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Ms Loy Wee Loon
Deputy Director
IP Academy
2 Prince George's Park
Singapore 118401

Dear Wee Loon,

Congratulations once again on the setting up of the IP Academy and your appointment at the Academy. We at ASPA look forward to working closely with you and the Academy to educate and train IP professionals in Singapore.

This letter follows our meeting on 22 January, 2003 at IPOS in the presence of its Director-General, Ms Liew Woon Yin, during which we discussed the concerns of a number of our members as well as those currently undergoing training with a view to joining the patent agent profession. Essentially, their concerns relate to the perception that the authorities are not doing enough to encourage the flow of patent work to the local patent agent profession, specifically work involving preparing and drafting patent specifications and all other aspects of patent application. It is by performing such work that our members can acquire the requisite capability and experience. If the flow of work is stifled or directed to overseas agents, the profession will not grow. There will be a perception that there is no future for the development of the patent profession in Singapore.

It is in Singapore's interest to have a pool of local patent agents who are not only properly trained but also have work to sustain themselves. On our part, we at ASPA aspire to promote and enhance the new profession by promoting and encouraging acceptable minimum standards of quality work, integrity and conduct. In particular, we intend to

- promote the education and training of patent agents and patent trainees;
- assist in the introduction of practice, procedure, training and legislation concerning patents;
- establish rules, directive and a code of conduct pertaining to the profession of patent agents; and
- engage in activities and co-operation with other associations, national and international.

We are pleased to note that our objectives complement those of the IP Academy.

I should be grateful if the IP Academy could look into and share with us its views about the concerns that have been expressed. My members and I are available to discuss the concerns further with you and the Academy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tan Tee Jim', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke above the name.

Tan Tee Jim, S.C.