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**SIPO Provides Design Patent Protection For GUIs**

The State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO) recently (promulgated on March 12) revised examination guidelines and removed the earlier prohibition against design patent protection for electrified screen designs. Protection is also provided for dynamic (animated) graphical user interfaces.

Designs which are unrelated to human-machine interaction or product function also remain unprotected under the revised examination guidelines.

The new examination guidelines will enter into effect as of May 1, 2014.  
[http://www.sipo.gov.cn/zwgg/jl/201403/t20140314\\_916952.html](http://www.sipo.gov.cn/zwgg/jl/201403/t20140314_916952.html)

**SIPO-KIPO, SIPO-IMPI and SIPO-APO PPH Pilot Programs Extend**

According to the co-decisions made by SIPO and Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and by SIPO and Austria Patent Office (APO), the SIPO-KIPO and SIPO-APO PPH pilot

programs will be extended for two years from March 1, 2014 until February 29, 2016.

According to the co-decision made by SIPO and Mexican Institute of Intellectual Property (IMPI), the SIPO-IMPI PPH pilot program will be extended infinitely from March 1, 2014.

The requirements and procedures to file a PPH request between SIPO and the aforementioned offices remain unchanged.  
[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201403/t20140313\\_916393.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201403/t20140313_916393.html)

**Intellectual Property Court is to be Established This Year**

At the third plenary meeting of the Second Session of the Twelfth National People's Congress, Zhou Qiang, President of the Supreme People's Court, said that in 2014, his authority would push the establishment of intellectual property courts.

According to statistics, a total of 100 thousand intellectual property cases of first instance were concluded by courts at all levels in China in 2013.  
[http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/government/201403/1803965\\_1.html](http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/government/201403/1803965_1.html)

### **China Replaces Germany as 3rd Biggest Country in Patent Filing**

China has replaced Germany as the third biggest country in patent filing, according to the annual report released on March 13, 2014 by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

In 2013, China filed as many as 21,516 international patent applications, a dramatic increase of more than 15 percent over the previous year.

[http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/chinaworl/201403/1804003\\_1.html](http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/chinaworl/201403/1804003_1.html)

### **New Initiatives Launched to Promote Patent Commissioning Services**

With a view to tackling prominent problems on patent commission raised by stakeholders and improving patent commissioning services, Several Opinions on Promoting the Development of Patent Commission hereof is issued by the State Intellectual Property Office.

Three spotlights in the newly released document are worth attention. Firstly, it relaxes restrictions on enrolling for patent agent qualification examinations so as to attract more postgraduate students to join in the industry as soon as they leave school. Secondly, several adjustments in the process of certifying patent commission related working experience are made to invite qualified personnel to work as patent agents. Thirdly, conditions of opening a new patent agency in an area where demand is

enormous and patent practitioners are inadequate are loosened in a bid to strike a balance of resource allocation among different areas.

The document also includes strategies in terms of industry exit mechanisms, market environment and industry supervision. Its launch will help further improve patent commissioning system and its level and expand the service scale of the industry. It is reported that patent commission forms an important part of patent industry and is a great support for the effective functioning of the patent system. The service level of patent commission may have significant impact in enhancing the capability in creating, utilizing, protecting and administering intellectual property rights in China.

[http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/governme/201403/1803349\\_1.html](http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/governme/201403/1803349_1.html)

### **SIPO Plans to Boost Patent Agency Standards**

The SIPO recently announced that it plans to set patent agency standards for services, work quality and management, which will help stimulate the market and promote healthy growth in the sector.

The office added that it will also ease access to the industry and attract more professionals to meet growing demand.

[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201312/t20131230\\_893074.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201312/t20131230_893074.html)

### **Counterfeit Information Will be Published to Improve China's Market Climate**

To improve the market climate in China, manufacture of counterfeit or shoddy goods and intellectual property rights violations, including case details, penalties and evidence, will be made public via government websites, bulletins, press conferences, newspapers and magazines, radio and television, within 20 working days of an administrative decision.  
[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201403/t20140306\\_912987.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201403/t20140306_912987.html)

### **SAIC About to Revise Anti-Unfair Competition Law**

The State Administration for Industry & Commerce (SAIC) Competition Enforcement Bureau held a meeting on February 28, beginning the topic of revision the Anti-Unfair Competition Law. In the meeting the framework for revision, topics to be covered, coordination and separation of work, etc. were discussed.  
[http://www.saic.gov.cn/fldyfbzdjz/gzdt/201403/t20140303\\_142680.html](http://www.saic.gov.cn/fldyfbzdjz/gzdt/201403/t20140303_142680.html)

### **China Unveils Policy to Boost Creative Industry**

China's State Council on March 14 released plans aimed at promoting the integration of the creative and design service industries with the real economy.

The proposals lay out specific measures to boost integration, in which it is emphasized

that Authorities will tighten intellectual property protection to promote creativity.

[http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/government/201403/1804000\\_1.html](http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/government/201403/1804000_1.html)

### **China's Huawei Leads Patent Application in Europe**

Huawei, a leading global information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider, is among the top applicants at the European Patent Office (EPO), ranked 11th, according to official figures announced on March 14, 2014.

The company invests more than 10 percent of its revenue in R&D every year and pays about US\$300 million in royalties per year to legitimately use patented technologies.

[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201403/t20140319\\_919544.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201403/t20140319_919544.html)

### **ITC Launches Section 337 Investigation Against ZTE**

The US International Trade Commission (USITC) launched another Section 337 Investigation against ZTE Corp, a Chinese telecom equipment supplier, which sell products of cell phone and tablet PC in USA. It's not the first case ever ZTE has encountered. At the end of 2013, ZTE has scored a victory in the Section 337 investigation initiated by International Data Group.

[http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201402/t20140226\\_908014.html](http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201402/t20140226_908014.html)