



**The Intellectual Property  
Office of the Philippines as a  
Receiving Office,  
International Searching  
Authority and a Designated  
Office**



## As an RO:

- A member of the PCT since 2001.
- Has been receiving IA's steadily around 20-25 applications annually.
- Has implemented a full electronic filing and processing (formality examination) in it's IA's (ePCT).



## As an ISA:

- Became an ISA in 2017 but started receiving applications for search only in 2019.
- Has had most of its IA's choose the IPOPHL as its ISA since 2020.
- Has been processing its IA's for search electronically (ePCT).
- Has a reputation for being efficient in processing International Search Reports.



## As a Designated Office:

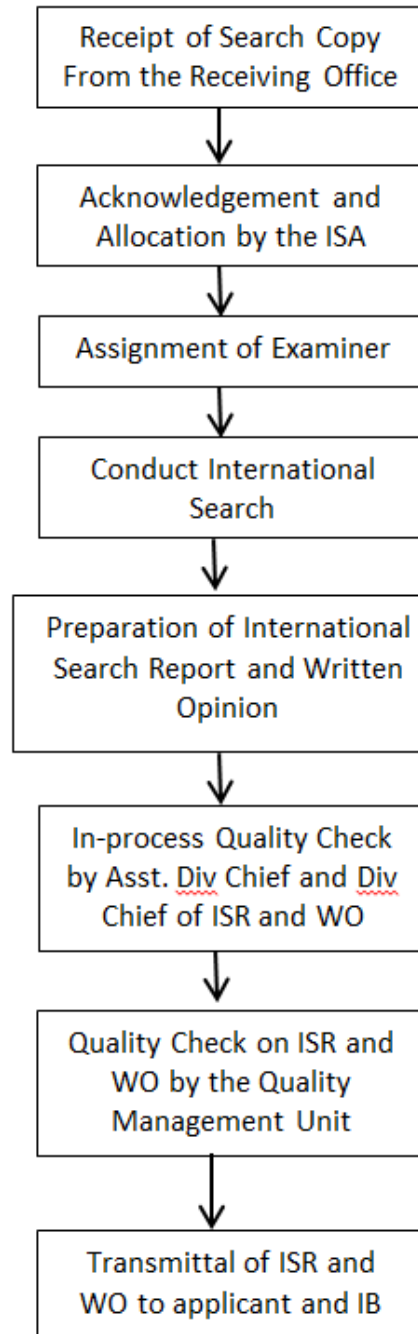
- Has been a DO since 2001.
- Main bulk of applications come from this role of the IPOPHL.
- Steadily receives between 2500-3000 elected/Designated Office applications every year.
- Has implemented a full electronic filing system (with exceptions)
- Main system for processing National Phase Entry Applications is the IPAS.

## IPOPHL's INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND WRITTEN OPINION PROCESS FLOW

### International Search Report (ISR) and Written Opinion (WO)

The international search report (ISR) consists mainly of a listing of references to published patent documents and technical journal articles which might affect the patentability of the invention. The report contains indications for each of the documents and their relevance to the novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability of the invention. Together with the search report, the ISA prepares a Written Opinion (WO) on patentability, which will give the applicant a detailed analysis of the potential patentability of the invention. The ISR and WO are sent to the applicant by the ISA.

For IPOPHL, this is the process:





# Challenges in processing PCT (International) Applications



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**1. Applicant's hesitance  
in using the ePCT filing  
system as they find it  
difficult to navigate.**



2. The email (even if an officer-in-charge has been designated) still goes to the our central registered email.





**3. Not all RO Forms are uploaded in the ePCT (has to be manually filled up and uploaded which is prone to typographical errors) and there too many forms to be used as well for different defects.**



**4. The IB used to issue an Office Action directly to the applicant and only copy-furnishes the RO/PH. They now issue the supposed action for the applicant to the RO/PH for the said RO to issue the action to the applicant.**



5. As the bulk of our work is of Designated Office (National Phase Entry) – related, the PCT section is still not THAT well versed in the RO guidelines and forms.



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**THANK YOU.**