

V. Information Technology and Documentation

1. Information Technology

In 2015, the Chinese Electronic Patent Examination System ("E" System) and the Patent Search and Service System ("S" System) were in stable operation, and their function and capacity were continuously improved. 26 supporting projects were implemented throughout the year. The performance of the system was improved to meet SIPO's internal needs and that of the public. The performance of the Chinese Examination and Flow Management System for PCT Applications at the International Phase (CEPCT System) was optimized to enhance its ability to support SIPO's work and provide continuous services. Through 2015, the proportion of electronic applications in China's PCT filings increased from 30% to 60%. The Chinese Intelligence Search System for Industrial Design ("D" System) (Phase III) completed its trial run. Hardware migration for the EPOQUE system was completed and the search engine of the system was upgraded. According to the need of decision management and



operation expansion, SIPO set up a number of systems including the Statistics Report Form System, the Easy Examination System and the Paper-Based Document Management System. SIPO also implemented the development of a series of information systems, including the Management System for Regional Receiving Offices, the Recordation System for Certificate for Reduction of Patent-Related Fees, and the System for Supplement and Management of Information on Payment of Patent-Related Fees.

SIPO continued to accelerate the development of systems to support smart examination systems. It further optimized the system for smart examination systems for different phases of the prosecution process of patents, utility models and industrial designs, e.g., reception of patents and examination of utility models and industrial designs. SIPO also promoted the development of smart systems such as the Chinese Patent Examination Think-Tank, the

Search System Aided by Smart Technology and the System for Distributing Chinese Patent Applications.

SIPO strengthened the basic environment and security support for information technology. SIPO enhanced its data services, and provided over 26 million pieces of processed data for the core systems, providing up-to-date data support for patent information service centers at all levels, for the functioning of examination systems, for patent information services and for international data exchange. SIPO made improvements to a number of items, including operation and maintenance, website, storage, system surveillance and user support, and implemented server virtualization. SIPO tested recordation information systems rated as security level three and carried out risk monitoring for 50 websites providing external services.

Regional service centers were established in Jinan, Shanghai and Chongqing as part of the National Patent Information Public Service System. SIPO also established its 44th regional patent information service center in Qinghai Province. The patent data service system (test launch), which aims to provide patent data services to the public, has included 6 new categories of Japanese patent data and 3 new categories of Korean patent data. The system now makes available 29 categories of basic patent information, e.g. bibliographic data, abstract in English, information on publication and grant, and classification data. An IT support framework was established in the Fast-Track IP Protection Center in Shunde, Guangdong Province, making it the sixth fast-track IP protection center in China to have such a framework. In order to meet the need of the public for patent examination information search, SIPO provided multi-national patent examination information search in its China and Global Patent Examination Information Inquiry System to facilitate one-stop public access to patent examination information of the IP5 offices (EPO, JPO, KIPO, SIPO and USPTO). The Patent Search and Analysis System was upgraded. It now offers services in 9 different languages, including new search fields such as "patent agents" and "patent agencies" and abstract data of Hong

Kong, Taiwan and Singapore patents. SIPO established the Patent-Related Affairs Service System for online application and processing of certifications for copies of the patent register. The SIPO-JPO-KIPO trilateral cooperation website (TRIPO) was upgraded and is now available in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and English.

SIPO deepened international exchanges and cooperation in the IT area. After adding three new data exchange partners in 2015, SIPO now exchanges data with 24 countries, regions or organizations. SIPO continued to exchange priority documents with other offices, compared the completeness and supplemented the full-text data obtained through exchange with the USPTO, the JPO, the EPO and KIPO. SIPO signed MOUs on data exchange with the JPO and KIPO, making available Japanese and Korean patent image data and full-text data to the public. SIPO implemented a project of introducing Chinese design data to OHIM's Designview system. SIPO officially launched the Cloud Patent Examination System (CPES) in 2015 and has provided trial accounts to a total of 31 institutions (7 were newly added in 2015). The cooperation on CPES was unfolded with UK IPO. International cooperation and the cooperation with Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan have been expanded. SIPO has accelerated the development of its design IT system according to *the Hague Agreement* and pushed forward the exchange of electronic priority document with Taiwan. The communication and exchange in the field of information technology between SIPO and relevant institutions has been consolidated and enhanced.

2. Documentation

(1) Documentation Resources

Throughout 2015, SIPO allocated 166 types of documentation resources, including 10 types of patent resources and 156 types of non-patent resources, providing solid support for patent examination, patent information public

services, macro-management and research. Full-text patent data in English from 9 countries, including Brazil, Russia, India, Australia, has been added to SIPO's system, which not only facilitated the patent examination process, but also allowed the general public to use the data via the Patent Search, Service and Analysis System on the official website of SIPO. This was the first time SIPO made available its services for patent examination and public use at the same time. SIPO maintained bilateral documentation exchange with 38 countries, regions and organizations, and has provided or donated Chinese patent documentation resources to 7 PCT international search and preliminary examination authorities.

