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MEDIA RELEASE

**FIRST SINGAPORE OVERSEAS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE
PAVES THE WAY FOR LOCAL IP PROFESSIONALS AND SINGAPORE TO
SURGING CHINESE INNOVATION MARKET**

Singapore, 24 May 2016 – Singapore’s Intellectual Property (IP) service providers will soon have access to a wealth of opportunities presented by China, which is emerging as one of the world’s leading innovative economies, through Singapore’s first overseas IP Representative Office located at the Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City (SSGKC), Guangdong, China.

2. Unveiled today by Singapore’s Acting Minister for Education and Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of Defence, Mr Ong Ye Kung, during his visit to SSGKC this week, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore’s (IPOS) Representative Office is poised to help an increasing number of Singapore’s IP service providers reach out to the increasing number of Chinese innovative enterprises, especially technology companies seeking to expand overseas.

3. Mr Ong, who is also the Co-Chairman of the Singapore-Guangdong Collaboration Council, explained, “The Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City is an important flagship project aimed at becoming a knowledge and innovation zone, and catalysing the economic transformation of Guangdong. It will add to the flow of information and knowledge to the 'One Belt One Road' vision.” He added, “As more companies from Guangdong bring their innovations to the rest of the world, IPOS’ first representative office overseas will facilitate their link up with IP service providers in Singapore, to protect and manage their innovations in the South-East Asian region and beyond.”

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A statutory board of the Ministry of Law

4. Mr Daren Tang, Chief Executive of IPOS, said, "IPOS is delighted to support the increasing flow of ideas, knowledge and innovation between China and South-East Asia, through our China office. We want to help Singapore's IP service providers connect with innovative companies in China, and also promote Singapore's suite of IP products and services to Chinese companies that have set their sights on the dynamic ASEAN region."

5. A recent report by the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) indicated that China had the third highest number of international patent applications filed under WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty System (PCT), trailing only the United States and Japan.¹ These three countries were most notable in leading innovation in the computer technology and digital telecommunication sectors. According to another report by the State Intellectual Property Office of China in 2015, over 1.1 million patent applications were recorded in China – an 18 per cent growth from 2014. In a 2015 study by the Boston Consulting Group, Chinese companies Tencent, Huawei and Lenovo were listed as the top 50 most innovative companies in the world², with the former two companies currently headquartered out of Guangdong province. These are indicative of China's burgeoning IP-intensive economy.

6. Earlier in May, IPOS, along with the Singapore Business Federation and IE Singapore, organised an inaugural AccessAsia@Singapore road show that showcased Singapore's value proposition as an IP hub to internationalise Chinese businesses. The programme provided a platform for foreign enterprises to access the Asian market through Singapore, and heralded the strategic role of IPOS' Representative Office in China.

7. A spokesperson from Guangzhou Development District (GDD) said that IPOS' Representative Office affirms the deepening of bilateral intellectual property cooperation between the two countries, as highlighted at the Joint Council for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) meeting. The office will also contribute to the development of a joint IP demonstration zone, increase bilateral exchanges, and attract IP service providers to locate in the SSGKC.

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¹ Source: http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/ipstats/en/docs/infographics_systems_2015.pdf

² Source: <https://media-publications.bcg.com/MIC/BCG-Most-Innovative-Companies-2015.pdf>

About IPOS

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Law. IPOS advises and administers the Intellectual Property (IP) regime, promotes its usage and builds expertise to facilitate the development of Singapore's IP eco-system. With IP fast becoming a critical asset in our economy, IPOS aims to be a trusted partner to empower creators of our knowledge economy. IPOS' vision is for Singapore to be an IP Hub of Asia. More information on IPOS can be found at www.ipos.gov.sg.

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