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INCREASING NUMBER OF INDONESIAN PATENT APPLICATION FILED TO THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

Indonesia has recorded outstanding achievements in the patent field during 2016, as proven by the total amount of international patent application originating from Indonesia filed with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), based in Geneva, Switzerland, which number has grown in double compared to the previous filing year (2015).

Despite this, Indonesian position is still far from other four Asean countries i.e. Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Philippines, as these countries are more advanced and therefore hold larger number of inventions in the field of technology.

According to WIPO data released in the middle of March 2017, the total amount of Indonesian patent applications were filed at WIPO during 2016 has reached 15 applications, whereas in the previous year, only 6 applications were filed. Details on the field of invention were not specified, including information on the applicants (whether they originated from company/research institution/college).

In 2016, Singapore bears the most filing numbers of applications filed with the WIPO, among the Asean countries, 879 applications filed. However, the number is lower from the previous filing year, assessed at 908.

The number of Malaysian patent applications filed with the WIPO in 2016 was 190 applications, which has also decreased from the previous filing year (267 applications), whilst the number of Thailand patent applications were 155 applications, which is higher compared to the number of applications filed in 2015 (133 applications).

The achievement of Indonesian originating patent applications should be well appreciated and may mark the rise of Indonesian technology. As patent

closely relates to technology invention and innovation by either corporations, research bodies or universities of a particular country, whereby in depth and lengthy researches and developments are required, it is fair to ask on how are researches being performed in Indonesia?

Patent reflects the development of technology in a country. Therefore, increasing number of patent applications filed may be deemed to reflect the growth of the countrys technology. Japan, PRC and South Korea serve as the example to this. These 3 Asian countries has continued to lead and positioned in the top 5 patent applications originating countries filed to WIPO in the past three years.

WIPO has designed an international patent application system, known as PCT. Until 2016, PCT has been ratified by 152 countries worldwide, including Indonesia.

PCT is a global system which was designed to facilitate patent protection in many countries. Through this system, every member country enjoys easier access to file patent from the country of origin by international filings. By registering through a patent application through PCT, the inventor, in industrial section, research institution and college could obtain the proper legal protection in number countries, provided that the relevant countries are PCT members.

Indonesia has ratified PCT by virtue of a Presidential Decree in 1997. It would appear, however, that Indonesian inventors have not yet fully and appropriately utilized the PCT system for filing patent application worldwide.