

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11  
20 October 2010

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** IP AUSTRALIA

**TOPIC:** IP Agreements

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard 20 October 2010, E33)

**QUESTION No.:** SI-18

**Senator BUSHBY** – I also want to ask you about the agreement that was signed in 2008 between the IP officers of Australia and Vietnam. Can you outline what has happened in the two and a half years since and what concrete outcomes there have been for Australian businesses as a result of that arrangement?

**Mr Noonan**—This is an agreement for cooperation. We have a number of these agreements. I would probably characterise them as agreements that are about helping less experienced IP officers develop their skills. In the case of Vietnam there have been some exchanges of staff and also there have been some joint projects involving public education and awareness about IP issues. I would not say that the state of the IP system through-out the region is such that it converts quickly to concrete benefits for Australian Businesses, but our long-term goal is to benefit Australian exporters over time by encouraging the development of strong IP systems in various countries in the region.

**Senator BUSHBY**—By ensuring that their intellectual property is protected when they go into those countries?

**Mr Noonan**—Indeed.

**Senator BUSHBY**—You mentioned that there are a number of such agreements. How many of those kinds of agreements are in place, and with which countries?

**Mr Noonan**—I would have to take that on notice. I do not have a complete list.

**Senator BUSHBY**—That would be appreciated.

## **ANSWER**

### **Vietnam**

IP Australia signed an arrangement for Intellectual Property Cooperation with Vietnam in 2008. This arrangement will expire in February 2011.

The key areas for cooperation are:

- enhancing Public Education and Awareness capabilities and programs;
- exchanging information and documentation related to training, manuals and publications;
- enhancing human resource capabilities; and
- capacity building in Plant Breeders Rights.

### **India**

IP Australia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Cooperation in Intellectual Property with India in 2008. It is an ongoing arrangement.

The key areas for cooperation are:

- capacity building;
- public education and awareness; and
- experience exchange.

### **Asia Pacific**

IP Australia has an ongoing cooperation arrangement with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) that collectively targets countries in the Asia Pacific region. Specific activities are agreed on a biennial basis.

In 2010–11, this arrangement addresses capacity building issues by providing:

- sponsorship towards the WIPO–Queensland University of Technology Master of IP Law Program;
- training programs and the development of teaching tools;
- sponsorship for IP experts to present at conferences; and
- sponsorship for an IP expert advisory mission to help develop a national IP strategy for Samoa.

### **ASEAN and New Zealand**

IP Australia also contributes to the ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement Economic Co-operation Work Programme (ECWP) along with other Australian government departments and agencies. The initial ECWP was agreed in mid 2010 and is an evolving program of capacity building activities.