



VII. International Cooperation

In 2017, SIPO continued to comprehensively deepen international cooperation in the IP field and played a constructive role in international and regional IP affairs. Throughout the year, SIPO signed 52 new bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation agreements, memoranda of understanding, joint statements, records of discussion, work plans in the IP field. It organized 150 visiting delegations comprising 560 people/times to foreign countries. It organized 18 international conferences with the participation of more than 2,000 people/times. By means of holding international training workshops, master programs on IP and dispatch of trainers, SIPO provided training for personnel in the IP field from over 20 countries and regions.

1 “Belt and Road” IP Exchanges and Cooperation

SIPO secured resources from various channels to implement *the Common Initiatives for Strengthening the Cooperation between Countries along the Belt and Road in the Field of Intellectual Property*.



In May, on behalf of the Chinese Government, SIPO signed with the World Intellectual Property Organization *the Agreement on Enhancing “Belt and Road” Intellectual Property Cooperation between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)* during the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. The two sides agreed to deepen their cooperation in relation to the Belt and Road Initiative and facilitate the development of IP in Belt and Road countries.

The cooperation with “Belt and Road” countries in the area of patent examination gained positive progress. The centralized examination of



The Training Seminar of Patent Examination for Countries along “Belt and Road” was held in Tianjin city.

applications with patent family filings in Belt and Road countries and the development of the Belt and Road IP Cooperation Website were launched. The expansion of the Cloud Patent Examination and the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) were accelerated prominently. The Belt and Road patent examination workshop, the Master Program on IP for Belt and Road Countries and the dispatch of trainers to relevant countries were carried out steadily.

2 Participation in Inter-Governmental Mechanisms of Dialogue, Consultation and Negotiation

SIPO continued its deep involvement in the China-U.S. inter-governmental dialogue mechanisms and its active participation in other meeting, consultation and negotiation mechanisms such as the China-EU Intellectual Property Dialogue, the China-UK and the China-France Economic and Financial Dialogues, the China-Italy Inter-governmental Commission, and the China-EU, China-Switzerland IP working group/unit meetings.

SIPO also actively participated in the negotiations on the IP chapters of the China-Japan-Korea Free Trade Agreement, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the China-Georgia Free Trade Agreement and the Economic and Trade Agreement between China and the Eurasian Economic Union.

3 Cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization

(1) Involvement in the Making of International Rules within the Framework of WIPO

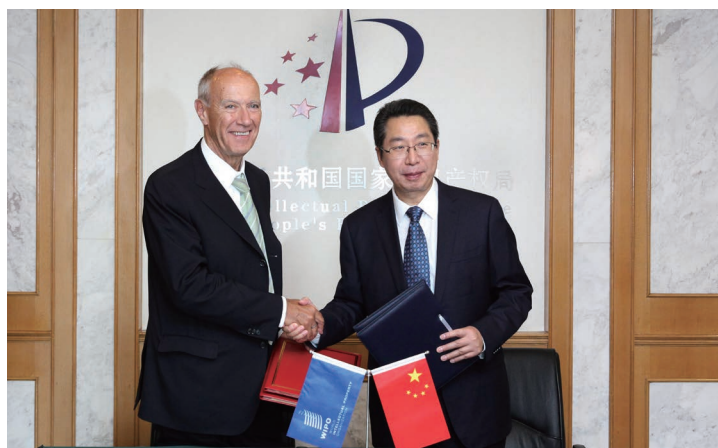
SIPO organized and coordinated with relevant ministries and agencies under the State Council to participate in the meetings within the framework of WIPO and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), including the Committee on

Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC). The Office actively participated in negotiations and consultations on international rules.

In October, Commissioner Shen Changyu led the delegation of the Chinese Government to attend the 57th WIPO General Assembly meetings. China remained as members of the WIPO Program and Budget Committee, the Coordination Committee and the Executive Committee of the Paris Union. Commissioner Shen Changyu, along with other 10 Chinese candidates, were each elected as vice-chairperson of a body responsible for WIPO-administered treaties.

