

# Foreword

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'Innovation patents' in Australia, 'petty patents' in Indonesia and Thailand, 'utility models' in Cambodia, China and the Philippines, 'new utility models' in Taiwan, 'utility innovations' in Malaysia, 'utility solutions' in Vietnam. And that is only the patent-like protection given to minor innovations; in addition, around the globe there are widely differing systems providing protection against 'unfair' copying.

When there are so many different ways of describing what is supposed to be the same intellectual property right, it indicates surely that this is a difficult and controversial area of the law. So, in July 2004 Professor Gerald Dworkin, my predecessor as Director of the IP Academy Singapore, decided that this would be an interesting topic for the newly-created Academy to commission an international and comparative study.

In turn, to lead the project Professor Dworkin looked to his former colleague at Queen Mary College in London, Dr Uma Suthersanen, who is not only a native Singaporean but also a world-renowned expert of design laws.

Dr Suthersanen has pulled together an outstanding team of fellow experts from her College (Graham Dutfield), from Singapore (Kit Boey Chow, Kah Mun Leo and Susanna Leong), from Australia (Andrew Christie and Sarah Moritz), from Taiwan (Jerry Hsiao) from Malaysia (Lim Heng Gee) and Mexico (Manuel Marquez).

The resulting book is a fascinating comparative insight into the different ways that countries have tried to tackle the issues both of minor inventions falling below the standard required by patent law and of 'free riding' on product design and appearance.

At the end of it all, Drs Suthersanen and Dutfield offer up for consideration by developing countries three options: the status quo approach, the accretion approach and the emulation approach. But, as with any good book, I will not spoil the ending for you.

**Professor David Llewelyn**  
Director, IP Academy Singapore