

**Council****C/54/11****Fifty-Fourth Ordinary Session  
Geneva, October 30, 2020****Original:** English  
**Date:** July 6, 2020

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***to be considered by correspondence***

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**APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL***Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*Introduction

1. The UPOV Convention (Article 26(5)(iii) of the 1991 Act and Article 21(b) of the 1978 Act) states that the Council of UPOV shall appoint the Secretary-General of UPOV and determine the terms of appointment.

2. The Agreement between the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (WIPO/UPOV Agreement, document UPOV/INF/8), signed on November 26, 1982, Article 4 provides as follows:

“(1) The Council of UPOV shall appoint as Secretary-General of UPOV the Director General of WIPO.

“(2) When the post of Director General of WIPO is vacant, and as long as it is vacant, the person acting as Director General of WIPO shall be Acting Secretary-General of UPOV.

“(3) During the period between the effective date of appointment of the Director General of WIPO and his appointment as Secretary-General of UPOV, he shall be Acting Secretary-General of UPOV.

“(4) The appointment of the Secretary-General of UPOV shall last as long as he is Director General of WIPO and shall cease on the day his appointment as Director General of WIPO ceases.

“(5) The indemnity of the Secretary-General of UPOV, payable by UPOV, shall be determined by the Council of UPOV.”

3. The Council, at its forty-eighth ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 16, 2014, decided to re-appoint Mr. Francis Gurry as the Secretary-General of UPOV for the period from October 16, 2014, to September 30, 2020.

Appointment of the Director General of WIPO

4. The General Assembly of WIPO, at its fifty-second (28<sup>th</sup> extraordinary) session, conducted on May 7 and 8, 2020, in the form of a written procedure, appointed Mr. Daren Tang as the Director General of WIPO for the period from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2026.

5. In accordance with Article 4(3) of the WIPO/UPOV Agreement, Mr. Tang is Acting Secretary-General of UPOV as from October 1, 2020.

Appointment of the Secretary-General of UPOV

6. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the UPOV Convention (Article 26(5)(iii) of the 1991 Act and Article 21(b) of the 1978 Act) and of the WIPO/UPOV Agreement (see paragraphs 1 and 2, above), the Council is invited to appoint Mr. Tang as the Secretary-General of UPOV for the period from October 30, 2020 to September 30, 2026. The Annex to this document contains the curriculum vitae of Mr. Tang.

7. Furthermore, Article 4(5) of the WIPO/UPOV Agreement provides that “[t]he indemnity of the Secretary-General of UPOV, payable by UPOV, shall be determined by the Council of UPOV.”

8. In accordance with decisions of the Council, the indemnity of the Secretary-General of UPOV corresponds to twenty percent of the salary, including post adjustment, which he receives in his capacity as Director General of WIPO.

9. Mr. Tang has expressed his wish not to receive an indemnity as Secretary-General of UPOV and to use this indemnity in the UPOV program and budget for financing activities of particular interest to developing countries.

*10. The Council is invited to appoint Mr. Daren Tang as the Secretary-General of UPOV for the period from October 30, 2020, to September 30, 2026.*

[Annex follows]

Curriculum Vitae of Mr. Daren Tang  
(Chief Executive, Intellectual Property Office of Singapore)

Year of Birth: 1972

Nationality: Singaporean



**ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS**

- 2013**      **Advanced Management Program**  
Harvard Business School, USA
- 2006**      **Master of Laws (LL.M) with Distinction**  
Georgetown University Law Centre, USA  
Fellow, Institute of International Economic Law
- 1997**      **Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) with Honours**  
National University of Singapore

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2015 – present**      **Chief Executive**  
Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)  
Ministry of Law, Singapore

Drove the strategic transformation of IPOS from an intellectual property (IP) registry and regulator into an innovation agency that helps to build Singapore's future economy:

- Launched a series of world's first IP products including a mobile app for trademark application, and a national-level IP skills and jobs framework. Initiated and oversaw a collaboration with a local university to provide one of the few post-graduate programmes in IP and Innovation Management in the world.
- Put in place legislative reforms to the IP civil litigation system to make it more accessible for SMEs and strengthen IP mediation.
- Developed new capabilities at IPOS covering IP strategy and patent analytics, as well as the release of the world's first mobile app for trademark applications.
- Supported the use of IP by enterprises for business growth by providing training to 5000 persons in 2018, engaging 800 enterprises from 2017 to 2018, and collaborating with private sector to provide IP insurance to enterprises.

