

The new generation of China's "artificial sun", known as HL-2M Tokamak, which provides clean energy through controlled nuclear fusion, realized its first plasma discharge in December 2020. [Photo by Ge Yinian for China Daily]



III IP Examination and Related Policies

01

Examination standards and policies

(1) Patent

The patent quality improvement programs were carried out effectively. Actions were taken to implement the *Special Implementation Plan for Improving the Quality and Efficiency of Invention Patent Examination (2019–2022)*. Upholding the quality-oriented principle, CNIPA refined the management on examination period, and gave priority to high-value patents in the allocation of examination resources. CNIPA strengthened the quality management mechanism featuring dual

supervision and dual evaluation within and outside CNIPA, and enhanced the quality management of international-phase examination of PCT patent applications. An administration-level quality evaluation team was set up, and a quality evaluation system covering the whole process and all workflows of patent examination took initial shape. The user satisfaction rating on patent examination quality reached 85.4 in 2020, remaining in the satisfactory range for 11 consecutive years.

The patent examination standards were refined continuously. CNIPA completed the revision and interpretation of the examination standards regarding artificial intelligence and other new technical fields and business models, and the examination standards regarding supplementary experimental data, novelty of compounds,

and inventive step of biological inventions and compounds, which were under Chapter 9 and Chapter 10 in Part II of the *Patent Examination Guidelines*, respectively. These two revisions came into force on February 1 and January 15, 2021 respectively.

The patent classification management was enhanced. CNIPA continued to apply the International Patent Classification (IPC) and the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) to new applications for invention patents in all technical fields. Throughout the year, 4.886 million patent documents were classified, including 1.408 million invention patent applications, 2.844 million utility model applications, 565,000 IPC reclassification documents, and 69,000 CPC reclassification documents. Third-party data testing was conducted on Chinese patent classification data in 29 batches to ensure the quality of classification data.

Circuit hearing on reexamination and invalidation was carried on. As of the end of 2020, 11 circuit boards have been established in 10 provinces and municipalities including Guangdong, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Shandong and Liaoning. The *Code for Establishment of Multimedia Courts* has been formulated. Throughout the year, 103 cases were heard by circuit boards in 9 provinces and municipalities including Guangdong, Fujian, Shanxi, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Shandong, Yunnan, Hubei and Jiangsu.

(2) Trademark

Stringent measures were taken in combating bad-faith trademark filings. CNIPA has given a harsh and fast blow to bad-faith trademark filings by rejecting at the examination stage 16,000 trademark registration applications that are not intended for use. CNIPA has also stepped up efforts to combat trademark-squatting to create a fair and trustworthy environment for competition.



Patent reexamination and invalidation cases heard online during the COVID-19 pandemic

Circuit hearing of trademark review and adjudication was launched. In September 2020, the first circuit board was established in Shanghai Trademark Examination Cooperation Center.

02

Examination training

The overall management on training of new examiners was enhanced. The unified standards for training new examiners were adopted, including the unified training courses, faculties, evaluation modes and certifications, so as to achieve standardized management of the training. The *Adjustment Plan for Newly Recruited Examiners of the Patent Office (2020)* was issued, which put more emphases on examination practice and extended the class hours for instruction. A total of 2,217 new examiners were trained in 2020.

The training curriculum for new examiners was defined. The class hours for search practice and case study were increased. The course "Intelligent Assisted Search System" was redesigned and the



The core values of CNIPA employees: "fairness, efficiency, strictness, pragmatism, harmony and pioneering"

course "Advanced Course for Computer Search" was developed. The examination database for training of new examiners has been updated, and the *Measures on Organizing Examinations for New Recruits of the Patent Office* was formulated. Throughout the year, 213 tests/examinations were organized, with over 10,000 person-times tested. The *Guiding Opinions on the In-Service Training for New Examiners (Revised in 2020)* was issued, and 4 in-service training sessions for new examiners were completed, with 199 person-times trained.

The faculty team building was enhanced in examination cooperation centers. The *Cultivation Program of Core Teachers for the Training of New Examiners in Patent Examination Cooperation*

Centers Outside Beijing was issued, and 27 lecturers and 117 tutors were cultivated as core teachers. The *Guidance Manual for In-Service Training of New Examiners* was compiled. 3 capacity-building training seminars were held for core lecturers, participated by 96 person-times. 1 online training seminar and 1 offline training seminar were held for core tutors, participated by more than 600 person-times in total.

2 online training sessions on CPC in specific technical fields were held for all examiners, participated by over 1,800 person-times in total. More than 8,000 examiners took part in the Patent Examination and Search Competition 2020 held by CNIPA.



