

Important Activities and Works

The First Enterprise Intellectual Property Management Standards of China came into Effect on March 1, 2013

The Enterprise Intellectual Property Management Standards, drafted and developed by the State Intellectual Property Office, has been approved for issuance by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and the Standardization Administration of China. As China's first national standards on enterprise intellectual property management, the Standards came into effect on March 1, 2013. The core purpose of the Standards is to improve the capacity of enterprise intellectual property management. Made up of nine chapters, the Standards mainly cover the scope of enterprise intellectual property management standards, normative references, terms and definitions, enterprise intellectual property management system, management responsibilities, resource management, *etc.* The Standards standardize the enterprise intellectual property management system, and aim to guide the enterprises to build a scientific, systematic, standardized intellectual property management system, help the enterprises to fully implement the spirit of the intellectual property strategy in a comprehensive way, actively deal with IP competitions, and effectively improve the contribution of IP to enterprises' operation and development.

The SIPO Arranges Local IP Offices to Launch the “Escort” Special Action of Enforcement and Rights Defense

The national intellectual property system launched a special action of IP enforcement and rights defense in a centralized way in the second and third quarters of 2013. During the special action, local intellectual property offices, based on their local reality, gave priority to the livelihood-related fields, major projects and advantageous industries, and organized monthly centralized inspection, centralized rectification and centralized case handling at large-size commodity circulation sites and fairs, vigorously carried out the investigation and punishment of patent infringements and patent counterfeiting, expanded the influence of enforcement and case handling, improved rapid response to enforcement and defense of rights, promoted people's satisfaction on IP enforcement and defense of IP rights, and made public the hotlines and major activities of the special action through major local media, the



website of the SIPO and the website of the local intellectual property offices. The SIPO intensified enforcement supervision and inspection and the guidance of enforcement and case handling, further improved the working mechanism for the special action, and firmly carried out the special action as an important means of tempering the enforcement officers, intensifying case handling, and improving the enforcement, and an important handle of improving the satisfaction of the creators and consumers, and ameliorating people's livelihood as well.

China Patent Inquiry System Adds a New Spanish Interface

On March 29, 2013, the Spanish interface of the China patent inquiry system was officially put to use. The interface can meet the inquiry need of the global subscribers who speak Spanish, will help to further disseminate and share information on patents and patent examination, and play a positive role in enhancing the influences of patent examinations. The China patent inquiry system was designed and developed by SIPO independently. Since its initial launching on April 27, 2012, it has been stable on the whole, with data updated timely, and its functions constantly improved. The launch and operation of the Spanish interface help enlarge the scope of China patent inquiry system subscribers, and will provide referential experience for the interfaces in other languages like Japanese, Korean, German, French and Russian which will be launched in succession.

SIPO signed MOUs on IP Cooperation with Tajikistan and Ecuador Intellectual Property Offices

In 2013, the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China and that of the Republic of Tajikistan signed the *Memorandum of Understanding between the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China and the National Centre for Patents and Information of the Republic of Tajikistan*. Both sides will launch cooperation in the exchange of patent documents, training of patent examiners, etc. China and Ecuador signed the *Memorandum of Understanding between the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China and the Ecuadorian Institute of Intellectual Property*, indicating that the two offices have established formal partnership.

2013 National IPR Publicity Week was held

On April 19, 2013, the 2013 National IPR Publicity Week, jointly held by 25 departments including the State Intellectual Property Office and the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, was officially launched on people.com.cn. The theme of the publicity week is “Carry out the IP Strategy, Support Innovation-driven Development.” During the national IPR publicity week, the member units of the organizing committee organized, separately or in cooperation with other departments, over 60 activities; and the local IPR publicity week was officially launched concurrently, forming a pattern where the state, provinces, municipalities and counties interacted, with all-round considerations and arrangements for the nation as a whole, and achieved good results. 2,439 radios, televisions, newspapers and websites and other news media covered the event; independently reported the events with 367 pieces of news, 77 TV programs, 483 news reports, 12,909 online messages. The news was forwarded for over 1,000,000 times. The launching ceremony of the National IPR Publicity Week was held online for the first time, which shows the purpose of cutting expenditures.