For these efforts, IPOS was recognised as Asia's most innovative IP office and ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world by World Trademark Review in 2019. Singapore has also been ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world for IP protection by the World Economic Forum (2018/2019) and one of the top 10 countries in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Global Innovation Index (2015 to 2019).

Member of the Committee for the Future Economy tasked with reviewing Singapore's economic strategies. Updated the IP Hub Masterplan in 2017 to broaden the mandate of IPOS to include IP commercialisation. Forged agreements with regional and international partners covering over 70 markets.

**2012 – 2015**      **Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Legal Counsel**  
Intellectual Property Office of Singapore  
Ministry of Law, Singapore

Oversaw key projects as IPOS broadened its mission and developed its regional and international networks:

- Singapore's appointment as the 19th International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority and the 1st in ASEAN under the WIPO-Patent Cooperation Treaty.
- Singapore's accession and ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty.
- Establishment of the 2013 national IP Hub Master Plan, a 10-year blueprint to guide Singapore's development as a Global IP Hub in Asia.
- Redevelopment of the IPOS registry filing system and implemented IP<sup>2</sup>SG, a one-stop integrated online platform for IP registration in Singapore.
- Major IP legislative and policy reforms to Singapore's patent, trademark, registered design and copyright regimes.

Helped to steer ASEAN's IP agenda during Singapore's term as Chair of the ASEAN Working Group on IP Cooperation (AWGIPC) and strengthened the patent eco-system for ASEAN. The AWGIPC covered 28 initiatives and 108 deliverables across the ASEAN IP Review Action Plan, including Singapore's hosting of the ASEAN IP Portal – an integrated IP centre linking all ASEAN IP Offices on matters related to IP.

Chaired IP negotiations in Free Trade Agreements, including the TransPacific Partnership Agreement and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Led and concluded negotiations for the IP chapter of the EU-Singapore FTA.

**2003 – 2012**      **Senior State Counsel**  
International Affairs Division  
Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore

Senior legal counsel and negotiator for various international law matters of critical importance to Singapore, including Free Trade Agreements, Double Taxation Agreements, International Investment Agreements, Law of the Sea matters, ASEAN regional agreements and UN-

related issues. Part of the Singapore legal team that argued a territorial dispute before the International Court of Justice.

**2001 – 2003 Legal Consultant**

Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore

Lead negotiator and legal counsel for Singapore in the US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, the US' first FTA with an Asian nation.

**1997 – 2001 State Counsel/Deputy Public Prosecutor**

Held various appointments at both the Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore, and at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore.

**CURRENT APPOINTMENTS**

**Chairperson, Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), WIPO**

Appointed as Chairperson in May 2017. Advanced discussions amongst the Member States on the agenda of the SCCR, including the Treaty to Protect Broadcasting Organisations (Broadcast Treaty), and Limitations and Exceptions. Brokered a consensus for SCCR members to put a recommendation relating to the Broadcast Treaty in 2018 and 2019 before the WIPO General Assembly.

**Member, Singapore-Guangdong Collaboration Council (SGCC)**

Established an intergovernmental IP collaboration in the Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City.

**Member, Manufacturing Sub-Committee of the Future Economy Council, Singapore**

**Member, Modern Services Sub-Committee of the Future Economy Council, Singapore**

**Member, Research, Innovation and Enterprise Strategy Committee (RIE SC), Prime Minister's Office, Singapore**

**Member, Research, Innovation and Enterprise Executive Committee (RIE Exco), Prime Minister's Office, Singapore**

**Co-Chair, National IP Working Group, Prime Minister's Office, Singapore**

**Advisory Board Member, Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP)**

**Member, Group of Experts on IP Office of the Future Project, International Trademark Association (INTA)**

**Board Chairman, IPOS International**

**Board Member, EW Barker Centre for Law & Business, National University of Singapore**

**Board Director, Fraunhofer Singapore**

**Coordinator and Principal Examiner, Intellectual Property Law Course for the Singapore Bar Exam run by the Singapore Institute of Legal Education**

**HONOURS**

2016      Public Administration Medal (Silver)  
             Prime Minister's Office, Singapore

2006      Fellow  
             Institute of International Economic Law, Georgetown University, USA

**LANGUAGES**

English, Chinese

[End of Annex and of document]