Awarding Ceremony for the Patent Examination and Search Competition

03

New office in the Scientific Zone

The Scientific Zone office is located in the northern part of Huilongguan area, Changping District, Beijing, with a total floor area of 194,500 m². The construction project was officially started on October 15, 2016, and completed in 2020. The examination departments of the Patent Office moved to this new office upon its completion.

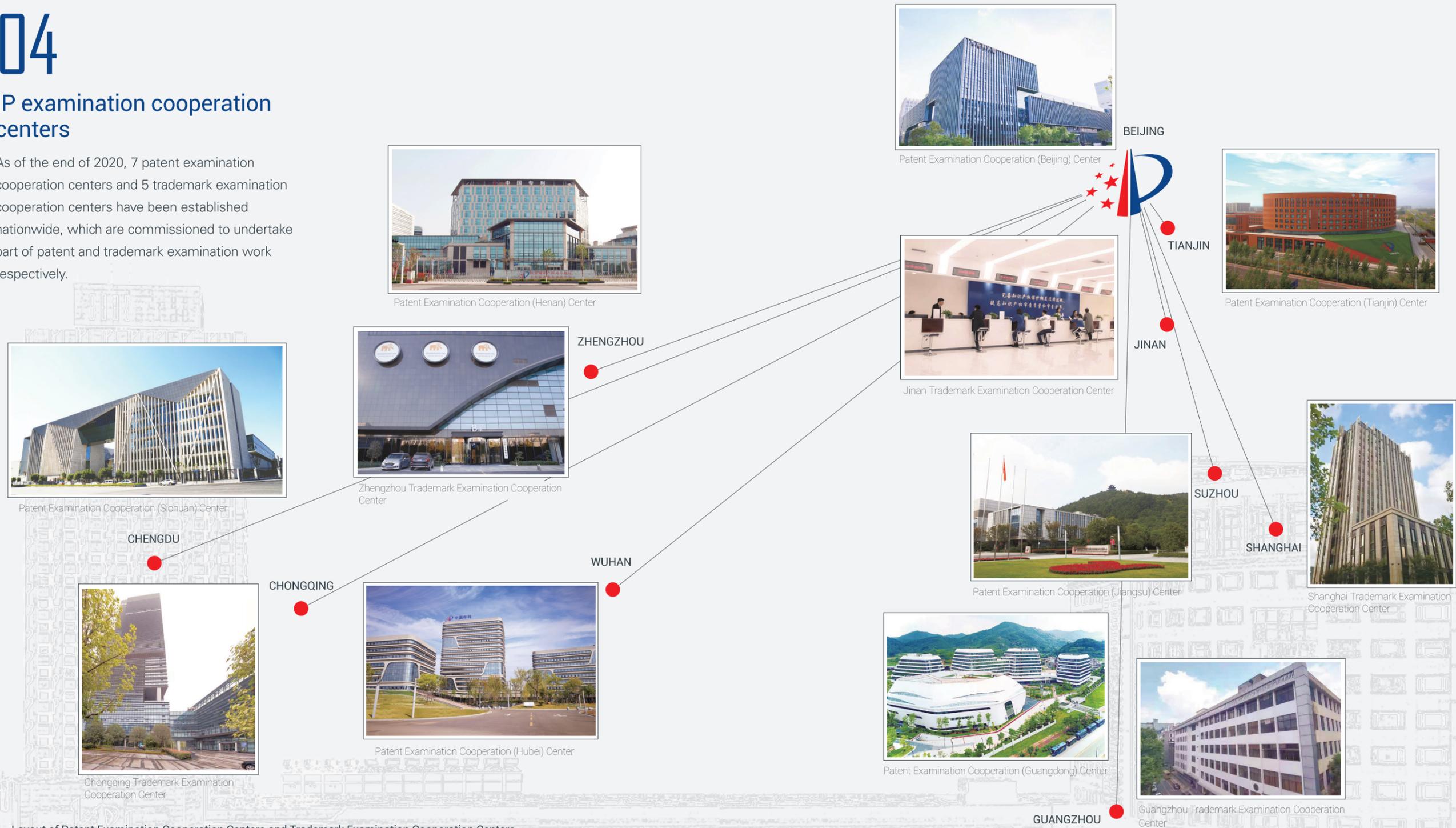


New office in the Scientific Zone

04

IP examination cooperation centers

As of the end of 2020, 7 patent examination cooperation centers and 5 trademark examination cooperation centers have been established nationwide, which are commissioned to undertake part of patent and trademark examination work respectively.



Layout of Patent Examination Cooperation Centers and Trademark Examination Cooperation Centers