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Trademarks Containing the Chinese Character “国” Can Be Approved For Registration

From our recent meeting with judges of the Beijing Intellectual Property Court, it is learnt that a trademark containing the Chinese character “国”, which has a meaning of “national” in English, can be approved for registration, but on the condition that such trademark does not mislead consumers to understand that the meaning of such character refers to “national level” when the trademark is used on the designated goods/services. Whilst, trademarks consisting of the Chinese character “国” and words referring to the designated goods generally could not be approved for registration.

For more information, please see <http://afdip.com/index.php?ac=article&at=read&did=2536>

Patent Administrative Law Enforcement Guidance Revised

The State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO) recently issued the revised Patent Administrative Law Enforcement Guidance, in a bid to set norms on patent administrative law enforcement and strengthen IPR protection, as well as create a fair innovation and entrepreneurship environment.

The Guidance among other things adds a new chapter of Addressing Patent Disputes Arising from Trade Fairs and Electronic Commerce. Enforcement Regulation chapter was also revised on the basis of combing current enforcement regulation practices. The first four chapters on statutory duties on mediation of patent infringement and other patent disputes, investigation of patent counterfeiting and so on are adjusted and improved.

It also specifies the requirements in the process of patent administrative law enforcement, highlighting the advantages of simplification and efficiency of administrative law enforcement.
<http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/article/patents/201602/1886290.html>

China Handled 35,844 Patent Administrative Law Enforcement Cases in 2015

Based on the latest report from SIPO, 35,844 administrative law enforcement cases on patents were handled, up 46.4% in 2015. It's worth noting that this figure marked a 5th year of consecutive growth, with 81.4% more cases during the 12th Five-Year Plan than the prior planned schedule.

In 2015, the national IPR system has handled 14,607 patent disputes and 21,237 patent counterfeit cases, up 77.7% and 30.6% respectively. Among which, 14,202 were patent infringements. IP offices under SIPO nationwide have handled 8,744 patent infringement cases directly, representing 61.6% of the total, up 88.3%.

It is seen that the national IPR system has handled more difficult patent disputes on a year-over-year basis, but at the same time the efficiency has been improved. In 2015, 93.2% of the disputes have been concluded, up 6.2%. Also, 7,644 patent disputes in e-commerce and 2,743 cases involving exhibition have been concluded, representing 1/4 of the total.
http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201601/t20160127_1234236.html

Patent Pledge Financing Exceeds 56 Billion Yuan in 2015

The year of 2015 witnessed notable progress in China's IP pledge financing. Some 2,000 enterprises secured 56 billion yuan with patent pledge all through the year.

According to the Patent Administration Department under SIPO, during the 12th Five-Year plan period, over 5,000 enterprises secured a total of 153.3 billion yuan with annual growth rate of 58%. For example, a Shijiazhuang-based heating equipment company secured a loan of 80 million yuan by pledging 6 patents, effectively easing the pressure on the company's fund which

triggered more R&D investment. Meanwhile, the recognition of financial institutions on patented products enhanced the popularity of products and the annual sales volume rose to 120 thousand from 16 thousand, with 360 million yuan in sales, up 650%.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201602/t20160217_1240275.html

Service Trade Sees More Than 10% Growth in 2015

China's foreign service trade reached a record high of \$713 billion in 2015 according to the country's Commerce Ministry. The figure accounts for a 14.6% increase compared to the year before.

Data shows that export volume in service sector amounted to \$288.2 billion during the same period, a year-on-year increase of 9.2%. The volume of imports rose 18.6% to \$424.8 billion. The export of high value-added services saw increased growth during the year.

Export volume in telecommunications, computer and IT industries-related services grew 25% from 2014 to reach \$27 billion. Management and consulting services grew 13.6% to reach \$29.1 billion, advertising saw growth of 37.1% in exported services, while exported services in culture and entertainment grew 43.9%. Intellectual property license royalties collected from foreign users grew 64.9% during 2015.

<http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/article/otherthemes/201602/1886226.html>