



Connecting the World's IP Professionals.

What is FICPI?

FICPI, founded in 1906, is the only international IP organisation whose membership consists solely of intellectual property professionals in private practice. With approximately 5000 members in more than 80 countries and regions, FICPI can rightly claim to be a truly global body, representative of the free profession.

FICPI's members form a prestigious network of intellectual property attorneys of the highest standard. Our members are exceptionally trained, highly motivated and independent in spirit. Many actively contribute to the work of FICPI. Through stringent admission criteria and a code of professional conduct for all of our members, we uphold a high level of excellence for the organisation while also striving to maintain the standards of the profession worldwide.

Who Are FICPI Members?

Members of FICPI come from all aspects of private practice. They represent clients ranging from individuals and SMEs to multi-national industries, as well as universities, governmental and non-governmental organisations and other institutions. Our members practise in patent, trade mark, design and other IP matters on behalf of clients who may be owners of IP rights or third parties.

Membership in FICPI is restricted to qualified and experienced IP professionals whose peers can confirm their qualifications and support their application for membership.

FICPI's Principal Aims

1. Enhancing international cooperation within the profession of IP attorneys in private practice and promote the exchange of information and facilitate business relations between members.
2. Expressing FICPI's opinions with regard to newly proposed international and national legislation that is of general concern to the profession.
3. Defending the interests of our members and their clients in maintaining a vigorous and effective system of intellectual property protection, with well-qualified IP attorneys in private practice to make that system work.
4. Promoting training and continuing education of our members and others interested in intellectual property, by organising regular international meetings, local and regional ad hoc programmes, and training programs for new members of the profession.



Training is Essential

Free Trade Depends On Effective IP Systems

The importance of Intellectual Property in supporting free trade is emphasized in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The TRIPS agreement requires member countries to provide appropriate systems for the protection of Intellectual Property Rights. These intellectual property systems depend on the existence, in each country, of a body of well qualified patent attorneys able to assist applicants and patentees, and industry in general, in obtaining, defending and advising on intellectual property rights in that country and to advise residents in that country in relation to rights in other countries.

A Good Patent System Requires Good Patents

Whether that system is a registration system or a full examination system, there is a need for a well-drafted patent specification to form the basis of the patent grant and to avoid loss of rights, time and money.

The Art Of Drafting Patents Is Learned By Apprenticeship

In developed countries, the art of drafting patent specifications is generally passed down from generation to generation by the experienced patent attorneys supervising the drafting work of trainees who ultimately become proficient. Formal education can only take that skill part of the way.

Governments Have Recognized The Challenge

Governmental organizations like WIPO and IP Australia have been actively involved in educational projects and training in developing countries. One objective of these training programs has been to reverse the trend for professionals in developing countries to hire professionals in developed countries to draft patent specifications for their clients. This can only be a short term measure and does not help the development of the IP system in those countries.

Developing Countries Don't Have Enough Mentors

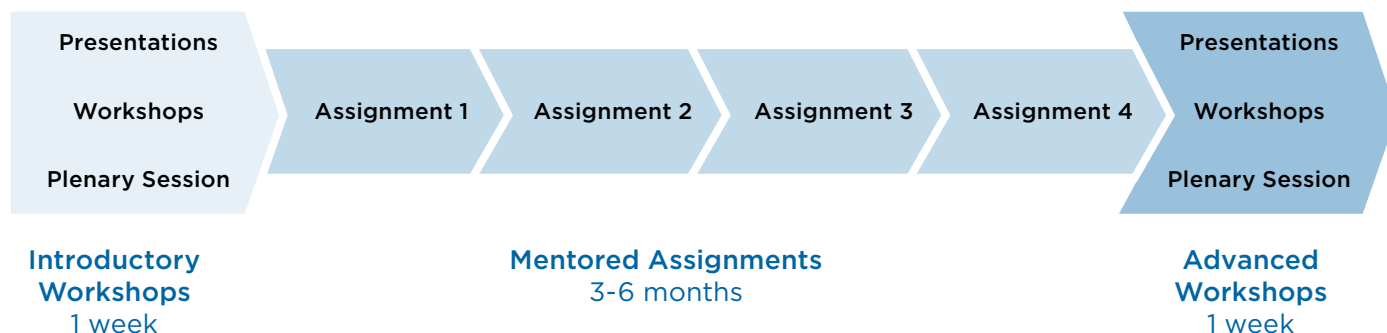
Recognising this problem and with the knowledge that its membership had the necessary expertise required by the developing countries, FICPI offered its assistance in this training.

