



Important Activities and Works

Beijing Patent Examination Cooperation Center of the Patent Office, SIPO Opened

On December 29, 2011, the Beijing Patent Examination Cooperation Center of the Patent Office, SIPO was opened. Formerly known as “SIPO Patent Examination Cooperation Center” established in 2001, it now has over 3, 100 employees, of which more than 400 are doctors (post-doctors), over 2, 330 are masters, and nearly 90% of the employees hold master's degrees or above. So far, it has examined accumulatively 610, 000 invention patents, 450, 000 utility model patents and 640, 000 design patents.

Patent Examination Complaints Platform Officially Launched by SIPO

On January 20, 2012, the patent examination complaints platform at <http://scywts.sipo.gov.cn/> was officially put online. The public may log on to the platform anonymously or by registering a user's account to submit complaints on the work of patent examination done by SIPO. SIPO will timely accept such complaints, handle them within the prescribed time limit, and inform the complainants of the replies. Registered users may log on to the complaints platform to check the progress in acceptance and handling of the complaints. The platform will become an effective communication channel between patent examination and the public.

Sino-German Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program Launched

On January 23, 2012, the Sino-German Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program was launched. PPH enables an application at least one of whose claims has been determined to be patentable in the Office of First Filing (OFF) to undergo an accelerated examination in the Office of Second Filing (OSF) upon a request from an applicant on the basis of the OFF work results as long as subsequent applications meet certain conditions. Under the pilot program, an applicant may file a PPH request with SIPO in accordance with the PPH Request Procedure of SIPO under Sino-German Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program, or file a PPH request

with DPMA in accordance with the PPH Request Procedure of DPMA under Sino–German Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program. The pilot program will last two years and expire on January 22, 2014. The Sino–German PPH pilot program will play a positive role in promoting the implementation of the national IP strategy and providing support for Chinese enterprises and other market participants to secure patents overseas as quick as possible.

7th Sino–Mongolian IP Strategy Joint Seminar Held

On March 5, 2012, the 7th Sino–Mongolian IP Strategy Joint Seminar co–organized by SIPO and the Intellectual Property Office of Mongolia was held in Beijing. Experts and scholars from China, Mongolia, Russia and the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) exchanged ideas on the development and implementation of IP strategies in China and Mongolia, the role of WIPO in its members’ development of their national IP strategies, the development of IP and innovation strategies in Russia, the influence, significance and implementation of the IP strategy with respect to trademarks and copyrights, as well as local governments’ experience in the implementation of IP strategy.

Information on 2011 Grant of Invention Patents Released

On February 24, 2012, SIPO released information on the invention patents granted in China in 2011. In 2011, a total of 172, 113 invention patents were granted, up 27.4% year on year, of which, 112, 347 were invention patents held by domestic patentees, growing 6.3% over the previous year and accounting for 65.3% of the total. The top ten Chinese provinces (excluding Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan) in the ranking of invention patents granted were Guangdong, Beijing, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Shandong, Sichuan, Liaoning, Hubei and Shaanxi. The top ten Chinese cities (excluding municipalities directly under the Central Government) in the ranking of invention patents granted were Shenzhen, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Guangzhou, Xi’an, Wuhan, Suzhou, Chengdu, Wuxi and Changsha. The top 10 enterprises were ZTE Corporation, Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., Shenzhen Hongfujin Precision Industry Co., Ltd., China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation, H3C Technologies Co., Ltd., AU Optronics Corp., BYD Co., Ltd., Datang Mobile Communications Equipment Co., Ltd., Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation (Shanghai) and Inventec Corporation. The invention patents granted in 2011 present three characteristics: first, the building of the patented technology innovation system with enterprises as the mainstay was being accelerated, and the ratio of invention patents held by enterprises, colleges and universities, and scientific research institutions to the national total had increased from 40% in 2001 to 85%; second, the invention patents granted were mainly in hi–tech, modern industry,



life and medical fields; third, the role of invention patents in supporting national economic development became increasingly significant. In the past decade, the GDP and investment in R&D activities in China showed a high degree of relevance to the number of domestic invention patents granted and held. As of the end of 2011, the number of valid invention patents in China reached 351, 288, exceeding the number of invention patents held by foreign patentees in China for the first time, and the number of invention patents per 10, 000 people in China (excluding Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan) reached 2.37.

