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IP Philippines moves to increase increases number local patent applications

IN a move to advance the patenting practice and activity in the country, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines recently held the Patent Agent Qualifying Examination (PAQE). Conducted for the third time since 2006, the annual examination is given to individuals seeking professional careers in patent agency. PAQE, a major program of the IP Philippines, is supported by the European Patent Office and the EC-Asean Intellectual Property Right Co-operation Program.

Director General Adrian Cristobal Jr. said IP Philippines institutionalized the exam process to professionalize the patent agency practice in the Philippines. IP Philippines' three-year Strategic Plan instituted patent reform programs, which aspire to improve the patent practice and administration in the country. PAQE is among the significant activities of the patent reform programs.

Patent reform, where programs of the IPRTI fall under, is among the policy areas in Philippine IP Strategy, which also covers public health; universities and research and development institutions; biodiversity and genetic resources; indigenous knowledge, systems and practices, folklore and geographic indications; small and medium enterprises and institutional capacity-building and IP enforcement.