FICPI's Role as a Patent Training Authority

FICPI established its Training and Education Commission ("TEC"). Within the TEC is the FICPI Academy of Education, that manages the South East Asian Drafting Course (SEAD), and Euro-SEAD, the equivalent course run in Europe. These courses developed out of the need for better training in intellectual property in developing countries.

THE SEAD & EURO-SEAD COURSES

The courses were developed in the belief that training is better if it takes place over a period of time, mimicking what happens with “on the job” mentorship.



Section 1: Workshops & Tutorials (1 Week)

The first week features a number of presentations on patent topics. Students are divided into small groups for workshops focused on a specific example of an invention relevant to that focused topic. Each group prepares a proposal for a claim set and an outline of a specification including an object statement. The proposals are discussed at a plenary session where the students and tutors discuss the results from each workshop group.

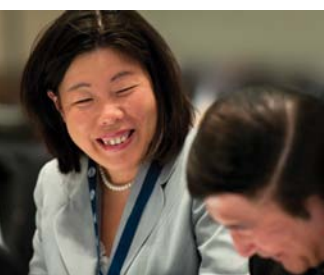
Section 2: Mentored Exercises - Remote Learning (3-6 months)

Between the two tutorial sessions, the students are required to complete four written assignments, each of which requires preparation of a full patent specification for an invention that is relatively technologically simple. The tutors provide written feedback to the students on their assignments.

Completing all the assignments is necessary for the student to receive a Certificate of Completion for the course.

Section 3: Advanced Workshops & Tutorials (1 week)

The topics explored in the Introductory Workshops, and in the Mentored Assignments are further expanded on in an additional series of presentations. The students are again divided into small groups that prepare claim set proposals for specific inventions. In the final plenary session the students present their draft claims. This session gives students experience in arguing a case and in defending their approach to the invention, while seeing and learning to appreciate other approaches to the same problem. They also see the patents actually granted covering an invention the students understand, and a device accused of infringement of that patent so that they can consider the possible deficiencies in their original claim drafting.



“A very commendable undertaking”

Let me join with other SEAD alumni, all recipients of the very significant and useful knowledge/learnings from the teaching of SEAD’s top of the line lecturers, to push for the continuation of this very commendable undertaking of FICPI.

Judge Mario Zaldy B. Docena

What our students say

SEAD 2008 - Bangkok

“I learnt some of the best practices in the field”



I have obtained massive valuable information during the course. The emphasis on group discussion and the mentoring by an experienced trainer provided the opportunity to exchange views between group members and trainer. From the informal discussion in relation to IP, and from the trainers who generously shared several drafting techniques, I learnt some of the best practices in this field.

Norunnuha Datuk Hj Nawawi
Managing Director/Registered Patent Agent

SEAD 2008 - Bangkok

“Allowed me to communicate strategically with prospective licensees”

I work as a Licensing Officer in the Technology Transfer Office of the University of Hong Kong. Some of my responsibilities include evaluating patent filing requests from our researchers and negotiating patent license deals with our potential licensees.

With no prior formal training in patent drafting, I found the course very useful in allowing me to learn and understand the intricacies of patent drafting. This helps me a great deal in understanding the related patents as I perform the prior art search when evaluating a patent filing request. In addition, with the skills learnt from SEAD, it also allows me to communicate strategically with a prospective licensee in a patent license negotiation.

Matchy J. M. Ma

SEAD 1997 - Singapore

“One of the best patent drafting courses available in the Southeast Asian region”

In a country like India, the patent system is still evolving and there lies a huge demand for the skilled patent draftsman to cross the technological spectrum. In spite of this demand, there is no good institution here that can offer quality teaching and knowledge sharing on the subject.

This course taught me the basics as well as the complexities of patent claim and specification drafting in great detail. The different modules of this course were well thought out and designed to allow students to understand various learning stages in an easy manner. Moreover, the SEAD course has some of the best patent professionals across the globe on its panel, who go out of their way to make students like us understand various concepts without much difficulty. Without any doubt and reservations, I must say that the SEAD course is one of the best patent drafting courses available in the Southeast Asian region, and it should definitely be attended by those professionals who wish to enhance their drafting skills.

Samir Singh

EUROSEAD 1999 - France

“A solid background on the art of patent drafting”

This course offered me an excellent opportunity to work together with tutors having very strong experience in both patent prosecution and teaching. It gave me a solid background on the art of patent drafting, provided me with a unique opportunity to examine the same invention under a European, US or Japanese perspective and helped me enormously to improve my patent drafting skills.

