

PATENT, NANOTECHNOLOGY, AND THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITY

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Abstract

University has significant contribution to the development of nanotechnology. The role of the university can be implemented through the TTLO, particularly in an effort to build a bridge for bottom-up nanotechnology for commercial purposes. There will be an increasingly significant link between the patent system and the university role in the development of nanotechnology.

Introduction

As of February 11, 2010, the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) had classified 5,909 patents into class 977² as patents in the field of nano technology.³ One may wonder, what is the relevance of this to us? Indeed, although it may not be directly relevant for us, this data at least indicate that the development of nanotechnology has produced many new innovations with the potential of application in commercial industry.

This leads us to the next question, namely, what is the relevance of this to the role of University? At the least, this role becomes evident in connection with one of the functions of university as an institution responsible for education and research. In other words, university has significant contribution to the development of nanotechnology.

Have Indonesian universities been able to provide significant contribution to the development of nanotechnology? Have Indonesian universities been able to come up with inventions in the field of nanotechnology? The answer to this questions lie in the hearts of research, members of the *civitas academica* in their respective universities. The subject of this article is not a discussion on the achievements of certain universities in the area of nanotechnology, rather it will focus on patents and their relation to the development of nanotechnology, as well as the role that universities can play in this particular aspect.

Patent, a legal protection regime

Patent is a widely misunderstood term. In Indonesian there are many expressions using the word *patent* with many different connotations, which are often not even close to its original meaning. For example, people would often say: “*waah obatnya paten banget*” (wow, this medicine is so effectual), using the word ‘paten’ (effectual) as adjective, which implies the quality of being highly effective and reliable. Another commonly used expression is “*apakah mereknya sudah dipatenkan?*” (has the trade mark been patented”), or “*waduh, tutup ini*

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² Patent Classification is classification of invention that can be granted with patent right based on the laws and regulations in the field of Patents.

³ J. Steven Rutt, <<http://www.nanocleantechblog.com/2010/02/articles/patent/recent-nanotech-patent-trends-top-ten-observations/>>, accessed on February 12, 2011.