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Updates on China Patent Inquiry System

The China Patent Inquiry System is a Chinese patent registration and file history search system created by the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO). The system covers Chinese patent, utility model and design applications filed on or after 10 February 2010. Information including bibliographic data, SIPO actions, decisions and other documents on file, can now be retrieved from the inquiry system.

A multilingual interface was launched recently, for patent searches, which includes information in Chinese, English, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, French, Russian and German.

Mobile Patent Search Now Available

A patent search application for mobile devices was recently launched, enabling users to have more convenient access to patent information via cellphones. Developed by the China Patent Information Center, the app can be used on Android-based devices, and it will eventually be extended to other systems, such as iOS and Window 8 in the future. The app allows access to the patent databases of countries across the globe, including China, and provides online translation for patent names and summaries. Registered online users can view the full text of patents and receive microblog services with tailor-made patent information.

SIPO Set Up Green Channels for IPR Protection

The SIPO will continue strengthening IPR protection and enforcement in 2013. Centering on key regions and industries, a number of green channels for IPR protection will be set up to carry forward the establishment of a deployment mechanism applied to a systematic or regional enforcement undertaking and further strengthen IPR protection.
Anti-Counterfeit Site Launched

A new online portal designed to fight counterfeits was launched lately. Created by the newspaper China Intellectual Property News, the website helps to expose cases of IP infringement with the goal of distinguishing the authentic from the fake, and it offers online consultation. Organizers said they wish to improve IP information services, protect consumers from being cheated and promote the watchdog role of the press.


China’s IPR Protection Achieved Fruitful Results

China has consistently improved its laws and regulations regarding intellectual property rights (IPR) and boosted IPR protection in recent years. Tian Lipu, commissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office, said at the opening ceremony of a week-long campaign to promote IPR awareness that intellectual properties granted and registered by the office have been growing at a fast pace. Data show that the number of invention patents granted by the office jumped 26.1 percent year on year to hit 217,000 patents last year. China also continued to own the largest number of trademarks, with a total of 6.4 million effective registered trademarks by the end of last year.


Supreme People’s Court Annual Report Shows Significant Growths

In the IPR Week in late April, the Supreme People’s Court of China released the annual report on IPR protection. In the report, several highlights to note are:

Civil IPR Cases Continued Their Meteoric Growth at an increase of 46% over 2011.

Criminal Cases Showed an Even More Rapid Growth, at an increase of 130% in judicial adjudication.

Provisional Measures are Still under Utilized. Of the nearly 90,000 civil IPR cases, there were only 27 applications for a preliminary injunction, with a grant rate of 83%.

Administrative Cases Also on the Rise at an increase of 20% from 2011.

Foreigners Play a Significant Role in Administrative Litigation on IPR Validity. There was an increase of 8% in 2012 in foreigners using the civil IPR system. Also, foreigners constituted 47% of administrative cases, for a total of 1,349.

Transparency and Commercial Rule of Law Are Improving. The report notes that 47,422 IPR cases had been posted on the Supreme People’s Court case network through year-end 2012. The report also highlights numerous provincial-level local initiatives in improving IPR adjudication.

China's IPR Protection Builds International Trust

According to the press conference held by Council Information Office, many foreign enterprises have showed their trusts in China's IPR protection though some people thought it ineffective.

A remarkable fact is that there are a large number of foreign enterprises submit patent and trademark applications in China in recent years. The growth rate of patent applications they have filed in China is far beyond the international average. At the same time, these foreign enterprises are actively making investment and establishing research and development centers in China.

Meanwhile, one phenomenon should not be overlooked, that is, many foreign enterprises have received a big sum of patent and trademark licensing fees and royalties in China. It is obvious that China's IPR protection creates a sound environment for their development, which benefits them a lot.

In fact, China has made remarkable


China Destroys Nearly 30M Pirated Publications

Some 29.44 million pirated publications have been destroyed across China so far this year. Publications included pirated audio and visual products, books, digital publications as well as illegal newspapers and magazines.

Over the past five years, the National Anti-Pornography and Anti-Illegal Publications Office has destroyed 233 million illegal publications. Last year, crackdowns intensified with 4,045 piracy cases dealt with and 30.85 million pirated publications confiscated.


China Meeting Software Protection Obligation

China is meeting its international obligation in software protection by phasing out pirated computer programs in its government agencies. After investigating and correcting uncopyrighted software in central and provincial-level government departments was completed at the end of last year, the campaign will reach city-level and county-level agencies by the end of this year.

Meanwhile, the government is working to establish a reliable system, including clear specifications on financial support, regulation enforcement and auditing processes, to ensure software copyright protection in government agencies. And regular checks will be proceeded to ensure the implementation of relevant requirements.

**China and Indonesia Signs Memorandum of Understanding on IPR**

Commissioner of State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China Tian Lipu met the Indonesian delegation of IPR led by their Minister of Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Indonesia, Amir Syamsudin. After the meeting, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on IPR cooperation was concluded. And during the meeting the two sides also exchanged opinions on IPR system, IPR information etc. It is considered to be a fruitful meeting of great success for both of the two sides.


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**Microsoft Signs Chrome and Android Deal with Foxconn and ZTE**

The software giant Microsoft signed a worldwide patent licensing deal with ZTE, a well-known telecommunications equipment provider, providing broad coverage under Microsoft's patent portfolio for devices running the Android and Chrome OS, including smartphones, tablets and televisions. Earlier, a similar deal was concluded between Microsoft and Hon Hai, the parent company of Foxconn. The exact patents licensed were not revealed, but under the terms of the deal, Microsoft will get paid a flat fee per Android and Chrome-based device that Foxconn and ZTE make.