

Title:

IPOPHL Expands Access to Inclusive and Sustainable Innovation through Incentive Programs

Brief Overview:

This article discusses recent updates on the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines' ("IPOPHL")'s incentive programs, including the Juana Patent and Juana Design Program ("Juana Program"), Youth Intellectual Property Incentive Program ("YIPI Program"), and Green Technology Incentive Program ("GTI Program"). It highlights the expanded eligibility, extended program coverage, fee waivers, and expedited processing measures designed to encourage inclusive, youth-led, women-led, and sustainability-driven innovation.

Full Article:

In line with its mandate to promote innovation and broaden access to intellectual property protection, the IPOPHL has implemented and refined several incentive programs aimed at supporting inventors, entrepreneurs, and creators across key sectors.

Through the Patent Protection Incentive Program, or the Juana Program, YIPI Program, the GTI Program, the IPOPHL provided targeted fee waivers, streamlined processing, and enhanced support mechanisms to encourage inclusive, youth-led, women-led, and sustainability-driven innovation.

Expanded Eligibility and Streamlined Processing under the Juana Program

The IPOPHL extended and revised the eligibility requirements for the Juana Program, allowing more qualified applicants to avail of certain incentives, as discussed below, until 31 March 2026 or until the filing and receipt by IPOPHL of 50 invention applications, 150 utility model applications, and 150 industrial design applications.¹

The Juana Program was created to waive the payment of certain fees in connection with the registration of patents over inventions, utility models, and industrial designs for qualified applications. The fees that may be waived include filing fees on applications, including excess claims, first publication fees, and substantive examination fees.²

Consistent with its objectives of promoting and developing micro, small, and medium enterprises ("MSME"), as well as advancing women's empowerment and encouraging women's leadership in the private sector through the grant of incentives, the Juana Program established specific eligibility requirements for individuals, MSMEs, or startups seeking to qualify for such incentives. These requirements include, among others: a) at least one applicant, co-applicant, co-inventor, co-maker, or co-designer is a woman who is a Philippine national, or if the applicant is an MSME, it must be

¹ Section 4, IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2025-007.

² Section 3, IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2022-011.

a woman-led or woman-owned Philippine enterprise domiciled in the Philippines; and b) that the total assets of the applicant must not exceed Php 100 Million.³

Notably, the IPOPHL introduced certain changes in extending the Juana Program through 2026. In particular, it reduced the qualification requirements by removing the need for applicants: a) to have been engaged in business for at least one year or to demonstrate limited financial capability; and b) to be operating in areas prone to natural disasters or facing social or economic challenges.⁴

In addition to the reduced eligibility requirements, IPOPHL likewise mandated the prioritization of search and formality examinations for qualified invention, utility model, and industrial design applications. Specifically, IPOPHL required: a) that all invention applications be subjected to an Early Search Report with Written Opinion within six months from the filing date; b) that registration of qualified utility models may be granted within two months; and c) that eligible industrial design applications be processed within five days.⁵

Overall, the extension of the Juana Program reflects IPOPHL's commitment to expanding access to patent protection, supporting MSMEs, and promoting women's participation in innovation through streamlined eligibility requirements and expedited processing of qualified applications.

Strengthening Youth Innovation through the YIPI Program

The YIPI Program provides youth filers with incentives, including waivers of filing, publication, and/or examination fees for the registration and maintenance of various intellectual property rights ("Fees"), as well as access to technical consultations and capacity-building support on IP commercialization and management with the IPOPHL.

Originally, youth filers pertained to natural persons aged 23 and below at the time of filing the application for IP registration, or a group of natural persons all of whom are 23 years and below at the time of filing their application.⁶ In 2025, however, the IPOPHL increased the eligibility age for youth filers to 30 years old,⁷ thereby broadening access and supporting the growth of young Filipino innovators.

Further, to affirm its commitment to strengthening the innovative activities of young innovators, designers, and creators, the IPOPHL extended the effectivity of the YIPI Program until 500 trademark, 200 invention, 200 utility model, and 200 industrial design applications were certified under the YIPI Program. Along with this extension, the IPOPHL clarified the eligibility for the availment of incentives under the YIPI Program. In particular, it clarified that in order to qualify for the waiver of Fees, the youth filer should be the applicant named in the application. Institutional applicants, even if a youth filer is a co-applicant, were not allowed to avail of this benefit.⁸

³ Section 3, IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2022-011.

⁴ Section 3, IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2025-007.

⁵ Section 6, IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2025-007.

⁶ Section 1, IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2022-019.

⁷ IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2025-021.

⁸ Section 3, IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2026-003.

With these expanded and refined eligibility requirements of the YIPI Program, the IPOPHL reinforced its support for youth-led innovation, creation, and design in the Philippines.

Fast-Tracking Sustainable Innovation under the GTI Program

To support climate-responsive innovation, the IPOPHL established the GTI Program, which provided certain incentives to local applicants for developing green and sustainable technologies.

Among the incentives offered under the GTI Program are: a) the waiver of early publication fees or request for substantive examination for patents, and the second publication fee for utility models and industrial designs⁹; and b) the benefit of preferential examination for applications tagged under the GTI Program (collectively, the “GTI Incentives”).¹⁰

Any patent, utility model, or industrial design applications that fall within the categories of: a) alternative energy production; b) solar energy; c) transportation; d) energy conservation; e) waste management; f) agriculture/forestry; g) administrative, regulatory or design aspects; or h) nuclear power generation are eligible to avail of the GTI Incentives.¹¹

With these incentives, the GTI Program encouraged the development and protection of environmentally sustainable technologies in the Philippines. The program underscored IPOPHL’s commitment to promoting innovation that supports climate action and sustainable development.

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⁹ Section 3, IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2025-026.

¹⁰ Section 4, IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2025-026.

¹¹ Section 1, IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2025-026.