Over 1.63 Million Patent Applications Handled in China in 2011

In 2011, 1, 633, 000 applications for three kinds of patents were handled in China, up 33.6% year on year, of which 526, 000 were invention patent applications, up 34.5% year on year, 585, 000 were utility model patent applications and 521, 000 were design patent applications; altogether 961, 000 patents of three kinds were granted, up 17.9% year on year, of which 172, 000 were invention patents, up 27.4%, 408, 000 were utility models and 381, 000 were design patents. As of the end of 2011, the number of valid patents had reached 2, 740, 000 in China, of which 697, 000 were valid invention patents, 1, 121, 000 were utility models, and 922, 000 were design patents. In 2011, China handled a total of 17, 473 PCT international patent applications, up 35.3% year on year, growing fast and ranking high in the world. It shows that it has become a consensus of the Chinese enterprises to improve their core competitiveness relying on independent IP in implementing the “go global” strategy.

China Realized Patent Pledge and Financing worth RMB 9 Billion in 2011

In 2011, China realized RMB 9 billion of patent pledge and financing (involving 1, 953 patents), up 28% year on year, reaching a 3-year high. In recent years, SIPO has focused on building an IP investment and financing service system, actively pushed forward the effective integration of IP with financial capital and, by strengthening the registration and management of patent right pledge and launching IP pledge and financing pilot projects, actively pushed forward IP pledge and financing. Over the past three years, the amount of IP pledge and financing in SMEs has exceeded RMB 20 billion, and an effective mode of helping enterprises alleviate the “financing difficulty” with IP pledge and financing has been found to effectively support the operation and development of some technology-based SMEs. SIPO is studying and developing Guidelines on the Grant of IP Loans by Banking Financial Institutions together with the China Banking Regulatory Commission. A draft has been formed now, and will soon be issued.

SIPO Regional Patent Service Center (Guangzhou) Opened

On April 10, 2012, the SIPO Regional Patent Service Center (Guangzhou) was opened. As one of the five pilot regional patent service centers in China, the establishment of the SIPO Regional Patent Service Center (Guangzhou) marked an important and solid step forward in the building of the national patent information public service system.

SIPO Held Business Communication Conference for Foreign Embassies, Institutions and Enterprises in China

On April 26, 2012, SIPO held a business communication conference for foreign embassies, institutions and enterprises in China, which introduced the situation of patent applications and grants in China in 2011, the building of the system of patent laws and regulations, the implementation of the IP strategy and IP international communication and cooperation, and answered questions from participants, on the 12th five-year plan for patents, the latest developments of revision of patent laws and regulations, measures to ensure the quality of patent examination and intensification of IP administrative enforcement, *etc.* Nearly 50 representatives from the foreign embassies in China of 15 countries including US, UK, France, Japan, South Korea, Canada and Russia, as well as a number of foreign institutions in China including the EU Chamber of Commerce in China, EU delegation in China, United States Information Technology Office, Japan External Trade Organization and Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency attended the business communication conference. Seven business communication conferences have been held consecutively. By introducing the latest information on SIPO's performance of its responsibilities and launch of business to the foreign embassies in China, chambers of commerce and foreign enterprises, listening to their opinions and suggestions on its work and understanding key issues of their concern, these business communication conferences have effectively enhanced the contact and communication between SIPO and relevant institutions on policies and information, made the work done by SIPO more transparent, and helped improve the level of services provided by SIPO to all social sectors including the foreign institutions and enterprises in China.



