



Please rest assured that Taiwan IPO and our firm have been maintaining normal operation as the coronavirus pandemic spreads throughout the world.

When faced with the severe global health crisis triggered by the pandemic, please take good care of your health and stay healthy.

TIPLO News

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This news mail distributed in Japanese and English from time to time provides updates on the development of law in Taiwan with focus on intellectual property rights law. For more information about the status of intellectual property right protection and practice in Taiwan, please visit our website www.tiplo.com.tw

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Attorneys-at-Law

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01 Hon Hai and Microsoft settle and establish new cooperative partnership

Microsoft Corporation (hereinafter referred to as “Microsoft”) and Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., Ltd. (known internationally as Foxconn, hereinafter referred to as “Hon Hai”) jointly announced that they will forge a more constructive partnership as of September 1, 2020 based on mutual and reciprocal business cooperation, for which both sides agree to withdraw all pending legal claims, including the lawsuit pending at the California court.

Microsoft and Hon Hai once executed a patent licensing agreement with respect to Android and Chrome equipment in 2013, which however ended in a legal fight in March 2019 that Microsoft sued Hon Hai for the latter’s failure to honor the agreement by paying patent licensing fees to Microsoft. Now by initiating their new reciprocal cooperation, the pair agrees to settle their legal claims including the royalty dispute pending at the California court accordingly. (Released 2020.09.03)

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02 AI on Chip Taiwan Alliance constructs ecosystem for AI chips in Taiwan

It is foreseeable that artificial intelligence will be the most important technology in the next ten years. For the ultimate purpose of Taiwan’s push into the AI market through connecting Taiwan’s semiconductor supply chains, the AI on Chip Taiwan Alliance (namely, AITA) was formed in 2019. On September 21, 2020, AITA held its members’ convention with the full support of the Board of Science and Technology under the Executive Yuan and the Department of Industrial Technology. The convention brought together representatives from the industry, the government, and the academic, research institutions and associations. Through the platform provided by AITA, more inputs at home and abroad into the development of AI chips on device will be gathered up.

AITA has been contributing quite a few achievements and performances as summarized below during almost one year since its establishment.

1. AI chips heterogeneous integration by connecting leading semiconductor manufacturers

In the age of AI and 5G technology, design innovation and packaging technology of chips heterogeneous integration for chips integration are regarded as the driving force for sustaining the development of semiconductor industry in the post-Moore’s Law era. Through AITA’s connection, MediaTek Inc., ASE Technology Holding Co., Ltd., Silicon Optonics, Inc, and ITRI join hands to develop heterogeneous integration interface, integrating multiple chips of different processes and functions, for the purpose of developing the solution that is expected to reduce 40%~60% module size, lower 25%~40% computing power consumption, and accelerate 20%~35% computing speed, and for accelerating construction of AI computing for all kinds of terminal devices.

2. Launch of large-area in-display optical fingerprint sensor chips

With the AITA’s assistance, the leading fingerprint sensor maker and IC designer, Egis Technology enhances AI computing efficiency and shortens development time in

order to develop the worldwide first-ever large-area in-display optical fingerprint sensor chips on the basis of analogous AI computing technology. Through the massive fingerprints database, analogous AI circuit design and self-learning, the large-area in-display optical fingerprint sensor chips can attain higher fingerprint recognition rate, even in case of poor imaging quality. Equipped with the large-area in-display optical fingerprint sensor chips, advanced products that are anti-counterfeiting and high-efficient but low-cost and low-power will come out to snatch the markets of recognition system on mobile devices, monitoring system for automobiles, security and protection system, and IoT, etc..