(2) Deepened Bilateral Cooperation with WIPO

In March, SIPO and WIPO jointly held a panel discussion on IPR during the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference and for the first time included IPR topics in the agenda of the Annual Conference.



Commissioner Shen Changyu had a meeting with WIPO Director General Francis Gurry, and signed a cooperation agreement on data exchange.

In May, on behalf of the Chinese Government, SIPO signed with WIPO *the Agreement on Enhancing “Belt and Road” Intellectual Property Cooperation between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)* during the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. The Agreement was one of the nine cooperation agreements signed by the Chinese Government with relevant international organizations and was listed as an outcome of the Forum .

SIPO also signed with WIPO cooperation agreements on data and personnel exchange and the extension of the agreement in relation to the functioning of SIPO as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT and sent the first batch of Junior Professional Officers to work at WIPO. The Office jointly held a roving seminar on PCT and the Hague Agreement in collaboration with WIPO. It enhanced cooperation with WIPO in relation to arbitration and held relevant seminars. Under the assistance of WIPO, SIPO carried out capacity building activities for developing countries and Belt and Road countries. It organized the 2017 SIPO Training Seminar on Patent Examination for Belt and Road Countries, the Master Program on Intellectual Property for Belt and Road Countries and the China-Africa High-Level Seminar on IP Systems and Policies.

SIPO launched the development of WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Center and supported the functioning of the WIPO China Office in the country.

4 Multilateral Cooperation

(1) IP5 and ID5 Cooperation

In 2017, SIPO continued to push forward the development of the IP5 cooperation in a way that would “provide better services to users and the public”. Throughout the year, SIPO facilitated the discussions of over 400



The 10th Meeting of IP5 Heads of Office.

items, the conclusions of more than 20 pieces of discussion records or Action Lists, and over 1000 items of records or action points.

In March, Deputy Commissioner He Zhimin and his delegation participated in the 17th IP5 Deputy Heads of Office in Munich, Germany.

In May, Commissioner Shen Changyu led a delegation to participate in the 10th Meeting of IP5 Heads of Office in Valletta, Malta and facilitated the signature of *the Joint Statement of the IP5 2017*.

In May, Deputy Commissioner He Zhimin participated in the 18th Meeting of IP5 Deputy Heads of Office in Valletta, Malta and visited the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Patent Office in Saudi Arabia.

In December, SIPO sent a delegation to participate in the 3rd Industrial Design 5 Forum (ID5) Annual Meeting on which *the Operational Guidelines for ID5 were adopted*.

SIPO held roadshow events on IP5 and IP5 for industries to help companies and right holders better utilize the outcomes of IP5 cooperation and gain deeper understanding of the international IP rules, so as to help companies to plan their patent strategy more effectively and conveniently in the process of “going global”.

(2) BRICS IP Cooperation

A BRICS IP cooperation mechanism with the BRICS Heads of Intellectual Property Offices (HIPO) Meeting as the decision-making platform, the Meeting of the BRICS IP Coordination Group and the examiner exchange program as support and the cooperation in the 6 main areas such as training and information services (which defined in the BRICS Intellectual Property Offices Cooperation Roadmap) as the key contents of cooperation has been formed.

In April, Commissioner Shen Changyu visited New Delhi, India to participate in the 8th BRICS HIPO Meeting.

In September, SIPO facilitated the inclusion of “...enhanced joint efforts on IPR (in synergy with the cooperation activities among BRICS IP authorities)” in *the BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration*, which further proved the importance of the pragmatic cooperation on IP in the development of BRICS countries and their cooperation.

In October, the 9th BRICS HIPO Meeting and the 4th Meeting of BRICS IP Coordination Group were held in Geneva.



Commissioner Shen Changyu participated in the 8th BRICS HIPO Meeting.

(3) China-ASEAN IP Cooperation

The cooperation with ASEAN member states was further enhanced and the China-ASEAN IP cooperation projects such as the project on traditional medicine database were pushed forward steadily.