2011 China IP Protection Selection Results Announced

On April 26, 2012, the results of 2011 China IP Protection Selection launched by SIPO, SAIC and NCAC were announced in Beijing. In the selection, 10 major events including “China has made significant achievements in the special campaign against IPR infringements and the selling and manufacturing of counterfeit and shoddy commodities and has successfully held an online exhibition of achievements”, 10 major cases including “lawsuit of IP infringement in Motorola–NSN deal filed by Huawei in the United States settled” and 10 most influential figures including Wang Haibo were selected.

SIPO Held Open Day of the State Intellectual Property Office

On April 27, 2012, SIPO held “Open Day of the State Intellectual Property Office”. At the ceremony, the China Patent Search System and iprchn.com were opened. Over 200 people including representatives of student inventors, those of the colleges, universities, primary and middle schools in Beijing and those of the news media visited the SIPO Documentation Office, SIPO History Hall, Case Acceptance Hall, Sunlight Hall, *etc.*, and participated in funny patent knowledge games and other activities.

Online Patent Fees Payment System Officially Opened

On April 28, 2012, the online patent fees payment system was officially opened. Online payment permission will be granted automatically for registered users of patent e-filing. The payer can pay patent fees via the online payment system as long as he/she activates the online payment function of bank cards with the mark “Union-Pay”. The online patent fees payment system will provide payment services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, making it highly convenient for the payer. The system will also provide the real-time inquiry of fees payable for the applicants to reduce blind and wrong payment to the maximum extent; meanwhile it can shorten the cycle of patent fees from being paid to entering the patent examination and approval system, and thus helps improve the efficiency of patent examination.

Regional Comprehensive Patent Strength Ranking of China Released for the First Time

On May 23, 2012, the SIPO IP Development and Research Center released 2011 regional comprehensive patent strength ranking of China. According to the ranking, Guangdong, Beijing and Jiangsu were the top three. It also included the ranking of the top 10 regions regarding 5 primary indicators, namely, patent creation, utilization, protection, management and services. In the strength of patent creation, Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong were the top three; in the strength of patent utilization, Guangdong, Beijing and Jiangsu were the top three; in the strength of patent protection, Guangdong, Hunan and Jiangsu were the top three; in the strength of patent management, Jiangsu, Guangdong and Beijing were the top three; and in the strength of patent services, Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong were the top three. By monitoring and issuing information on the patent strength nationwide, it fully reflects patent development in different regions in China and will provide powerful support for guiding scientific patent development.

2011 China's Software Piracy Rate Survey Results Released

On May 24, 2012, the results of "2011 China's Software Piracy Rate Survey" were made public. The survey has been made for 7 years in a row. As the results show, calculated by all computer software for installation, the quantity piracy rate in 2011 was 11.8%, slightly lower than that in 2010; calculated by paid software, the quantity piracy rate dropped from 41% in 2010 to 38%. The quantity piracy rates of software of different kinds all maintained downward trends of different degrees, among which the quantity piracy rate of information safety software dropped from 45% to 39%, that of office software dropped from 59% to 55%, and that of operating system software dropped from 25% to 24%. If converted into economic value by market prices, the pirate software accounted for 11% of the value piracy rate of the entire software industry and 26% of the value piracy rate of software products. Thanks to the constant promotion of the work on use of genuine software and the deepening of the special campaign against IP infringements, more and more genuine software has been used.



SIPO and USPTO Heads Conference Held in Beijing

On May 29, 2012, the 2012–2013 SIPO and USPTO heads conference was held in Beijing. At the conference, both sides signed the 2012–2013 Annual Work Plan of the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and held talks on such topics as the patent cooperation treaty, graphical user interface, post-filing date submission of additional data, PPH and data exchange.

SIPO and USPTO Signed Data Exchange Protocol

On June 6, 2012, SIPO and USPTO signed an official data exchange protocol. Official signature of the Sino-American data exchange protocol will improve and strengthen the data search capability of examiners from both sides, and provide the public with a new way of accessing the IP information of both sides. According to the protocol, the American public will access Chinese patent information via the website of USPTO, while SIPO can also provide US patent information for the Chinese public via its official website or local patent information service centers.

