanoi, 10 April, 2026, Following the successful completion of Phase 1 focusing on patent examination, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) program on strengthening capacity in patent and trademark examination at the Intellectual Property Office of Vietnam (IPVN) has officially entered phase 2, the trademark phase. The kick-off event for Phase 2 was held at IPVN with the participation of representatives from IPVN and JICA.

On this occasion, Ms. Naito Junko – JICA new long term expert on trademark, pledged to contribute to the development of trademark examination in Vietnam during her two-year term.

In recent years, the increasing number of patent and trademark applications has led to a shortage of examiners in IPVN, resulting in delays in examination and inconsistencies in examination quality. This situation can lead to delays in the intellectual property rights acquisition process, which is a prerequisite for conducting business locally, potentially becoming an obstacle to business development.

To address these challenges, JICA launched the "IP Vietnam Patent and Trademark Examination Capacity Strengthening Project" with the aim of enhancing the efficiency of patent and trademark application processing and strengthening the capacity of IPVN examiners. The project spans four years, comprising two years for patents and two years for trademarks, and is currently advancing cooperation with IPVN.

Following the successful completion of the patent phase in March 2026 (https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/vietnam/information/press/2025/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2026/03/20/20260320JICASUPPORTSVIETNAMINSTRENGTHENINGPATENTANDTRADEMARKEXAMINATIONCAPACITY_3.pdf), the trademark phase has now officially commenced.

In the trademark phase, activities will be carried out along the following three pillars:

1. Examining and piloting methods to improve the trademark examination process
2. Creating quality control documents for trademark examinations
3. Holding seminars and workshops to improve trademark examination skills

In particular, regarding pillars 1 and 2, the focus will be on creating a coding system for determining the similarity of goods and services and developing codes that reflect the trading conditions in Vietnam. The introduction of these codes (similarity group codes) is expected to improve the efficiency of goods and service similarity determination and standardize examination decisions.



At the ceremony, Mr. Nguyễn Văn Bảy, Deputy Director General of the Intellectual Property Office, expressed his high appreciation for JICA's programme and voiced his expectation that the programme would contribute to enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of trademark examination, improving application processing procedures, and better meeting the needs of the business community.

Mr. Makino Taro, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Viet Nam, congratulated the project on the successful completion of Phase 1 on March 20, 2026. He also expressed his best wishes to Ms. Naito for meaningful activities and the successful achievement of the project's objectives. He further noted: "The project has a very strong group of partners, and we are confident that it will be successful, particularly as Viet Nam continues to promote innovation and strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights."

Mr. Nishikawa Naotaka, project formulation advisor from JICA Vietnam office, highlighted the importance of the project and expressed his confidence that close cooperation between IPVN and JICA expert would lead to significant progress in trademark examination in Vietnam.

Over the past 25 years, JICA has cooperated with IPVN in 5 official development assistance (ODA) projects, including:

1. Project for Modernization of Industrial Property Administration (MOIPA, 2000-2004)
2. Project for Utilization of Intellectual Property Information (UTIPINFO, 2005-2009)
3. Project for Strengthening the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Vietnam (2012-2017)
4. Project for Strengthening Capacity in Industrial Property Examination in IP Viet Nam (2021-2023)
5. Program for Strengthening capacity in patent and trademark examination in IP Viet Nam (on-going, 2024-2028).

For further information, please contact:

JICA Vietnam Office

11th Floor, CornerStone Building, 16 Phan Chu Trinh, Cua Nam ward, Hanoi, Vietnam

Tel: (+84-24) 3831 5005 (ext. 129) – Ms. Nguyen Hoang Linh (Public Relations unit leader)