In July, SIPO held the China-ASEAN Intellectual Property Management and Utilization Seminar in Beijing to promote the mutual understanding between



The 8th Meeting of China-ASEAN Heads of Intellectual Property Offices.



Deputy Commissioner He Zhimin at the China-ASEAN Intellectual Property Management and Utilization Seminar.

China and ASEAN member states about the IP systems and best practices of one another.

In September, SIPO hosted the 8th Meeting of China-ASEAN Heads of Intellectual Property Offices, on which *the China-ASEAN IP Cooperation Programme 2017-2018* was adopted. The China-ASEAN IP Roundtable was held in tandem with the Heads Meeting and the China-ASEAN IP Working Group Meeting mechanism was established.

(4) Trilateral Cooperation of SIPO-JPO-KIPO

SIPO proposed the cooperation of SIPO-JPO-KIPO to a new scheme for the trilateral cooperation.

In November, the 23rd Heads Meeting between SIPO and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the 24th Heads Meeting between SIPO and the Japan Patent Office (JPO) were held in Hangzhou, and relevant records of discussion and cooperation documents were signed.

In December, Commissioner Shen Changyu participated in the 17th TRIPO Heads Meeting between SIPO, JPO and KIPO in Jeju, Republic of Korea and signed the Record of Discussion for the Heads Meeting.

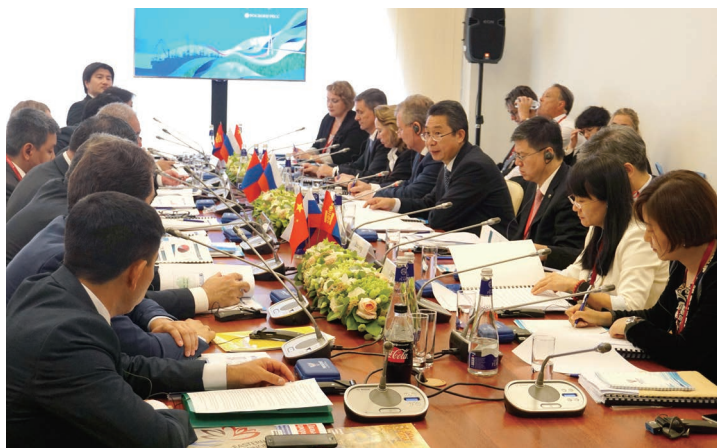


Commissioner Shen Changyu participated in the 17th TRIPO Heads Meeting between SIPO, JPO and KIPO in Jeju, Republic of Korea.

(5) IP Cooperation between China, Mongolia and Russia

SIPO maintained the friendly cooperation between China, Mongolia and Russia in the IP field, continued to deepen the cooperation mechanism and explored for new areas of cooperation and continued to improve regional IP environment.

In September, Commissioner Shen Changyu led a delegation to participate in the 5th Trilateral IP Seminar of SIPO, the General Authority for Intellectual Property and State Registration (GAIPSR) and the Federal Service for Intellectual Property of Russia (Rospatent) in Vladivostok, Russia. The Trilateral Heads Meeting was held in tandem with the seminar and the heads of SIPO, GAIPSR and Rospatent had in-depth discussions on next steps of the trilateral cooperation.



Commissioner Shen Changyu led a delegation to participate in the 5th Trilateral IP Seminar of SIPO, the General Authority for Intellectual Property and State Registration (GAIPSR) and the Federal Service for Intellectual Property of Russia (Rospatent) in Vladivostok, Russia.

5 Bilateral Cooperation

(1) Cooperation with the European Patent Office (EPO)

SIPO further deepened cooperation with EPO and elevated the bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.



The 11th Conference of the Heads of SIPO and EPO.

In November, State Councilor Wang Yong met with President of EPO in China. The 11th Conference of the Heads of SIPO and EPO was held in Zhengzhou and the agreement on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the annual work plan between the two offices were signed.

Relevant seminars and exchanges such as the Roving Seminar on the Unitary Patent System and the Roundtable Meeting between SIPO, EPO and Chinese Industry were held to help Chinese enterprises better understand and utilize the Chinese and European patent systems. SIPO signed an agreement with EPO on data exchange and EPOQUE Net and agreed to carry out almost a hundred cooperation activities in relation to patent examination, data exchange, EPOQUE Net, the Cooperative Patent Classification and capacity building, etc.