5th SIPO, USPTO, EPO, JPO and KIPO Heads Conference Held

On June 6, 2012, the 5th SIPO, USPTO, EPO, JPO and KIPO heads conference was held in Corsica, France. The latest progress and achievements of the 10 foundation projects launched by SIPO, USPTO, EPO, JPO and KIPO in cooperation in 2011 and the following work programs were presented at the conference. They also had exchanges and discussions on hot topics of common concern like patent classification, PCT improvement, patent coordination and timeliness. Tian Lipu, Commissioner of SIPO, introduced the “cloud patent examination solution” which enables the five participating patent offices to learn from one another the examination results of patent applications based on cloud computing and services and taking into full account the achievements of the foundation projects launched by the five offices in cooperation, and enables patent examiners to carry out better and more efficient patent examination and improve the examination efficiency of the five patent offices without changing their original examination modes and habits or increasing examination cost and burdens.

5th Cross–Straits IP Forum Held

On June 18, 2012, the 5th Cross–Straits IP Forum organized by SIPO was held in Fuzhou. The theme of this forum was “To Boost the Development of Strategic Emerging Industries with IP”. At the forum, IP experts and entrepreneurs from both sides of the Taiwan Straits made speeches on “IP and the Development of Strategic Emerging Industries”, “Brand Strategies and Management under the Knowledge Economy”, “Insightful IP Landscaping in Hi–tech Enterprises” and “Transnational Business–Patent Granting and Negotiation Strategy”.

Valid Patents in China Reached 2.74 Million in Number

Recently, SIPO released 2011 China Valid Patents Annual Report (hereinafter referred to as Report). According to the Report, as of the end of 2011, valid patents in China reached 2.74 million in number, and the proportion of valid domestic patents had increased over the years to 84.1%. The number of valid invention patents reached 697,000, up 23.4% year on year, of which 351,000 were held by domestic patentees, accounting for a higher proportion than that of the valid invention patents held by foreign patentees for the first time; the number of invention patents held by every 10,000 Chinese people reached 2.4. The number of valid patents held by domestic enterprises reached 1.23 million, accounting for over half of the number of valid patents in China for the first time and amounting to 53.4%. The top 5 regions in terms of the number of valid invention patents were Guangdong, Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

Sino–Russian Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program Launched on July 1

The Sino–Russian Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program was launched on July 1, 2012. Under the pilot program, an applicant may file a PPH request with SIPO in accordance with the PPH Request Procedure of SIPO under Sino–Russian Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program, or file a PPH request with ROSPATENT in accordance with the PPH Request Procedure of ROSPATENT under Sino–Russian Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program. The pilot program shall last one year and expire on June 30, 2013.



Chinese Patent Documents Officially Included into PCT Minimum Documentation on July 1

On July 1, 2012, Chinese patent documents were officially included into Patent Cooperation Treaty Minimum Documentation, and became documents that must be searched when PCT member states examine international patent applications. Thus, China became the 11th country/agency in the world to be included into Patent Cooperation Treaty Minimum Documentation.

One Millionth Chinese Invention Patent Certificate Issuing Ceremony Held in Beijing

On July 16, 2012, the one millionth Chinese invention patent certificate issuing ceremony was held in Beijing, and Tian Lipu, Commissioner of SIPO, signed and issued the one millionth invention patent certificate on the spot. The one millionth invention patent granted this time is named “Controllable Binning Method of Virtual Maize Leaf Model”, a result of the national 863 (high-tech research and development) Program. As of the end of the second quarter this year, China had handled 3, 114, 000 invention patents accumulatively. As of July 11, the number of invention patents in China had reached 1 million in China, of which 518, 000 were invention patents held by domestic patentees. Since the first invention patent was granted in 1985, China had granted 1 million invention patents in only 27 years, becoming the country to achieve the above goal in the shortest time period.

