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China to Intensify IP Protection Efforts

According to the Key Points of Work on Combating Intellectual Property Infringement and the Manufacture and Sales of Counterfeit and Shoddy Commodities Nationwide for 2012, China is going to exert gigantic efforts in protecting intellectual property rights, particularly in cracking down upon patent violations regarding collective and repeated infringement, as well as patent piracy and fraud.

In 2011, authorities dispatched enforcement officials for 175,000 person-times, investigated 2.51 million items of commodities, handled 3,017 patent cases, conducted cross-departmental coordination for 623 times and carried on trans-regional enforcement for 875 times, effectively deterring and curbing potential patent violations.

China Releases IPR Protection, Anti-counterfeiting Agenda

The General Office of the State Council released a work agenda concerning the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) and a crackdown on the production and sale of counterfeit goods.

The agenda mentions campaigns to be carried out to ensure protection for trademark rights, copyrights, patent rights and online shopping sites, as well as efforts to fight the counterfeiting of cosmetics, medicine, agricultural production materials and vehicle components. Efforts will be made to crack down on the infringement of proprietary information as well.

China Renews Crackdown on Pirated Publications

The National Anti-Pornography and Anti-Illegal Publications Office announced a new intellectual property rights campaign targeting sellers and printers of illegal publications.

Official figures indicate that authorities confiscated more than 38 million unauthorized publications and investigated more than 7,800 related cases between April 2011 and March this year.
Three Competent Authorities: Concentrate on Crackdown upon Infringement and Piracy Action


The Circular emphasized that all the concerned departments should establish work mechanism, severely combat infringement and piracy actions, promote industry self-regulation and further standardize market order.

New Copyright Law Amendment under Fire

The National Copyright Administration published a preliminary amendment draft to revise China's copyright laws on its official website on Mar 31st. Posted to collect public opinion and constructive feedback, bloggers and music producers singled out Articles 46 and 48 for closer study. The maximum level of compensation for copyright infringement has increased from 500,000 yuan (US$ 79,238) to 1 million yuan (US$ 158,474). The draft also adds administrative powers to pursue cases of copyright infringement.

SIPO and USPTO Signed Data Exchange Protocol

On June 6, China’s State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) signed data exchange protocol. Based on the protocol, from now on, Americans can get patent information of China via the website of USPTO, and SIPO can also provide Chinese the patent information via its website and local patent information service centers. SIPO and USPTO both expressed to continue to deepen cooperation on patent data sharing.