

Commissioner's Message

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Innovation is the primary driving force behind development, and protecting IPR is equal to protecting innovation. In 2022, CNIPA made further progress in implementing the *Outline for Boosting China's Competitiveness in the Area of Intellectual Property (2021-2035)* and the *National Plan for Protection and Utilization of Intellectual Property During the 14th Five-Year Plan Period*, endeavored to promote high-quality development of IP, and effectively escorted innovation-driven development and high-level opening up. R&D investment in China kept a double-digit increase, and ever more funds were channeled to fundamental science research, fostering optimal conditions for original innovation capabilities to grow. China rose to 11th place as ranked in the *Global Innovation Index 2022*, with steady progress for ten consecutive years. China ranked first in the world for the number of PCT applications for the fourth consecutive year, and maintained 3rd place in the world for the number of trademark applications filed through the Madrid system. China acceded to the *Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs*, and secured 2nd place in the world for the number of designs included in international applications filed under the Hague system in 2022.

CNIPA was committed to improving the quality and efficiency of examination and providing unremitting high-quality and efficient IP services to global users. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, CNIPA ensured normal operation through reforms in the examination mechanism and

working mode. A total of 798 thousand invention patents were granted and 6.177 million trademarks were registered throughout the year, and the average pendency for the examination of invention patents was reduced to 16.5 months, the pendency for the examination of high-value inventions was reduced to 13 months, and the average pendency for the trademark examination was reduced to 4 months. A novel intelligent patent examination system was set up, more than 99% of both the patent and trademark applications were filed electronically, and the certificates were issued in electronic format.

CNIPA was committed to strengthening the legal protection of IPR and optimizing the innovation environment and business climate. Efforts were made to promote the amendment to the *Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law* and commence a new round of amendments to the *Trademark Law* and its implementing regulations; in addition, research was conducted on legislative proposals concerning geographical indications (GIs). Attempts were made to explore the rules of IPR protection of data, with pilot projects ongoing in 8 places. The construction of national intellectual property protection demonstration zones was carried forward, with 10 national IP protection centers and fast-track IPR enforcement centers built. IP protection tasks to support the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 were fulfilled successfully. The social satisfaction rating on IP protection reached 81.25.

CNIPA was committed to promoting the commercialization and utilization of IP to boost high-quality development of the economy. The patent and trademark pledge financing amounted to 486.88 billion RMB in 2022, maintaining a growth rate of more than 40% for three consecutive years, benefiting 26 thousand enterprises. The total import and export of IPR royalties reached 387.25 billion RMB, a year-on-year increase of 2.4%. A total of 241 thousand technical contracts involving IP were signed, with a turnover of 1.8 trillion RMB. In 2021, the added value of patent-intensive industries in China reached 14.3 trillion RMB, accounting for 12.4% of GDP. There were more than 23 thousand market entities approved of using the special sign for GIs, and their products yielded more than 700 billion RMB in 2022.

CNIPA was committed to advancing international cooperation and exchanges on IP and promoting innovation achievements for the greater welfare of the people worldwide. In the principles of openness, inclusiveness, and equity, CNIPA held and participated in 230 multilateral and bilateral international IP exchange and cooperation activities throughout the year, with 19 international cooperation agreements signed remotely. Engaged in the global IP governance under the framework of WIPO, CNIPA held the International Symposium on Intellectual Property, and Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources in cooperation with WIPO. The 14th BRICS Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Meeting was held successfully. The cooperation on IP among “Belt and

Road” countries was further deepened. Implementation of the *Agreement Between the European Union and China on Cooperation on, and Protection of, Geographical Indications* was carried forward, with the second list of 350 GI products released.

At the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, a grand blueprint was drawn for comprehensively promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with Chinese-Style modernization, the central role of innovation in the overall modernization was underlined, and importance was attached to strengthening the legal protection of IPR and forming a fundamental system for supporting comprehensive innovation. At a new starting point, CNIPA will pursue further cooperation with IP offices of other various countries and regions worldwide, promote exchanges, and facilitate the circulation of innovation resources and sharing of knowledge so that, ultimately, the global IP governance system will be fairer and more equitable for the greater welfare of the human being.

