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E-commerce Law to Have Draft Version before 2016

A draft of China's first e-commerce law will be completed by the end of 2015 for further deliberation by the top legislature in 2016.

The main purpose of the law is to spur innovation and competition while taking into account regulation, since e-commerce is still flourishing. The law will include provisions for an honest trade environment, quality of goods and services, protection of consumers' interests and intellectual property rights.

http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/governme nt/201503/1860746_1.html

Lawmakers Call for Greater Incentives for Inventors

The draft revision to the Law on Promoting the Transformation of Scientific and Technological Achievements is having its first reading at the top legislature's bi-monthly session.

Some lawmakers said the bottom line in the draft of no less than 20% of the inventions' worth to contributing scientists is too low (which remains the same as in the existing 1996 law) and would like to see it rise up to 50%.

The draft is the first attempt to revise the law in nearly two decades and allows research establishments to retain all the income from their ideas instead of turning over gains to the treasury, theoretically allowing them to reward the best scientists and fund future research.

Despite huge amounts of money poured into research and development (R&D) and numerous patent applications, few of China's advances make it commercially. Spending on R&D reached 1.33 trillion yuan (217 billion U.S. dollars) last year, up 12.4 percent.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201503/t2015 0304_1082123.html

Chinese Experts Urge Legislation on Trade Decret Protection

Chinese experts are urging legislation to protect trade secrets to deal with an increase in infringements and violations in recent years.

Trade secrets are information about a business's technology and operations that, if stolen, may lead to losses for proprietors.

China has special laws on trademarks, copyright and patents, but no trade secret law among its intellectual property laws. However, there are trade secret provisions in the

country's law against unfair competition and its labor and contract laws.

Legislation on trade secret protection was once part of the work plan of the country's top legislature in the 1990s, but no progress has been made over the past 20 years. This year, China will accelerate research on trade secret protection legislation.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201503/t20150317_1088958.html

China Vows to Step up Judicial Protection on IP

According to the report of Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Procuratorate announced on the third plenary meeting of the third session of the 12th National People's Congress, in 2014, China's court at all levels concluded 110,000 IP cases of first-instance, up 10%. Chinese procuratorial organs prosecuted 9,427 persons who suspect of infringing trademark right, patent right, copyright and trade secret, up 7.1%.

In 2015, Chinese courts at all levels would make steady strides to settle disputes in investment and consumption, foreign trade and IP field, thus creating a fair system for social and economic development. In the meantime, the procuratorial organs would actively adapt to economic development and perform the duty of supervision.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201503/t20150318_1089751.html

China Innovation Index up 3.1% in 2013

The China Innovation Index (CII), which measures innovation capability rose 3.1 percent to 152.8 in 2013, said the statistics authority.

The research team calculated a total of 21 minor indices, including GDP per capita, R&D expenditure, patent granting and energy consumption situation, in order to work out the four sub-index figures.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201503/t20150306_1083122.html

EPO President: China Becomes Important Applicant for Patents in Europe

In 2014, EPO received 274,174 patent filings, with a year growth of 3.1%. Wherein, filings from China reached 26,472, accounting for about 9% of the total. It made China rank the fourth, after the United States, Japan and Germany while followed by South Korea.

The applications from China are concentrated in digital communication. Two Chinese companies, HUAWEI and ZTE, represented almost 70 percent of all the Chinese applications. Scientific institutions and universities were also quite active, where China Academy of Sciences, Peking University and Tsinghua University are on the list of the top 20 applicants from China.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201503/t20150302_1080900.html