China Organized Its First Survey on Social Satisfaction with IP Protection

On April 23, 2013, the Patent Protection Association of China, the China Trademark Association and the Copyright Society of China jointly held a news release conference, at which they made public China's first survey on social satisfaction with IP protection. As the survey showed, in 2012, social satisfaction with IP protection in China scored 63.69, being slightly low on the whole, yet up to the mark. Seen from the respondents, right holders' satisfaction was slightly higher than that of the public and professionals; and right holders in contractual joint ventures, cooperative ventures and solely foreign-funded enterprises showed slightly higher satisfaction than the right holders in other types of enterprises.

Sixth IP5 Heads Meeting Held

On June 3-5, 2013, the 6th IP5 Heads Meeting was held in the United States. During the meeting, developments and achievements made in the previous year and work plans for the next step were introduced. The heads of the five offices, namely SIPO, USPTO, EPO, JPO and KIPO also had exchanges and discussions on many top-



ics including the Global Dossier, global classification initiative, patent information policy, patent prosecution highway, patent harmonization and timeliness, *etc.* At the meeting, Tian Lipu, Head of the State Intellectual Property Office, introduced the latest developments of the “cloud patent examination solutions”, announced that the test system would be released in the near future, and invited the other four offices to join the testing. Representatives of the five offices appreciated developments of the “cloud patent examination solution”. They showed great interest in the testing system, and said that efforts must be made to conduct broader exchanges and cooperation in the solution.

Fourth Roving Seminar on the Protection of Industrial Design Held

On July 1–5, 2013, the Fourth Roving Seminar on the Protection of Industrial Design, jointly held by the World Intellectual Property Organization and the State Intellectual Property Office of P. R. China, was held in Shenyang and Wuhan, respectively. Over 200 representatives from industrial associations, enterprises, research institutes, universities and agencies attended the seminar. Extensive and in–depth discussions were held on the system for protecting industrial design, the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, the commercialization of industrial designs, *etc.*

Teleconference on the Implementation of the National Intellectual Property Strategy Held in Beijing

On August 30, 2013, the Teleconference on the Implementation of the National Intellectual Property Strategy was held in Beijing, and State Councilor Wang Yong attended the conference and delivered a speech. At the conference, the achievements made and experience gained in the five years since China started to implement the national intellectual property strategy were reviewed and summarized, and the new situation and new tasks faced by China in the implementation of its national intellectual property strategy were studied and analyzed. Also, Tian Lipu, convener of the Inter–Ministry Joint Conference on the Implementation Work of the National IP Strategy and Commissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office of P. R. China, made a report on the implementation of the strategy, and member units of the Inter–Ministry Joint Conference on the Implementation Work of the National IP Strategy such as the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Public Security, China Mobile Communications Corporation, Guangdong Provincial People’s Government and Suzhou Municipal People’s Government of Jiangsu Province introduced their experience at the conference. Members of the Inter–Ministry

Joint Conference on the Implementation Work of the National IP Strategy and the liaisons attended the conference at the main venue. The persons in charge of the strategic coordination mechanism of the provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government) , cities under separate state planning and some prefectures (cities) attended the conference at the sub-venues. Wang Yong pointed out, in the five years since China started to implement the national intellectual property strategy, the number of main IP applications like patent applications and trademark applications, and the number of patents and trademarks owned had been growing rapidly; the working mechanism had been constantly improved; the system of laws, regulations and policies had been increasingly improved; and the level of IP protection had been raised. However, the overall quality and efficiency of IP are yet to be improved, and the effect of IP protection is yet to meet social expectation. Wang Yong also emphasized that implementing the intellectual property strategy bore on China's long-term development and the improvement of its international competitiveness. All regions and departments were expected to thoroughly implement the arrangements of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, and effectively do all tasks for the implementation of the intellectual property strategy for the purpose of building China into a country with a higher level of IP creation, utilization, protection and management. Efforts have to be made to focus on improving IP creation and utilization, and creating core patents, classic copyright and well-known brands with independent IPRs to effectively support the transformation of economic development patterns; improve the effect of IP protection to provide a powerful guarantee for innovation-driven development; deepen international cooperation in IP to serve the new situation of opening up; and improve IP management services to promote the healthy development of the IP service industry.

