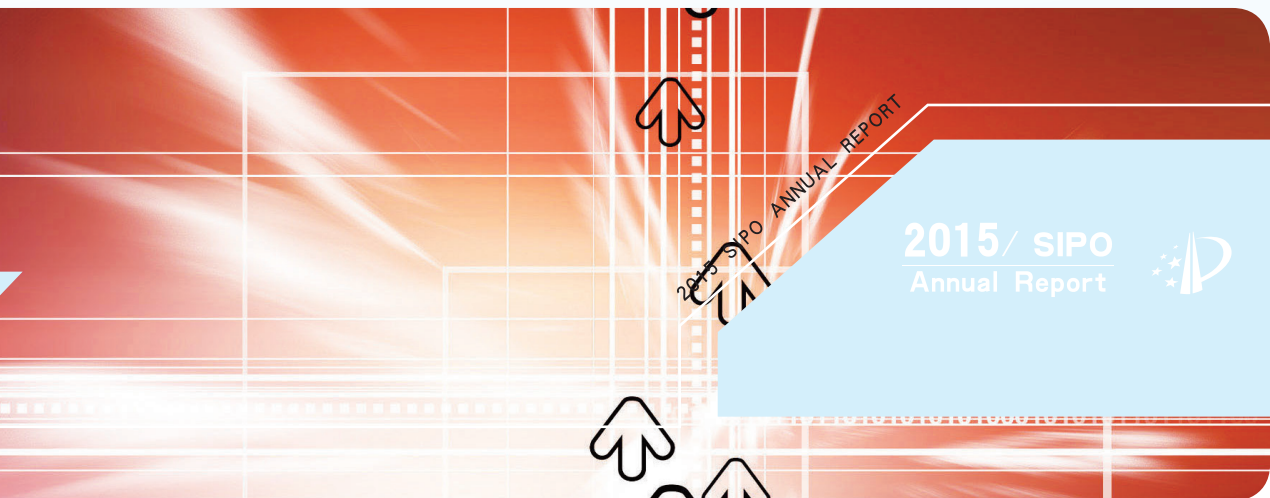


II . Legal Affairs

1. Legal System Construction

SIPO actively promoted the fourth comprehensive amendment to the Patent Law, completed related research and opinion collection work. SIPO held 13 meetings to solicit comments, completed 11 dedicated studies, and compiled written opinions of more than 500 thousand words. *The Draft Amendment to Patent Law (Draft for Deliberation)* was submitted to the State Council in July 2015. The draft proposed a comprehensive revision to the patent law which involves 33 substantive changes and a new chapter on exploitation and utilization of patent was added. SIPO made full preparations for the relevant revision of *the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law* and organized specific studies.

In cooperation with Ministry of Science and Technology, SIPO submitted *the Draft of Regulations on Service Inventions (Draft for Deliberation)* to the State Council and actively cooperated with the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council on the deliberation work.



SIPO revised *Measures on Patent Administrative Enforcement*, *Measures on Management of Patent Commissioning*, *Measures on the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purpose of Patent Procedure* and other departmental rules.

SIPO continued to improve regional coordination mechanisms of patent legislative guidance, focusing on guidance of local legislation in Zhejiang and Ningxia. SIPO carried out special research and investigations on electronic commerce, patent protection in exhibitions, and IP protection in the countries along the "Belt and Road". SIPO published *Coordination Mechanism for Guiding Local Patent Legislation of National Intellectual Property System* and *Operation Guidelines for Local Patent Legislation*.

SIPO organized IP related legal seminars and workshops and encouraged staff to attend the National Legal Knowledge Competitions in order to improve their administrative capacity and legal literacy.

SIPO continued the survey on the exploitation of the PCT system to fully understand and analyze the needs of PCT users in China, and released the annual survey report for the first time.

2. Administration of Patent Commissioning Industry

SIPO drafted *the Middle and Long Term Planning of Patent Commissioning Industry (2016-2025)*, solicited public opinions on a broad basis and carried out in-depth debate. SIPO cooperated with relevant departments to complete the clean-up and reform work of administrative examination and approval, and drafted the reform program of administrative examination and approval for the establishment of patent agencies.

SIPO completed the simplification of administrative examination and approval procedures, as well as the service specifications of administrative examination and approval. SIPO upgraded the patent agency management system to improve processing efficiency. 138 new patent agencies were established with the approval, and 380 existing ones were changed upon request.

SIPO canceled the annual inspection of patent agencies. Instead, SIPO established the system of annual report and publication, and the list of abnormalities and serious illegal businesses. 24 patent agencies were included in the list of abnormalities. SIPO guided local IP administrations to carry out in-process and ex-post supervisions and reviewed the cases in Beijing and five other provinces or cities. SIPO intensified disciplinary efforts and received 27 complaints in total, and made 8 punishment decisions on violations of laws and regulations. SIPO drafted *Quality Specification for the Service of Patent Agency*. SIPO continued to implement the five-year program on training of practical skills for patent agents, and trained 1,650 patent agents throughout the year.

The National Patent Agent Qualification Exam was held in computerized way successfully. The exam processes were further optimized and the confidentiality provisions improved. SIPO guided the Patent Agent Association to carry out the preparation and review of the test. The national examination monitoring center was set up. The National Patent Agent Qualification Exam was held in 89 examination centers in 24 cities in 2015. Altogether 27,861 people applied and 18,257 participated in the examination, with 4,777 passed therein.

3. Administrative Reconsideration

SIPO received 73 administrative reconsideration cases in 2015, and responded to 27 cases in the name of SIPO.