3. Synopsys' establishment of AI chip laboratory in Taiwan

By cooperating with AITA members, Synopsys Inc. begins to develop relevant core technologies for AI chips and plans to put in more investments to establish an AI R&D center in Taiwan for developing prospective AI design integrated software, introducing AI chips application, compiling software, heterogeneous computing, and verification technology required for AI chips, along with silicon intellectual property, so as to develop advanced AI design solutions. It is expected that a R&D team will be established within the following two years with an expanded investment of TWD800 million and more than 100 headcounts to push forward upgrading of AI research and development. (Released 2020.09.21)

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03 Taiwan attains best ranking of No. 11 in 2020 IMD Global Digital Competitive Report

National Development Council of Taiwan issued a press release indicating that according to the report published by the Swiss-based International Institute for Management Development in October 2020, the World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2020, Taiwan finishes 11th among the 63 major countries and economies evaluated, moving up two spots from 2019 to its best ranking since the International Institute for Management Development began launching the annual list in 2017. Moreover, Taiwan is ranked 3rd among the countries or economies with more than 20 million inhabitants, rising one notch from 2019, and also rises two places to the 11th among the 34 economies with GDP per capita greater than USD20,000

1. Taiwan ranks among the top three in several sub-factors.

According to the National Development Council, Taiwan is placed in the report among the top three in seven sub-factors, outshining its peers by coming top in "Agility of companies", "Proportion of mobile broadband subscribers", and "Ratio of information technology and media stock market capitalization", taking the 2nd place in "Total R&D personnel per capita", "Opportunities and threats", and "Smartphone possession" and the 3rd place in "High education achievement".

2. Taiwan demonstrates its overall upgrading strengths in the major areas of "Technology" and "Future readiness".

The International Institute for Management Development measures and grades the 63 economies based on 3 major factors, 9 sub-factors, and 51 indicators, assessing the 63 economies' capacity and readiness to adopt, explore, and make use of digital technologies as a key driver for economic transformation. The three major factors

are “Knowledge”, “Technology”, and “Future readiness”.

(1) The survey in the area of “Knowledge” reflects the ability of the economy or country assessed to learn new technologies. Taiwan slips one notch to the 18th place in this area but moves up in the ranking of the sub-factors of “Talent” and “Training & education” and also in some other sub-factors under this area. For instance, Taiwan maintains its second spot in “Total R&D personnel per capita”, up to the 3rd in “High education achievement” and to the 4th in “Total expenditure on R&D (%)”, which makes it clear that Taiwan has been sparing no efforts in promoting high education and in cultivating R&D talents. The report pinpoints Taiwan’s overall weaknesses in “Foreign highly-skilled personnel” and “Scientific and technical employment”. With respect to this weakness, the National Development Council has been promoting amendment to the “Act for Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals” to ease restrictions on the regulations governing work and residence so as to enhance talents recruitment.

(2) In the aspect of “Technology”, economies or countries are measured with respect to their ability to develop digital innovative technologies. Taiwan captures the 5th place in this aspect, up four places from 2019 to claim the top honor in “Proportion of mobile broadband subscribers”, and “Ratio of information technology and media stock market capitalization”. Moreover, remarkable headway is made by this country in “Mobile bandwidth speed” as reflected in its leap in the ranking to the 5th, up 13 spots. Such significant improvement substantiates the success of Taiwan government in promoting national digital transformation projects and reinforcing Taiwan’s technological energy and the infrastructure of information and communications technology.

(3) The factor of “Future readiness” is used to grade the extent of digital transformation of each country or economy assessed, and Taiwan moves up four places from 2019 to snatch the 8th spot. For business operation, Taiwan tops the ranking of “Agility of companies” and ranks the second in “Opportunities and threats”. Also, Taiwan shows its significant advancement in “Use of big data and analytics” by coming in fifth, up 9 places. It indicates that the Taiwan government’s assistance in enterprises’ digital transformation has gradually taken effect. Likewise, in the area of mobile services, Taiwan also makes progress in “Smartphone possession” by rising to No. 2 and also in “Cyber security” by climbing 4 places to No. 8. (Released 2020.10.01)

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台灣國際專利法律事務所

TAIPEI MAIN OFFICE
7th Floor We Sheng Building,
No.125, Nanking East Rd. Sec.2,
P.O.BOX 39-243, Taipei 10409, Taiwan
Tel: 886-2-2507-2811 • Fax: 886-2-2508-3711
E-mail: tiplo@tiplo.com.tw
Website: www.tiplo.com.tw

TOKYO LIAISON OFFICE
No.506 Lions Mansion ,
13-11, Shinjuku 2-Chome,
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022, Japan
Tel: 81-3-3354-3033 • Fax: 81-3-3354-3010