

## COUNTRY REPORTS – APAA 2014

### PHILIPPINES

#### Patent Committee Report

By:

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**a) Any changes in the Philippines Intellectual Property Laws**

No new law or amendment was passed last year.

**b) Any changes in the Philippines practice before the Intellectual Property Office, or Intellectual Property registries or in the courts;**

**Annuity Payments for Divisional Applications:**

Memorandum Circular No. 14-002 issued by the Bureau of Patents established a uniform procedure in the payment of annuity fees for granted or published divisional patent applications.

Under the uniform procedure, the first annual fee shall be due and payable upon the expiration of four (4) years from the date of the parent application was published, and on each subsequent anniversary of such date. The procedure further clarified that for a *direct route divisional application*, the first annuity payment shall commence upon the expiration of four (4) years from the publication date of the *direct route parent application*. In the case of a PCT national phase divisional application, the first annuity payment shall commence upon the expiration of four (4) years from the international publication date of the *parent international application*.

In cases where the divisional application was filed more than four (4) years after the date of the parent application, the annuity payment of the divisional application shall commence on the following year from the last annuity payment date of the parent application and on each subsequent anniversary of such date. In such a case, the annuity for the parent application shall be reduced to the remaining claims covering the subject matter of the parent application.

In order to re-align the current payment practice, Memorandum Circular No. 14-003 was issued to clarify that the FULL IMPLEMENTATION of Memorandum Circular No. 14-002 will commence on March 3, 2015.

**c) Any relevant, interesting, or significant Intellectual Property Cases;**

There were no interesting or significant patent cases decided by the Philippine Supreme Court during the current year as of this writing.

**d) Any other matter of general interest.**

**Patent Statistics**

Based on the Statistics provided by the Intellectual Property Office, Invention Patent Filings increased by 2.67% from 2,994 in 2012 to 3,074 applications in 2013. Invention Patent Granted substantially increased by 71.57% from 1,115 in 2012 to 1,913 in 2013.

Utility Model Filings decreased by 5.87% from 715 in year 2012 to 673 in year 2013. Utility Model Registrations on the other hand increased by 15.88% from 422 registrations in 2012 to 489 registrations in 2013.

Industrial design applications increased by 9.14% from 1,225 in 2012 to 1,337 in 2013. Industrial design registrations increased by 26.58% from 1,061 registrations in 2012 to 1,343 registrations in 2013.