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AFD Awarded “Outstanding Patent Agency of the Year 2013”

AFD is proud to announce that we have been named as *Outstanding Patent Agency of the Year 2013*, by Beijing Patent Attorneys Association. This award recognizes patent agencies that have outperformed through dedication to client service, innovation and industry knowledge.

<http://www.bjpa.org/a/tongzhigonggao/2013/1204/6199.html>

SIPO Expands and Extends Patent Prosecution Highway Programs

State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of China signed with the Intellectual Property Office of the United Kingdom (UKIPO) for intent for Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program, to allow applicants to request a quicker processing of their patent applications in both countries.

The PPH pilot programs will start on July 1, 2014.

http://www.sipo.gov.cn/ztl/ywzt/pph/zxd/201312/t20131204_886529.html

The SIPO entered into PPH Pilot Programs with United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) two years ago. The PPH Pilot Programs were scheduled to expire on November 30, 2013.

However, the SIPO and USPTO recently announced that the PPH Programs will be extended with indefinite duration. Meanwhile, the requirements and procedures remain the same.

http://www.sipo.gov.cn/ztl/ywzt/pph/zxd/201311/t20131129_885043.html

SIPO to Automatic Exchange of Priority Documents with KIPO

The SIPO announced that as from 2014, it implemented automatic electronic exchange of priority documents with the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) for first filings at SIPO or KIPO. The service is free of charge and not subject to any formalities on the part of the applicant, but the application claiming priority from a first filing must have been filed on or after 1 January 2014.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201312/t20131223_891226.html

China Proposes New IP Court

The Chinese government plans to set up a new court dedicated solely to Intellectual Property matters.

The proposal is part of the *Decision on Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Deepening Reforms*, wherein includes a system to encourage and strengthen IP.

A deadline of 2020 has been set by the government for implementing reforms.

<http://www.chinaipmagazine.com/en/news-show.asp?id=6391>

China to Further Strengthen IPR Protection

China has gradually developed a sound policy system of IPR judicial protection, and has ensured the basic judicial policy of strengthening protection. Courts nationwide have adopted series of effective measures, which can be divided into the following steps:

Firstly, the courts have increased compensation for IPR violations. This mechanism has been introduced in the newly amended trademark laws, and is recognized in trials for patent disputes and copyright cases. System of compensation based on discretion has been strengthened.

Secondly, China's courts have adopted effective measures on lightening righters' burden of proof, no more blindly abide strictly by the principle that "who propose, who proof".

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201312/t20131206_887157.html

IPR Violators Will be Made Public

The Chinese government proposed a "name and shame" system to deter companies from infringing on intellectual property rights.

It is said that local authorities should publish cases of infringements on IPR and producing fake products as part of efforts to ensure market order. In addition, information on the administrative penalty imposed by authorities should be included in the social credit system in order to ensure violators would be penalized for poor credit records. However, cases that involve commercial secrets and personal privacy could be excluded from the information disclosure.

http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/governme nt/201311/1785191_1.html

Battle against Counterfeit Goods Enters a New Phase

China's crackdown on intellectual property infringement and counterfeiting is shifting its focus. In the next steps, China will intensify the crackdown campaigns in regions with frequent infringement and counterfeiting activities, and focuses on the online sales of counterfeits and spreading of pirated copies.

The previous operations from January to September resulted in constitution of a total of 234,000 criminal cases involving infringement and counterfeiting, with a total value of 2.42 billion yuan (\$398 million).

http://www.chinaipr.gov.cn/newsarticle/news/governme nt/201312/1788762_1.html

WIPO: Global IP Filings Increase with China as Major Drive

China for the first time topped rankings for source (filings by China) and destination (filed in China) for four types of intellectual property (IP) filings IP in 2012, according to a report released by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Rapid growth was recorded in the four types of IP claims, namely patents, utility models, trademarks and industrial designs.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201312/t20131210_888086.html

25 Patent Gold Medals Generate 37.1 Billion Yuan in Profit

The 15th WIPO-SIPO Award for Chinese Outstanding Invention and Industrial Design patents was announced. The 25 gold medal items have generated 109.5 billion Yuan in combined sales revenue and 37.1 billion Yuan profit by the end of 2012, which brought significant economic benefit to the right-holders.

Out of some 800 entries, a record-high number for the annual event, 20 inventions and 5 industrial designs respectively were awarded gold medals; 336 patents and 53 industrial designs were named award of excellence, wherein one of the excellence award winning patent was drafted and prosecuted by AFD.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201311/t20131126_884210.html

ITC Launches Section 337 Investigation against Chinese Disc Drives

The USITC launched Section 337 Investigation of "certain optical disc drives, components thereof, and products containing the same" from seven companies in Asia to confirm whether these products violate patent rights of the U.S. companies.

The investigation is based on a complaint filed by Optical Devices, LLC, of Peterborough, on NH, on September 3, 2013 to China Lenovo, Mediatek, LG, Samsung, Nintendo, Panasonic and Toshiba.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201311/t20131121_882422.html

Mainland, HK Sign Patent Deal

As part of the efforts to implement the original grant patent (OGP) system in Hong Kong, the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the SIPO signed the Cooperation Arrangement in the Area of Patent.

Under the arrangement, the SIPO will provide technical assistance and support to the IPD for substantive examination of patent applications and the training of staff.

It is IPD's goal to set up the infrastructure with a view to implementing the new patent system in 2016-17.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201312/t20131210_888087.html

China Open to Discussing IPR Issues with the world

Chinese government held a series of events on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) discussion with other countries.

About 100 delegates from Chinese and U.S. government agencies, corporations and research institutions joined the China-US IPR workshop. And the China-US Intellectual Property Seminar called for closer cooperation between the two countries because the US is the world's largest IP creator, while growth in this sector is fastest in China.

In addition, the bilateral Heads of European Patent Office (EPO) and SIPO meeting held recently in Beijing, which was a further example of the longstanding and excellent relations between these two Offices.

Also, the 19th meeting between top Officials of SIPO and KIPO was held in this month as well. The two sides negotiated an extension of the patent examination highway project and signed an agreement to cooperate.

China is always proactive in discussing the IPR issues with other parts of the world with an open attitude. These activities were aimed at promoting a sound atmosphere for global IPR cooperation and building up bilateral cooperation.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/iprspecial/201312/t20131210_888085.html

China Promotes IP Exchange and Exhibition to Market

From December 5 through 6, 2013, more than 1,600 intellectual property buyers and sellers, R&D professionals, finance and legal intermediaries and design and technology practitioners from 25 countries and regions gathered together in Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre for the Business of IP Asia Forum. The discussion topics of this event range from disputes in the design and creative industries to technology transfer and licensing, IP monetisation and intellectual capital management, software patenting and IP bullying.

At the 20th China Yangling Agricultural High-tech Fair (CAF), the SIPO became one of the major participants at the exhibition of agricultural high technologies and products, who organized more than 80 scientific and research institutions from 13 provinces to bring over 100 agriculture-related patent projects to the fair.

SIPO also held the "Intellectual Property Pledge Financing Matchmaking Meeting" and promoted the presentation of the excellent agricultural patent projects on the National Patent Technology (Shaanxi) Exhibition and Trade Platform, the zscq.xbcq.com and the Xi'an High-tech Zone Intellectual Property Exhibition and Trade Platform.

http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/official/201312/t20131205_886877.html