

## Pending Initiatives

- Steps are being taken to amend the Patents Act 1983 for Malaysia to join the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) administered by WIPO. This will offer an applicant seeking patent protection in a number of jurisdictions greater flexibility and efficiency, compared to the existing framework. The availability of international search and preliminary examination reports under the PCT will assist the applicant to ascertain whether to continue with the application and in which countries, before the full range of costs are incurred. In contrast, an applicant under the existing system is required to file separate national patent applications with the patent office of each country where protection is sought
- The Government is in the process of drafting legislation on Personal Data Protection to regulate the collection, possession, processing and use of personal data according to certain prescribed principles. The objectives of the legislation are: (a) to provide adequate security and privacy in handling personal information; (b) to create confidence among consumers and users of both networked and non-networked industries; (c) to accelerate uptake of e-transactions; and (d) to promote a secure electronic environment in line with MSC Malaysia objectives.
- The Government is also considering enacting: (a) an Electronic Transactions Act to facilitate transactions carried out by electronic means; and (b) an Electronic Government Activities Act to facilitate and enable interactions of government with public and between government agencies for efficient and secure electronic government services.