

## SOUTH-EAST ASIA IPR SME HELPDESK

# IPR protection in Environmental and Water Technologies in Singapore and the Philippines

Wastewater treatment  
Plastic recycling  
Air purification  
Biomass/biogas technologies

Geothermal power generation  
Green energy technology  
Carbon services  
Solar power

## Singapore: Facts and Opportunities

**1.76 bn.** of plastic  
bags and bottles  
disposed of annually



Plastic recycling /  
Reusable eco-friendly  
products

Water conservation  
and recycling  
equipment market to  
grow **10–15%** per  
year



Wastewater treatment /  
Drinking water  
purification

Environmental  
& water sector  
contributed  
**EUR 1.4 bn.** to GDP  
(2015)



Biomass technologies /  
Greentech /  
Geothermal power  
generation



**2.7 m.** tonnes of  
plastic waste  
annually



Eco-friendly products /  
Plastic recycling



**9 m.** people  
lack access  
to safe water



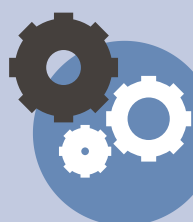
Waste water  
treatment /  
Drinking water  
purification



Total Suspended  
Particulates (TSP)  
**90 µg/Ncm**



Air purification  
Green technologies



The IP legislation  
system in Singapore  
and the Philippines



### “First-to-file” system:

the first party to file an Intellectual  
Property Right (IPR) in the country's  
jurisdiction will own that right once  
the application is granted.

Visit the IP factsheet of the two countries for details:

<https://www.southeastasia-iprhelpdesk.eu/en/content/singapore-factsheet>

<https://www.southeastasia-iprhelpdesk.eu/en/content/philippines-factsheet>

<http://www.ipr-hub.eu>

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## Trade marks

A trade mark is an **distinctive sign** that allows consumers to distinguish goods or services. Both countries are members of the **Madrid System**, which enables international trade mark applications to be filed



### Singapore:

3D marks, hologram and smell/sound marks can be registered, but trademarks based on taste can not.

### The Philippines:

3D marks and colour marks can be registered, but other unconventional trade marks can not.

## Patents

**Invention patents** (requiring novelty, inventive steps and industrial application): protected for 20 years from filing date in both countries.

**Utility model patents** (not requiring inventive steps): protected for 7 years from filing date (non renewable in the Philippines but not available in Singapore).



Both countries are contracting parties to the **Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)** which enables a single international patent application to be filed

## Designs

Industrial designs protect **the appearance of products**. In both countries, industrial designs are protected for an initial period of **5 years**, which is extendable for two 5-year periods, up to a maximum of 15 years from the filing date



**Singapore** is a contracting state in the **Hague System**, which can make it easier for foreign businesses to obtain industrial designs in Singapore.

**The Philippines** is not a contracting state in the Hague System.

## Copyrights

Copyrights protect **literary, artistic** and **scientific** works, performances, phonograms, video recording broadcasts, **software and data collections**. Copyright subsists automatically for original work: **registration is not required**.



**Singapore** has no system for voluntary copyright registration.

Copyright can be registered in **The Philippines**.

## Trade secrets

Trade secrets are **information** obtained from financial or intellectual investment activities which have not been disclosed and are relevant to business.



**Singapore:** Trade secrets are protected under Singaporean law. As most confidential information tends to be stored in computers, EU SMEs may also protect trade secrets with the **Singapore Misuse of Computer Act**. This way is often cheaper, and more effective.

**The Philippines:** Currently there is no law that defines trade secrets in the Philippines, however the IP Code includes "protection of undisclosed information" as one of the IPRs.

### Where to get help?

The South-East Asia IPR SME Helpdesk provides free information and services in the form of jargon-free first-line confidential advice on intellectual property (IP) and related issues, plus training materials and online resources.



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