(2) Cooperation with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)

SIPO steadily promoted the cooperation with EUIPO and further elevated the strategic mutual trust and the level of pragmatic cooperation.

In April, Deputy Commissioner He Hua visited EUIPO and carried out exchanges on industrial design and IP enforcement, etc., and signed the annual work plan between SIPO and EUIPO.



Commissioner Shen Changyu had a meeting with Mr. António Campinos, Executive Director of EUIPO.



Deputy Commissioner He Hua visited EUIPO and signed the bilateral cooperation work plan for 2017.

In September, Commissioner Shen Changyu completed his first official visit to EUIPO and signed the upgraded MOU between the two offices and an agreement on the exchange of IP information with EUIPO.

(3) Cooperation with the Eurasian Patent Office (EAPO)

SIPO had a high-level meeting with EAPO and signed agreements on PPH cooperation and data exchange. SIPO sent experts to Russia to train and exchange with patent examiners of EAPO and its member states.



Commissioner Shen Changyu had a meeting with President Saule Tlevlessova of EAPO.

(4) Exchanges and Cooperation with the United States

SIPO maintained deep involvement in the inter-governmental dialogue and negotiations between China and the US. The Office fully presented China's efforts in enhancing the protection and utilization of IP rights and promoting the innovation and economic development of China. It strengthened the communication and exchanges with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and actively facilitated the high-level exchanges and pragmatic cooperation between the two sides.

(5) Exchanges and Cooperation with EU and European Countries

SIPO continued its active involvement in the China-EU IP Dialogue, the China-EU IP Working Group Meeting and China-EU exchanges on law and enhanced the cooperation in connection with the new EU-China IPR Cooperation Project (IP-Key). It also strengthened the friendly cooperation with IP authorities of European countries.

In January, President Xi Jinping witnessed the signature of the MOU between SIPO and the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property during his visit to Switzerland.



China-Visegrad Group Joint Seminar on Intellectual Property.



Deputy Commissioner Gan Shaoning had a meeting with Mr. Sean Dennehey, Acting Chief Executive and Comptroller General of UKIPO.

In March, Assistant Commissioner Xu Cong visited the Danish Patent and Trademark Office and the Polish Patent Office.

In April, Deputy Commissioner He Zhimin visited Lithuania and Latvia and held presentations on the patent system of China in each country and signed cooperation MOU with the State Patent Bureau of Lithuania.



Deputy Commissioner Zhang Maoyu had a meeting with Mr. Jesper Kongstad, Director General of Danish Patent and Trademark Office in Beijing.

In June, Commissioner Shen Changyu visited the National Institute of Industrial Property of France and the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic and signed the Record of Discussion for the 30th China-France Joint Committee on Patents and the Letter of Intent between China and the Czech Republic on Cooperation in PPH.

In September, Deputy Commissioner Gan Shaoning led a delegation to attend the China-UK Intellectual Property Symposium and visited the United States and Germany and carried out exchanges on human resources.

In November, Assistant Commissioner Xu Zhijiang visited the Patent Office of Bulgaria and the Swedish Patent and Registration Office.

SIPO's senior management met with heads of IP authorities of the UK, Switzerland, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Denmark, etc., in China. It expanded bilateral cooperation relations to IP authorities in Norway, Greece, Ireland and Ukraine. The Office continued to consolidate and improve cooperation with EPO. It held in China the China-Switzerland Deputy Heads of IP Offices Meeting and Industry Roundtable, China-Visegrad Group Joint Seminar on Intellectual Property, the China-Germany Patent System Seminar,

the Roving Seminar on the Unitary Patent System and the Roundtable Meeting between the Heads of SIPO, and industry, aiming at providing better services to Chinese and European innovators and IP users. The Office held the 1st International Seminar on Utility Model and exchanged and shared experience with other countries regarding the utility model system.

