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AFD China Recommended in World Trademark Review's WTR 1000 list of 2018

We are honored to announce that AFD China is listed as a Recommended Trademark prosecution and strategy firm in China by 2018 World Trademark Review 1000.

And, Ms. Xia Zheng, the founder and president of AFD China, is also listed as a recommended individual for trademark prosecution and strategy.

It is the first time for us to take part in the survey and we feel really happy to obtain WTR's recognition. We will go on providing high quality services to clients who need any assistance regarding trademark matters.

<http://afdip.com/index.php?ac=article&at=read&did=3162>

Law Enforcement Work of IP System on Case Handling Continuously Enhanced in 2017

By implementing the decision and arrangements made by the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the State Council of China on strengthening IPR protection and the Opinions on Reinforcing Patent Protection, the national IP system has improved in 2017 in the following aspects:

First, the solution of cases about patent infringement and counterfeiting is reinforced.

Second, the local law enforcement concerning the case handling is generally enhanced in different areas.

Third, the structure of law enforcement for case solution is optimized.

Fourth, the case solution efficiency continues to improve.

Fifth, the crackdown on IPR infringement and counterfeiting in key areas remains harsh.

Sixth, the proportion of disputes related to invention patents further rises.

<http://english.ipraction.gov.cn/article/News/201802/20180200175221.shtml>

China Seizes Infringing Goods Worth 552 mln Yuan in Past Three Years

China has seized infringing goods worth 552 million yuan (86.06 million U.S. dollars) in the past three years, according to the country's top customs authority.

The three-year crackdown on intellectual property rights infringement discovered about 120 million infringing items, according to the General Administration of Customs.

The campaign helped protect the rights of 1,065 businesses from 48 countries and regions. Among them, 3,892 batches of products worth 176 million yuan infringed on Chinese enterprises' IPR.

Firms with infringement records are blacklisted and monitored while their customs clearance costs will be higher due to reduced credit rating.

<http://english.ipraction.gov.cn/article/News/201801/20180100172644.shtml>

China Sees Robust Technical Transaction

More than 367,000 technical contracts were signed in China in 2017, up 14.7% from the previous year, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology on February 11.

The transaction volume of the contracts totaled 1.34 trillion yuan (213 billion USD), with a year-on-year increase of 17.7%.

Technical service contracts totaled 682.6 billion yuan in value, an increase of 16.7% from 2016. Contracts for technical development also saw a rise in transaction volume.

Electronic information, urban construction and social development, and transportation are the top three fields that gained the most value.

The transaction volume of aeronautics and astronautics contracts went up 59% while those for nuclear application technology went down 62% than the previous year.

A rise in transaction volume also occurred in such fields as new energy, high-efficiency and energy-conserving technology, advanced manufacturing, agriculture, environmental protection and bio-medical industries.

Over 40% of transactions were contracts involving intellectual property rights. The transaction volume of invention patents grew by 19.2% in value year on year.

<http://english.ipraction.gov.cn/article/News/201802/20180200174685.shtml>

China to Tighten Examination of IPR Transfer Abroad

China will tighten the examination of transferring intellectual property rights (IPR) to foreigners, particularly those concerning state security, according to a regulation passed in January 2018.

The regulation was adopted at the second meeting of the Leading Group for Deepening Overall Reform of the 19th Communist Party

of China Central Committee and will be put on a trial run.

Chinese individuals and organizations, who would like to sell their IPR to foreign counterparts, will be subject to strict review and cases concerning state security will be under stricter supervision, according to the regulation.

The procedure, extent and mechanism of such reviews will be tightened.

<http://english.ipraction.gov.cn/article/News/201801/20180100172642.shtml>

China's Patents Enter A New Era: Volume Increases And Quality Improves

Data showed that China had 1.382 million invention patent applications, up 14.2% year on year. 420,000 invention patents have been granted, among which domestic grants reached 327,000, up 8.2%. The momentum of patent sector can be found both in terms of numbers and quality. The development steps from a major IPR country towards an IPR powerful country become more solid.

Enhanced innovation

"In 2017, enterprises accounted for 63.3% and 66.4% of the national invention patent applications and grants, up by 1.6 and 0.9 percentage points from that in 2016," said Bi Nan, Director-General of Planning and Development Department, SIPO.

More focus on quality

Bi Nan said, since the 18th CPC National Congress, SIPO proposed the ideology that "quality prevails and volume deploys" and launched the program of patent quality improvement, with focus on the full chain of patent work, including key parts of patent application, agency, review, protection and application. A series of targeted measures will be formulated to improve the patent quality.

The benefits of patent application are to be enhanced so as to create good patent

protection environment and improve the implementation of high-quality and high-value patents.

Some areas expected to be improved

“Nowadays, foreign invention patents granted by SIPO is higher than domestic invention patents in five regions of optics, medical technology, engines, audio-visual technology and transportation,” Bi Nan said that, in terms of over 10-year invention patent ownership, China still lags behind in 29 technical fields and needs to continue nurturing high-value core patents in this regard.

<http://english.ipraction.gov.cn/article/News/201801/20180100173137.shtml>

Updates on SIPO's Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Programs

The State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO) and the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) jointly decided to extend the SIPO-DPMA PPH pilot program for another three years from January 23, 2018 to January 22, 2021, with the relevant requirements and processes of the submission of PPH application of both offices unchanged.

<http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/officialinformation/1110263.htm>

The SIPO and the Brazilian National Institution of Intellectual Property (INPI) launched PPH pilot program on February 1, 2018, facilitating the applicants from the two countries to have their patent applications examined in an expedited manner in the other office. The pilot program will last for a period of two years to January 31, 2020 or for the two councils to receive 200 applications under the CMB pilot project on PPH, whichever comes first.

<http://www.sipo.gov.cn/ztl/zlscgslpphzl/zxdt/1110718.htm>

Trademark Data Will Be Available to the Public before the End of 2018

It was revealed at the 4th Membership Conference of China Trademark Association (CTA) that, in order to continuously push forward the disclosure and sharing of trademark-related data, all of such data will be open to the public before the end of this year.

According to statistics of State Administration for Industry and Commerce of the People's Republic of China (SAIC), China's applications for trademark registration exceeded 5 million in 2017 to 5.748 million, up 55.7% from the previous year, marking a new record both in terms of applications and growth rate.

<http://english.ipraction.gov.cn/article/News/201801/20180100172665.shtml>

China Launches Online Mediation Platform for Copyright Disputes

China launched an online platform to mediate copyright disputes to free all parties involved and mediators from traveling.

Applicants can choose mediators from other cities since all steps, including application, testifying, cross-examination and mediation, are to be done online.

The platform not only saves costs, but shares resources across the country, said an official from the Copyright Protection Center of China, a co-host of the platform.

From 2013 to 2016, the number of copyright registrations in China doubled from over one million to more than two million, said a report compiled in 2017 by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

Since 2010, Chinese police had handled almost 10,000 criminal cases of copyright violation, detaining over 11,000 suspects.

<http://english.ipraction.gov.cn/article/News/201801/20180100173281.shtml>