2012 China International Patent Fair Held

On September 15, 2012, the opening ceremony of 2012 China International Patent Fair was held in Dalian. Participating organizations and business representatives from 15 countries and regions and 40 Chinese provinces and cities attended the fair. At the opening ceremony, 10 domestic and foreign enterprises signed 5 creativity industrial project alignment and cooperation agreements involving RMB 350 million.

Tian Lipu Led a Delegation to Attend the Fiftieth Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

On October 8, 2012, the Fiftieth Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (the Assemblies) were held in Geneva, Switzerland, and Tian Lipu, Commissioner of SIPO, led the PRC government delegation to attend the Assemblies. At the meeting, Tian Lipu made general statements, reported to the meeting the IP work in China in 2011, and reviewed the successful cooperation between China and WIPO in Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of Audiovisual Performances among a series of other activities. He also said that, faced with new challenges to the international IP system brought about by a series of major global issues, countries of the world should fully cooperate with one another under the leadership of WIPO, demonstrate flexibility and constructiveness, and explore effective solutions together. Tian Lipu also expressed opinions on IP affairs within the WIPO framework, and pointed out that efforts had to be made to continue perfecting the three international application/registration systems administered by WIPO, namely, the PCT system, Madrid System and Hague System. During the meetings, Tian Lipu met Dr. Francis Gurry, the Director General of WIPO, and organized bilateral talks with the persons in charge of the national IP departments in over 20 countries including Brazil, Australia, Sweden, Chile, the United States, Canada and Denmark, and such international/regional organizations as the European Patent Office (EPO), EU Office of Harmonization for the Internal Market (OHIM), African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), attended the first BRICS IP Offices Cooperation Conference, signed the first comprehensive MOU with WIPO since 2002, and signed many cooperation agreements with the intellectual property agencies in Russia, Peru, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Moldova, *etc.*

Wuxi (National) Design Patent Center Opened

On November 6, 2012, the opening ceremony of the Wuxi (National) Design Patent Center was held in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province. Being the first design patent center in China, it will provide quality, efficient and all-round design patent services for Jiangsu Province, even the entire eastern China.



Signing Ceremony of Cooperation Framework Agreement on SIPO Henan Patent Examination Cooperation Center Held

On November 14, 2012, the signing ceremony of the cooperation framework agreement on the building of the SIPO Henan Patent Examination Cooperation Center (hereinafter referred to as “Henan Center”) by SIPO and Henan Provincial People’s Government was held in Beijing. Tian Lipu, Commissioner of SIPO, and Guo Gengmao, Governor of Henan Province, signed Cooperation Framework Agreement on the Building of SIPO Henan Patent Examination Cooperation Center by SIPO and Henan Provincial People’s Government. Henan Center is located in Zhengdong New District, Zhengzhou City, Henan Province. By the end of 2017, the number of staff of Henan Center will reach about 2, 000, and it will be capable of examining 110, 000 invention patent applications annually.

SIPO and NBPRF Signed Memorandum of Understanding on the Patent Prosecution Highway

On November 17, 2012, the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) and National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland (NBPRF) signed Memorandum of Understanding on the Patent Prosecution Highway between the State Intellectual Property Office of the People’s Republic of China and National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland. According to the MOU, SIPO and NBPRF will implement the Patent Prosecution Highway pilot program from January 1, 2013.

Development of Utility Model Patent System in China Issued

On November 21, 2012, SIPO made public Development of Utility Model Patent System in China. According to the statistics, as of the end of 2011, the number of utility model patents granted and kept valid by SIPO had reached 1, 121, 000 and the system of utility model patents in China had made significant achievements. In the past 10 years, the annual proportion of ineffective requests for utility model patents to the utility model patents granted in the year showed a significant declining trend. In 2002, the number of ineffective requests for utility model patents was 756, accounting for 1.31% of the utility model patents granted in the same year (total

ling 57, 484). In 2011, the number of ineffective requests for utility model patents were 1, 323, accounting for 0.32% of the utility model patents granted in the same year (totaling 408, 110). It shows that the quality of utility model patents in China has improved steadily, and that the system of utility model patents has been running well in these years.

