



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY RECEIVING OFFICE NOW OPEN IN THAILAND

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On September 29, 2009, a ceremony was held at the Department of Intellectual Property to officially open Thailand's Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Receiving Office. This ceremony took place after Thai Deputy Minister of Commerce Alongkorn Ponlaboot deposited the instruments of accession to the PCT with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva on September 24, 2009. During the opening ceremony, Deputy Minister Alongkorn's remarks were focused on the government's strong commitment to protection and promotion of intellectual property rights in Thailand.

With the PCT Receiving Office now open, the PCT will actually enter into force for Thailand on December 24, 2009. However, it is important to note that the PCT national phase filing will not be retroactive for foreign applications which have already been filed in a foreign country before the effective date. Therefore, during the transition period, applicants must continue to file Thai patent applications within 12 months from the first foreign filing date.