By the end of 2015, SIPO had over 450 types of patent documentation resources, including 63 types of bibliographic abstracts of 104 countries, regions and organizations, 124 types of full-image documentation of 103 countries, regions and organizations, 31 types of full-text documentation of 33 countries, regions and organizations, 189 types of auxiliary search data, and dozens of types of in-house developed patent data. SIPO currently has 15 million pieces of Chinese patent documentation.

(2) Documentation Services

Based on the needs of the examination process, SIPO continued to offer services including documentation search, consultation and training. SIPO trained 951 persons in 19 training programs on non-patent databases. The classification table for books on intellectual property was revised and the management of books in storage was further standardized.

Patent documentation information services for the public were carried out in good order. In response to urgent need of the public for training in a number of areas, including patent legal framework and patent documentation, utilization of

patent information and the role of patent documentation in improving the quality of applications, SIPO organized a series of trainings covering 9 themes and held 37 sessions of open lecture on patent information. The online open lecture sessions were available in 15 provinces/municipalities and were watched by nearly 4000 people, a 100.03% increase as compared to 2014. Publicly available patent information of 74 countries/regions/organizations and search guidelines were linked to SIPO's official website. A special interaction column on patent information was added to the website through which over 70 items of patent information research results were made public. *The Research Report on Global Patent-Related Innovation Activities 2014* and *Patents That Influenced the World* were published. The IP exhibition received 800 visitors in 36 groups.

(3) Classification and Relevant Research

The C464 project on the IPC, which had been undertaken by SIPO, was approved by WIPO, providing over 110,000 items of data re-classified according to the IPC. 6 proposals by SIPO regarding classification were accepted as stage F projects of the IP5 Offices (EPO, JPO, KIPO, SIPO and USPTO). Newly published and newly filed patent applications in a number of technical fields were classified according to the CPC. SIPO carried out research on documents cited in PCT search reports and statistical analysis of patent documentation in China as a whole, in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area and in countries along the "Belt and Road". A study on amending the national standard for IP information, *the IP Documentation and Information-Basic Terms* was carried out and the development and utilization of management systems for standards on patent documentation and information were strengthened. SIPO carried out a number of studies on a variety of topics, including the alignment of patent classification with business classification, improving the framework for patent information dissemination and utilization, standardization of patent documentation, developing whole-process IP documentation resources, commercialization of technological achievements, knowledge-based services, thus providing full-scale support to the development of patent documentation.

(4) Publications on Documentation

Throughout 2015, SIPO published a total of 2,622,499 pieces of documentation, including 955,342 pieces on patent publication, 333,153 pieces on patent granting, 859,925 pieces on utility model, and 474,079 pieces on design. SIPO promoted the outcomes of documentation-related research through publication. For example, SIPO published 6 issues of *the Patent Documentations Research*, 7 issues of *the Supplement to Patent Documentation Research*, 29 issues of *the Foreign Intellectual Property News* and 5 issues of *the Special Edition of Foreign Intellectual Property News*.

(5) Dissemination and Utilization of Patent Information

SIPO held the National Conference on Patent Information Dissemination and Utilization. Taking stock of work completed during the period of the 12th Five Year Plan, the conference discussed and made plans for work to be done in the 13th Five Year Plan. *The White Paper on Patent Information Dissemination and Utilization in China in 2014* was released. *The Implementation Plan on Capacity Building and Promotion of National Patent Information Dissemination and Utilization Centers in 2015* was issued and implemented to guide and support the work of these centers.

The Guidelines for Patent Documentation Information Service was revised. SIPO made further efforts to promote *the Guidelines for Businesses for Utilization of Patent Information* and *the Guidelines for Patent Information Services* among businesses and public institutions. The standardization of patent information was pushed forward in a steady manner. A study on patent competitive intelligence in 4 nationally important technical fields was completed. A follow-up study on patent, innovation and competition trends in technical fields related to air pollution control was carried out. SIPO guided the National Patent Information Dissemination and Utilization Centers to carry out patent

information analysis in 12 key industries/projects and pushed forward the development of patent information intelligence to support industries. Projects aiming at promoting the utilization of patent information and improving the capacity in local areas to utilize patent information were implemented in 12 National Patent Information Dissemination and Utilization Centers and 9 provinces/autonomous regions in the western part of China. SIPO helped 68 institutions to become key units in patent information utilization and accepted 30 new patent information service providers to carry out trial run for small-and-micro-sized enterprises. Patent information services were carried out to meet the needs of the businesses in a number of areas such as starting to file patent applications from scratch, increasing the amount of patent applications, protecting patent rights overseas, risk prevention and control and technological breakthrough. The way patent information is incorporated into businesses operation has been constantly improved.

SIPO selected 32 leading talents and 81 patent information teachers nationwide in the area of patent information and initiated the selection of patent information specialists. SIPO organized 8 training sessions on patent information utilization for 700 trainees from provinces/autonomous regions along the "Belt and Road".

(6) International Exchanges and Cooperation on Patent Documentation

SIPO dispatched two groups to the EPO for training on classification and invited classification experts from the JPO to SIPO for seminars on classification. A training workshop on Chinese Patent Documentation Knowledge and Practice was held for ASEAN member states. SIPO, the JPO and KIPO agreed to establish a communication mechanism among patent information experts of the three offices.