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China to Set Up Special IP Courts in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress passed "the Decision on establishment of intellectual property courts in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou". In addition to cases in these cities, the IP courts could conduct cross-regional jurisdiction on IP cases during the forthcoming 3 years.

The courts will focus largely on civil and administrative lawsuits regarding patents, new plant varieties, integrated circuit layout designs and technological knowledge, as well as handle appellate cases regarding copyright and trademark disputes.

Appeals against the verdicts of the IP courts will be heard in local higher people's courts. Presidents, vice presidents and chief judges of these courts will be appointed by local legislatures.

The courts will also establish a professional forensic investigation system to determine technical facts.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201409/t20140902_1004060.html

Review: SIPO Established 19 PPH Pilot Programs with IP Offices Globally

According to Patent Examination Administration Department of Patent Office under the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of China, SIPO has established 19 PPH (Patent Prosecution Highway) pilot programs with overseas IP offices.

The regional offices that SIPO established PPH programs with are Japan, USA, Germany, Russia, Denmark, Finland, Mexico, Austria, Korea, Poland, Singapore, Canada, Spain, Portugal, UK, Iceland, Sweden, Israel. In addition, SIPO, European Patent Office (EPO), Japan Patent Office (JPO), Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), and U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) launched the three-year-long IP5 PPH pilot program on January 2014.

Latest numbers showed that by the end of 2013, Chinese applicants have filed 825 PPH applications, of which 197 are regular PPH applications, 628 are PCT—PPH applications.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201409/t20140903_1004752.html

Chinese Patent Filings Abroad on Big Rise

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) said in a report that the growth of Chinese patent filings abroad has increased significantly since 2000. The majority of patent applications abroad by Chinese residents targeted the United States with close to 50,000 patent applications between 1970 and 2012, followed by Europe, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Canada.

In addition, according to SIPO, in the first half year of 2014, China had dealt with 11,243 international patent applications submitted through Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), increasing by 20.5% compared with that in the first half year of 2013.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7211>:

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7196>

Copyright Industries Become an Engine for Economic Growth in China

The latest statistics available shows that the output value of China's copyright industries accounted for 6.67 percent of GDP.

For the reference, research by WIPO in more than 40 countries shows that creative industries including copyright industries contribute an average of 5.2 percent to the GDP of each country and 5.4 percent to the employment rate.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7266>

China Internet Brand Protection System: More than 30,000 Trademark Participations around the World

According to the statistics released, since December 30th, 2013 when the Career Development Center of the State Commission Office of Public Sectors Reform in China launched the Internet Brand Protection System, with 31,866 trademarks worldwide joined up to date, receiving assistance on aspects of domain name protection priority, brand monitoring, new generic top-level domain application and many other relevant fields.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7197>

The Total Amount of Agricultural Registered Trademarks in China up to 1.25 Million Pieces

In 2014 International Symposium on Brand Agriculture Development, government officers, experts and entrepreneurs from 17 countries and areas conducted in-depth discussions on many issues, such as development trend of Global brand agriculture, development methods of China's brands agriculture and etc. The statistics show that the total amount of agricultural registered trademarks in China was 0.6 million pieces at the end of 2014, however, up to the end of 2013, the amount was up to 1.25 million pieces, doubled in five years.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7259>

Anti-monopoly of NDRC: Giving 2.7 Billion Yuan Fines since Last Year

National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) imposed several penalties on the monopoly behaviors recently, the most notable is that for twelve famous Japanese automobile enterprises including the Sumimoto Company.

According to part of the statistics, the total amount of fine from the anti-monopoly investigation since 2013 had been up to 2.7 billion yuan, covering LCD panel, communication, auto, milk powder, gold, white wine and many other industries within dozens of Chinese and foreign enterprises.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7216>

New Measures Enacted to Enhance Forestry Plant Varieties Protection

The State Forestry Administration of China enact “Measures for Administrative Enforcement regarding Forestry Plant Varieties” in order to strengthen administrative enforcement regarding the protection of new forestry plant varieties and promote the development of protection of new forestry plant varieties.

This Measure is implemented as of September 1, 2014 and will expire on August 31, 2019.

<http://www.forestry.gov.cn/main/3956/content-701644.html>

ZTC Won Four Straight Cases against 337 Investigation

United States International Trade Commission (ITC) conducted the final verdict on patent infringement case of InterDigital (IDC) suing Zhongxing Telecommunication Equipment Corporation (ZTC), believing that ZTC did neither violate the “Section 337” nor infringe the patent right of IDC. Up to now, ZTC had won the final victory in all the “337 Investigation” launched by IDC against several Chinese companies including ZTC, which makes ZTC become the only Chinese enterprise winning the four straight cases from “Section 337” at present.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7217>

First Cross-straits IP Alliance

The first cross-straits IP alliance was formed between the Xiamen Innovation and Intellectual Property Protection Association and Taiwan’s Intellectual Property Protection Association in Taipei. With secretariats in both cities, it will host regular exchanges between Chinese mainland and Taiwan companies, and offer legal consultation and information for investors.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7236>

China, US Step up IPR Cooperation

2014 China's IPR Overseas Exchange was the fourth year for the event to be held in the US to help the outside world better understand China's efforts in IPR protection and seek international cooperation.

The Chinese delegation comprises of experts from a number of government agencies such as Ministry of Commerce, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, General Administration of Customs, State Administration of Industry and Commerce, SIPO, while the US participants are from US Trade Representative office, US Patent and Trademark Office and representatives from US research institutes and companies such as IMB and Proctor and Gamble (P&G).

The Chinese delegates talked about the country's efforts in combating IPR infringement and piracy, enforcement of the legal system, and more specifically, copyright protection, the implementation of the trademark law and the introduction of Geographical Indications (GI). Mark Cohen, attorney-advisor of the US Patent and Trade Office, expressed the US side will continue to work with China and strengthen exchanges through the existing bilateral mechanisms. The intensive and various exchange and cooperative activities underway will help boost the mutual understanding and trust on the IPR issue.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7262>

Close Cooperation between the UK and China on Intellectual Property

Ms. Baroness Neville-Rolfe DBE CMG, the UK's IP Minister, began a week-long visit to China. The visit aims to further develop the two countries' collaboration on intellectual property issues. The focal point of the visit is the 2nd UK-China IP Symposium.

The Symposium provided a platform for detailed exchanges between the UK and Chinese IP agencies on intellectual property policy, as well as offering businesses an opportunity to build stronger relationships with their international counterparts.

Later in that week, the China-Britain Business Council ("CBBC") and Alibaba Group announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU"). Under the MOU, Alibaba agrees to work with CBBC member companies to remove product listings subject to takedown notices from companies alleging that they infringe their intellectual property rights. CBBC will provide guidance to its member companies on how to use Alibaba's existing IP protection and notice and takedown systems, and will cooperate closely with Alibaba's Internet Security team, putting CBBC member companies with particular concerns directly in touch with them where appropriate.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7234>;

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=7251>