

KIPO announces additional extension of due dates for designated periods

- The due dates for submitting documents designated by KIPO have been extended to May 31
- KIPO (commissioner Wonjoo Park) announced that the due dates in May for submission of patent documents are *ex-officio* extended to May 31 in consideration of the situations around COVID-19.
 - * The due dates refer to deadlines for submitting documents including Argument and Amendment during the process of examination of patents and the like. If the due dates are not adhered to, the applications may be rendered invalid or rejected.
 - KIPO noted that the extension is an additional measure following the *ex-officio* extension of the due dates that fall between March 31 and April 29 to April 30, which was announced last March in response to COVID-19.
- Despite the relaxed social distancing measure, the additional extension has been offered, assuming that there would be difficulties in preparing documents through communication between applicants in Korea or abroad and their agents considering that preparation of an Amendment and an Argument typically takes a month and regions including the US and Europe are under heavy influences of COVID-19.
 - Thanks to the extension, applicants do not need to request an extension or pay a fee for the extension, and their applications can avoid being rendered invalid or rejected for not submitting documents in time.
- Meanwhile, the *ex-officio* extension does not cover the statutory deadlines prescribed in the patent law and the like and the cases where an interested party or a third party may be adversely affected by the extension. For the specific documents covered by the *ex-officio* extension, please check the KIPO website (www.kipo.go.kr).
 - An applicant who desire quicker examination may request to shorten the designated period (no official fee charged) to continue the examination process before May 31.
- Commissioner Park said "this measure has been taken in consideration of unavoidable difficulties that applicants in Korea and abroad experience due the COVID-19. We will implement active intellectual property administration through international cooperation to ensure that COVID-19 does not become an obstacle to

activities to create and protect intellectual properties."