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Winner of China Patent Award Announced

We are pleased to share that one of the patents that we assisted in drafting and prosecuting won the Golden Prize of the China Patent Award as announced on December 2nd, 2015. It's the third time our works were involved behind a golden prize patent.

In addition, another five patents of our clients' were observed on the list of Excellent Awards winners. These patents were also drafted and prosecuted by us in the fields of telecommunications, computer science, and Pharmaceutical technology respectively.

Established in 1989, China Patent Award is the country's top government award for patented inventions and an award recognized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

<http://www.sipo.gov.cn/tz/pingxuan/201512/t201512021212230.html>

China Patent Law Amendment: Further Promote the Protection and Use of Patent

The Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council recently released the new draft of the revised Patent Law for public advices. This

draft is made for the State Council for review and approval.

The new amended draft further consummate patent protection system by specifying evidence rules, clearing the effectiveness of the administrative mediation agreement, introducing intentional tort of punitive damages system, adding provisions about online counterfeit, *etc.*

The draft also provides a further definition of service invention and advises companies to implement service invention reporting and management policies, and highlights the method for calculating compensation and award for inventors. In addition to pay reasonable remuneration to employee inventors upon obtaining patent rights or exploitation of the patented invention-creation, the draft also adds remuneration need to be paid upon licensing or an implied license.

As to compensation, the current law stipulates that compensation must be decided based on actual losses by the obligee or gains by the infringer. The new draft allows for compensation of up to three times the losses or gains; if losses cannot be confirmed, the amounts can be set at as up to 5 million yuan.

The draft is also revised to facilitate the connection between administrative law enforcement and judicial protection, to improve efficiency of law enforcement, to reduce the cost of patent rights, and to build the rule of law and a fair marketing environment.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201512/t20151216_1218049.html

Vice Premier Promises Foreign Firms Fair Treatment

China will create a level playing field for domestic and foreign companies and make foreign investment in the country easier.

Vice Premier Wang Yang said at an annual gathering of the American Chamber of Commerce that China needs foreign enterprises to play a more active role as it becomes more integrated with the world.

He also pledged that China will strengthen protection of intellectual properties and commercial secrets and make regulations more transparent; China will focus in particular on easing entry into the service sector when reforming rules on foreign investment. The vice premier also called on foreign firms to keep pace with development trends sweeping China. Innovation and green growth, for example, are key concepts in China's proposal for the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020).

<http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/article/industryreports/201512/1883346.html>

China Vows Better Copyright Protection for Music Industry

The State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (SAPPRFT) has released a statement aiming to improve standard operations in track registration, copyright authentication and paid use of music products before 2020.

The statement also asked music labels to participate in setting industry standards and expressed the determination to improve the environment for copyright protection, by making actions, such as adding more articles on piracy in copyright law and establishing a system to allow the public to report wrongdoing regarding unauthorized publication and online sharing of music.

<http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/article/copyright/201512/1883348.html>

China NAC and WIPO sign MOU to Cooperate in All Respects of Copyright

The National Copyright Administration of China (NAC) and World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Further Strengthening Bilateral Cooperation between NAC and WIPO. According to the MOU, both sides will build on the current communication and cooperation to enhance copyright publicity and personnel training, to promote high-level and peer-to-peer exchanges, paving the way for future cooperation.

<http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/article/copyright/201512/1883351.html>

SIPO, JPO and KIPO Strengthen IP Ties and Update Their Cooperation Website

The State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO), the Japan Patent Office and the Korean Intellectual Property Office announced the launch of a new version of the IP cooperation website tripo.org in late November. The website provides public users with information on the three countries' IP laws and regulations and services, including searches for patent documentation, reports on comparison of patent examination.

At the recent 15th trilateral policy dialogue meeting among the three offices, SIPO and KIPO signed a memorandum of understanding related to exchanges of IP information and data; the Chinese and Japanese IP chiefs discussed the Sino-Japanese Patent Prosecution Highway project and cooperation on patent documentation classification and design fields.

<http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/article/centralgovernment/201511/1882748.html>

SIPO and EPO Open a New Chapter for IP Cooperation

To mark the 30th anniversary of the cooperation between the SIPO and European Patent Office (EPO), several activities have taken place in Beijing, for instance, an International Symposium on IP, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the 9th Conference of Heads of Offices, etc.

According to Benoît Battistelli, president of EPO, the "positive, win-win" partnership between the EPO and the SIPO has created an IP environment in the country that is familiar to European companies. These European firms can then develop their businesses in the Chinese market knowing that their innovations will be protected.

Reflecting in statistics, the European Union is the second-largest overseas filer with the SIPO, accounting for 28% of foreign filings in 2014. In the same year, Chinese filers contributed more than 9% filed with EPO, mainly clustering around the sectors of digital communication, computer technology and telecommunications.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201512/t20151203_1212713.html

Alliance Gives Members Greater Access on Patents of Voice Technologies

A number of major high-tech companies have established an alliance in Beijing to pool together intelligent voice patents in an aim to better integrate and develop existing technologies.

The alliance was proposed by seven companies including Baidu, Haier, ZTE, BAIC Motor and BOE Technology. It now has more than 20 members. To promote advanced voice technologies, the alliance decided to open the patent pool to its members for free.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/beijing/2015-12/09/content_22673233.htm