

Message from the Commissioner



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In 2015, the Party Central Committee and the State Council have laid great emphasis on IP and have made a series of new deployment for IP related work. At the 5th Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, the requirement was put forward that we shall reform in the IP related fields, strengthen IP protection, and enhance the construction of IP trading platform. In addition, the focus and direction of the IP reform and development during the 13th Five-Year Plan period was pointed out. The State Council printed and circulated *the Opinions on Accelerating the Construction of the Nation with Strong IP Competence under the New Situation*, which made important deployment for the construction of a nation with strong IP competence.

Throughout the year, with the care and support of the Party Central Committee and the State Council, the national IP system fully implemented the spirit of the 18th CPC Central Committee, the 3rd, the 4th and the 5th Plenary Sessions, went deep in studying a series of important speeches delivered by General Secretary Xi Jinping and earnestly implemented the policies and decisions of the State Council. With the support of the new normal of economic development as the main line, the improvement of the IP protection and utilization as the key, new progresses were made at various fronts, realizing a successful close of the 12th Five-Year Plan period.

The top-designs were strengthened to lead the IP development. SIPO organized the drafting of *the Opinions on Accelerating the Construction of the Nation with Strong IP Competence under the New Situation*, which was then circulated and implemented by the State Council. We also fully implemented *the Action Plan for further Implementing the National IP Strategy (2014-2020)*, and formulated and implemented the annual IP strategy and the patent strategy promotion plan. We took the lead in formulating the 13th Five-Year IP Plan. *Opinions on Further Strengthening the Exploitation and Protection of Intellectual Property to Promote Innovation and Entrepreneurship* was jointly issued by SIPO and the related ministries and departments. We released *the Work Plan for Construction of Province with Strong IP*. These achievements have helped the further integration of IP into the overall national economic and social development.

The policies and regulations were further improved and the examination and approval procedures were simplified. The Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council solicited public opinions on *the Draft of the 4th Amendment of the Patent Law and the Draft of Regulations on Service Inventions. Measures on the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purpose of Patent Procedure and the Measures on Management of Patent Commissioning* were published. We also optimized the examination and approval procedures for establishing patent agencies, changed the annual inspection system for the patent agencies to annual report and publication system, and strengthened the in-process and ex-post supervisions. The National Patent Agent Qualification Exam was held in computerized way successfully for the first time. In total, there are more than 1,200 patent agencies in China, with more than 12,000 registered agents.

The administrative enforcement and IPR protection were intensified. SIPO amended the *Measures on Patent Administrative Enforcement*, improved law enforcement inspection, strengthened cross-regional and cross-sectoral cooperation in law enforcement and set up three new IP fast prosecution centers. The total number of cases handled through patent administrative enforcement reached 35,844, registering a year-on-year increase of 46.4%.



The number of cases in the field of e-commerce was 7,644, with an increase of 155.2%. 2,743 patent enforcement cases in exhibitions were handled, increased by 54.1% compared with the previous year. The social satisfaction rate for IP protection was further improved.

The quality and efficiency of patent examination were improved. We strengthened the construction of quality guarantee system and examination guidance system, and enhanced the segment target management in the whole examination period. Throughout the year, the invention patent applications received by SIPO exceeded one million for the first time and reached 1,102,000, ranking the top of the world for five consecutive years. SIPO received 1,128,000 utility model applications and 569,000 applications for industrial designs, increasing by 29.8% and 0.8% respectively year on year. As for the PCT applications, SIPO received a total of 30,548 applications in 2015, up by 16.7% year on year. The number of invention patents owned by per 10,000 Chinese people reached 6.3, achieving the goal proposed in the Guidelines for 12th National Five-Year Plan. In addition, SIPO received 10,036 requests for priority examination of invention patent applications, increased by 55%. The Cloud Patent Examination System (CPES) was officially launched and the patent receiving and preliminary examination system was established in China. The ability to serve the innovation entities was further enhanced.

Patent transformation and utilization was strengthened to support economic development. The construction of National IP Operation Public Service Platform was accelerated and the pilot work of IP financing and insurance was deepened. The IP Operation Fund and Patent Pledge and Financing Risk Compensation Fund were set up, and the annual amount of patent pledge and financing was up to 56 billion yuan. The IP cluster management was strengthened for strategic emerging industries, and projects were deeply carried out on patent analysis, early-warning, popularization and appraisal. Tens of thousands of enterprises implemented the IP management standards and universities and research institutions carried out pilot work for IP standardization.

IP service capabilities were enhanced to boost entrepreneurship and innovation. The scope of open basic patent data resources was further expanded. IP service brands and agencies were actively cultivated and the construction of pilot area was strengthened to develop IP service industry. 34 institutions were newly selected to build demonstrations for patent analysis and appraisal. Patent value accounting in GDP was experimented in Zhongguancun. Activities were carried out for the initiatives to "let IP go grassroots and serve economy" and "let IP serve brand agency and regional economic development".

Exchange activities were carried out to expand international cooperation. High-level exchanges on intellectual property were conducted in a more intensive manner. SIPO successfully hosted the Serial Meetings of IP5 Offices and activities for the 30th anniversary of SIPO-EPO cooperation. More than 42 bilateral agreements and work plans were signed in 2015. SIPO participated in the negotiations of China, Japan and South Korea FTA and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Cooperation was further deepened for Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH). The website of "World IP" was established to provide international IP information and services, and guidelines were drawn up and issued for overseas IP operations. Research reports were published on the national IP environment for countries along the "Belt and Road" to better serve the "going global" activities of enterprises.

Team building was strengthened to create favorable environment. The special education on "Three Stricts and Three Honests" were carried out and the "Self-Discipline Guidelines for the Communist Party of China" and the "Disciplinary Regulations for the Communist Party of China" were studied and implemented. IP professionals were listed into the "National Occupational Classification". SIPO now has 14,003 registered staff members. Human resources work was strengthened and multi-level IP professional echelon was build composing by leading talents, high-level talents, experts and professionals. The building of IP culture was stepped up and the first batch of 30 national primary and secondary schools were identified as IP education pilots. The



official Wechat account of SIPO was opened and major publicity campaigns including the IP Publicity Week and Patent Week brought positive impacts. It has become a social consensus to accelerate the building of a country with strong IP competence.

The year 2016 marks the commencement of the "13th Five-Year Plan", and a key year for deepening reform in the field of intellectual property and accelerating the construction of a country with strong IP competence. The whole IP system will firmly implement the spirit of the 18th National Party Congress, the 3rd, the 4th and the 5th Plenary Sessions and study the series of important speeches by CPC General Secretary Xi Jinping. In accordance with the "Four Comprehensive Strategy" and the five development concepts of "innovation, coordination, green development, opening up and sharing", we will fully implement the decision and deployment of the State Council on accelerating the building of a strong IP country under the new situation, carry out the Action Plan for the National Intellectual Property Strategy, deepen the reform in the field of intellectual property and strengthen IP protection and utilization. By accelerating the building of a strong IP country, we strive to achieve the grand goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects and make greater contributions to realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation!

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