SIPO-PPO, SIPO-CIPO and SIPO-IPOS Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Programs Launched

According to the MOUs on patent prosecution highway signed by the State Intellectual Property Office of China with the Poland Patent Office, the Canadian Intellectual Property Office and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, the SIPO-PPO patent prosecution highway (PPH) pilot program was launched on July 1, 2013, and the SIPO-CIPO and SIPO-IPOS patent prosecution highway (PPH) pilot programs were launched on September 1, 2013. The above pilot programs will each last for two years. So far, altogether 12 countries have launched PPH pilot programs with the State Intellectual Property Office of China.



Fifteenth Ceremony for the WIPO–SIPO Award for Chinese Outstanding Patents Held

On November 11, 2013, the Fifteenth Ceremony for the WIPO–SIPO Award for Chinese Outstanding Patents was held in Beijing. Tian Lipu, head of SIPO, and Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO, attended and addressed the ceremony. Altogether 800 outstanding patents were recommended by relevant departments of the State Council, relative national industrial associations, academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese Academy of Engineering and the provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government), reaching a record high. After the examination and appraisal of SIPO and WIPO, 20 won Chinese Invention Patent Gold Award, 5 won Chinese Industrial Design Gold Award, 336 won the China Patent Honorable Mention, and 53 won the China Industrial Design Honorable Mention. The award–winning patents are of great quality, and show a significant advantage of innovation–driven development. The 25 patents winning the China Patent Gold Award had achieved incremental sales of RMB 109.5 billion and incremental profits of RMB 37.1 billion since they were exploited by the end of 2012, winning significant economic benefits and market competitiveness for the patent right holders.

Wang Yong Meets with WIPO Director–General

State Councilor Wang Yong met with WIPO Director–General Francis Gurry in Zhongnanhai on November 11, 2013. Wang Yong expressed thanks to WIPO for its support and helps to the development of China's IP undertaking, and expressed the hope that WIPO could play a greater role in promoting international IP cooperation and improving the international IP system. Gurry spoke highly of the achievements made by China in the field of IP, and indicated that WIPO would like to strengthen its cooperation with China to jointly push forward the development of the world IP system. Gurry visited China upon the invitation of SIPO. During his visit, he had meetings with the persons in charge of SIPO and other related departments, and signed WIPO–SIPO Cooperation Agreement on the Development of Infrastructure Services to Support the Work Sharing of Patent Examination Results.

Sixth Cross–Strait Patent Forum Held

On November 19–20, 2013, the Sixth Cross–Strait Patent Forum was held in Ji’nan, Shandong Province. Co–hosted by the All–China Patent Agents Association and China National Federation of Industries, the forum was themed “situation of cross–strait IP development”, and was attended by nearly 200 representatives from the patent authorities, the industrial sectors and patent agency industry on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. The conferees held extensive and in–depth conversations and discussions on the latest development of patent law, practices of improving the quality of patent examination, sharing of typical cases of patent administrative remedies, the development and trend of patent litigation practices, the experience in patent agency system, the development trends of hi–tech industries, and the strategies in response to international patent litigations, across the Taiwan Straits.

SIPO and BIPO Signed a Joint Statement of Intent on PPH Pilot Program

On December 2, 2013, Premier of China’s State Council Li Keqiang and UK Prime Minister David Cameron held a meeting, jointly witnessed the signing of SIPO–BIPO Joint Statement of Intent on PPH Pilot Program. The SIPO–BIPO PPH pilot program will be officially launched on July 1, 2014.

19th SIPO and KIPO Heads Meeting Held

On December 9, 2013, the 19th SIPO and KIPO Heads Meeting was held in Beijing. At the meeting, the two offices signed an MOU on comprehensive cooperation in the IP field, the minutes of talks at the 19th SIPO and KIPO Heads Meeting, the joint statement of intent on prolonging the bilateral PPH pilot program, and the e–exchange protocol of the priority documents. The MOU signed this time marked a milestone in the cooperation between the two offices, signifying that both sides would strengthen strategic cooperation in the IP field in an all–round manner.



Patent Agencies exceeded a Thousand in China

As of the end of 2013, the number of approved patent agencies in China had reached 1,002, hitting a record high. The number of patent agents and of practicing patent agents reached 17,886 and 8,950, respectively, showing significant growth.