6th China Patent Week Held

On November 29, 2012, the 6th China Patent Week organized by SIPO with the theme “To Protect Innovation with Patents, To Change Life with Wisdom” was held nationwide. Tian Lipu, Commissioner of SIPO, and Li Xueyong, Governor of Jiangsu Province, attended the 6th China Patent Week Opening Ceremony & 2012 China (Nanjing) Patent Fair held in Nanjing, Jiangsu – the main venue. Francis Gurry, the Director General of WIPO, expressed congratulations to the 6th China Patent Week in a video. China had successfully held five China Patent Weeks before. China Patent Week has become a patent event at which the publicity and popularization of patent knowledge, exhibition and trading of patent products and fostering of patent culture are integrated and all social sectors attend. Its brand effect, scale effect and cluster effect are being promoted gradually. During the 6th China Patent Week, a series of activities including the 14th China Patent Award Ceremony, a number of patent fairs and high-level forums were held. Compared with the past 5 China Patent Weeks, this China Patent Week demonstrates four characteristics: first, it is further enlarged and has extended to districts and counties in some regions; second, nationwide IP protection is further intensified around the building of a long-term mechanism for IP protection; third, the implementation of specific plans is advanced in close combination with the patent strategy, reflecting the injection of new vitality into smart innovation by the patent system; and fourth, it focuses on the development of eco-civilization, pushes forward the improvement of and service to people’s life.

English Interface of China Patent Inquiry System Introduced

To meet the actual demand for international cooperation and communication in patent examination and the growing demand of the domestic and foreign users for patent inquiry, the English version of China Patent Inquiry System was officially launched on November 29, 2012 to further promote the spread and sharing of information on patents and patent examination and promote the level of services. Later, other versions of China Patent Inquiry System including Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Russian versions will be developed and launched in succession. China Patent Inquiry System designed and developed independently by SIPO has rich and complete information on patent application and examination. Users may access the information they



need and utilize such information via the system. The system plays a positive role in improving the ability to make independent innovations in the society.

5th Cross-Straits Patent Forum

On December 4, 2012, the 5th Cross-Straits Patent Forum, organized by All-China Patent Attorneys Association (ACPAA) and Taiwan Federation of Industries, was held in Taipei. Over 280 representatives from the patent authorities, patent sector and patent agency sector from both sides of Taiwan Straits attended the forum, and held in-depth communication and discussions on five topics, namely, latest reforms of the patent system, patent examination affairs, patent administrative remedies, patent litigation affairs and patent operation and management.

China Became a Patent Application Superpower

On December 11, 2012, WIPO issued World Intellectual Property Indicators 2012. According to it, in 2011, SIPO handled altogether 526,412 invention patent applications made by domestic and foreign patentees, more than 503,582, that is, the number of invention patent applications handled by USPTO in the same year, and ranked first in the world. The data also show that, among the international patent applications submitted via PCT in 2011, 16,406 were from China, up 33.4% year on year, making China the world's fastest growing country in the aspect. In the field of trademarks, trademark registration applications submitted worldwide hit 4.2 million, a historical high, in 2011. The growth rate of trademark registration applications in China was 31.2%, accounting for 61.8% of the total global growth. In terms of protection of new plant varieties, in 2011, the number of applications for patents of new plant varieties handled in China reached 1,255, second only to the number of applications of the same class handled by the European Union, and ranked the second in the world.

SIPO and APO Signed Patent Prosecution Highway Declaration

On December 21, 2012, Tian Lipu, Commissioner of SIPO, led a delegation to visit the Austria Patent Office (APO) and attended the SIPO and APO Mixed Committee Meeting held in Vienna together with Friedrich Rodler, the head of APO. After the meeting, both sides signed Sino-Austrian Joint Statement on PPH and SIPO and APO Memorandum of Understanding.