Constantinos Kilimiris,
Partner at Patrinos & Kilimiris



History Of The Courses

The first SEAD course was conducted in Singapore in 1997, with 41 students a tutoring team from Australia, Canada, Sweden, Germany, the United States and Great Britain, and the support of the Singapore Productivity and Standards Board and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore.

After 10 years in Singapore, with students from all over Asia, and in some years from Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark and Turkey, FICPI moved the course to Bangkok for four years, with administrative and financial support provided under the ECAP II program.

When ECAP II funding ended, Professor Paul Cheung, Head of Hong Kong University's Technology Transfer Office (and a former SEAD student) suggested that FICPI move the course to Hong Kong, where it has been held since 2010 with administrative and financial support provided by the Technology Transfer Office of Hong Kong University.

SEAD Courses

The EuroSead Course, was initiated in 1999 at Ottrott, France, with a team of tutors from Great Britain, the United States, Japan, France, Australia and Germany, and the experience gained from the first two years of the SEAD Course. Subsequent EuroSead Courses have been conducted in Hungary, Estonia, Italy, UK, Germany, Poland, France, and Turkey with from 26 to 32 students registered.



EUROSEAD 2004 - Munich

“I have attended several patent drafting courses - this is unmistakably the best”

The 2004 Sead Course in Munich provided a deep insight on patent drafting versus patent litigation in several jurisdictions, allowing for a full understanding on how to draft a litigation-proof patent. The emphasis on practical work gave participants the opportunity to experience drafting and litigation sessions tutored by the very best of the experts.

João Carlos Santana Jorge

Managing Director, RCF IP Consulting and Services



SEAD 2000 - Singapore

“The value of the course is tremendous.”

I attended SEAD 2000 in Singapore and obtained extensive training on patents from the course. The course not only provides useful patent knowledge, but also substantial practical training in drafting patent specifications. This training assisted me in passing professional examinations, including the UK CIPA patent drafting examination, and the Chinese Patent Attorney Qualification Examination. The value of the course is tremendous.

Toby Mak, Patent Attorney

Tee & Howe Intellectual Property Attorneys



EUROSEAD 2010 - Istanbul

“I would encourage young IP professionals to attend these FICPI courses”

I attended the 2010 - 2011 EUROSEAD course in Istanbul and found the practical approach of the course and its international character very interesting and useful for gaining experience for patent applications to be filed internationally. The practical drafting examples gave me the opportunity to discuss real patent cases within a small group of students, and the opportunity to defend our group's final draft before the tutors and the students.

The EUROSEAD course is a good opportunity to learn different approaches to claim drafting and to observe the consequences of claim drafting from some famous patent drafting examples. Moreover, it is a great opportunity to interact with young people on different aspects of Intellectual Property in an international environment.

Luis Durán, Telecommunication Engineer

Patent Department of DURAN-CORRETJER, SLP

Funding The Courses

Providing students with a hands-on learning experience in the unique environment of the SEAD and EuroSEAD courses is expensive. FICPI has in past years enjoyed financial and other support from government agencies, universities and intellectual property offices in Europe, Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong, as well as from a handful of private supporters. This support has allowed FICPI to maintain its objective of keeping the fees to be paid by the students low, to encourage attendance and recognizing that potential students are in the early stages of their careers and have relatively low incomes.

Our Tutors Volunteer Their Time

Much of the actual cost of the course has been borne by the tutors, who have spent long hours preparing for and attending the courses and in marking student assignments. In some cases, tutors spend their own money and contribute their vacation time to attend the courses. FICPI is in most cases able to reimburse their travel and accommodation costs.

The tutors' firms have in many cases provided the tutors with time away from the office for these courses, and have absorbed some of the costs incurred by the tutors in preparing for and attending the courses

Government & Institutional Support is Decreasing

The support FICPI has enjoyed in the past is decreasing. Funding programs like the ECAP II have ended.

In the current challenging economic climate, funding from the EPO and other sources has diminished, and FICPI's members have borne a significant part of the costs of these courses.

FICPI now needs your support to help with the costs of the resource materials for the courses, the facilities at which the courses are held, the administrative costs of distributing materials to students and prospective students, and all of the other costs involved in putting on courses of this quality.



The only international organisation
that represents the interests of the
IP attorney in private practice.

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONSEILS
EN PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

INTERNATIONALE FEDERATION
VON PATENTANWÄLTEN