(6) Exchanges and Cooperation with Neighboring and Asian Countries

SIPO enhanced high-level exchanges with neighboring and Asian countries and further developed its cooperation with major countries in the region.

In February, Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli witnessed the signature of the Framework Agreement on Tripartite Cooperation for Facilitating the Intellectual Property Reform Pilot Program in the Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City between SIPO and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore and the People's Government of Guangdong Province.

In March, Vice-Premier Liu Yandong witnessed the signature of the cooperation MOU between SIPO and the Ministry of Justice of Israel.



Commissioner Shen Changyu had a meeting with Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Industry and Handicraft (MIH) of Cambodia in Beijing. SIPO and MIH signed a MOU on IP cooperation which provided that any patent granted and remained valid by SIPO could be directly registered and protected by patent rights in Cambodia.

In August, President Xi Jinping witnessed the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on Cooperation in the Field of Intellectual Property.

In September, State Councilor Wang Yong met with Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Industry and Handicraft (MIH) of Cambodia. SIPO and MIH signed a MOU on IP cooperation which provided that any patent granted and remained valid by SIPO could be directly registered and protected by patent rights in Cambodia.

In November, Premier Li Keqiang witnessed the signature of the cooperation MOU between SIPO and the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines.

SIPO took active steps to develop the cooperation relations with IP authorities of neighboring countries by means of high-level exchanges and pragmatic cooperation.

In March, Deputy Commissioner He Zhimin led a delegation to visit Bangladesh and Pakistan and signed relevant cooperation documents.

In July, Deputy Commissioner He Zhimin visited Armenia and Georgia and signed the cooperation agreement with the IP authority of Armenia and the cooperation work plan with the IP authority of Georgia.

In August, Deputy Commissioner He Zhimin visited Mongolia and signed relevant cooperation documents.

In October, Deputy Commissioner Liao Tao visited Thailand, Vietnam and Japan and signed relevant cooperation documents.

The senior management of SIPO met with heads of IP authorities of Cambodia, Israel, Singapore, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Japan and Korea, etc. It upgraded the cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Patent Office and the



Commissioner Shen Changyu had a meeting with Ms. Naoko Munakata, Commissioner of Japan Patent Office in Beijing.



Deputy Commissioner Liao Tao had a meeting with Mr. Dinh Huu Phi, Director General of National Office of Intellectual Property of Viet Nam (NOIP) and signed a MOU.

Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan and consolidated the cooperation with IP authorities of Singapore, Malaysia, Lao PDR and Georgia, and newly established cooperation with IP authorities of Kazakhstan, Armenia and the Philippines. The cooperation arrangements with neighboring countries have been further consolidated and improved.



Commissioner Shen Changyu had a meeting with Ms. Amy Palmer, Director General of Ministry of Justice of Israel in Beijing.



Commissioner Shen Changyu had a meeting with Mr. Daren Tang Heng Shim, Chief Executive of Intellectual Property Office of Singapore.

(7) Exchanges and Cooperation with African Countries

SIPO signed a cooperation agreement with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and became the first PPH partner of that organization.

In April, Commissioner Shen Changyu visited Morocco and the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and signed an agreement on examination work sharing and a bilateral cooperation work plan with the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office (OMPIC) and a bilateral cooperation work plan with OAPI.

In July, under the support of WIPO, SIPO held the China-Africa High-Level Seminar on IP Systems and Policies in Guangzhou and carried out exchanges with African countries on legal system and policy, data and information and coordination in international affairs. More than 50 heads and representatives of IP authorities from WIPO, member states of ARIPO, Angola, Egypt and Ethiopia participated in the seminar.



China-Africa High-Level Seminar on IP Systems and Policies.

(8) Exchanges and Cooperation with Latin American Countries

SIPO maintained regular dialogue with IP authorities of relevant countries and continued to expand pragmatic cooperation in various areas and explored for cooperation potentials.

In April, Deputy Commissioner Xiao Xingwei visited Brazil and Mexico and signed the cooperation work plan for 2017-2018 with the Mexican side and carried out discussion on the SIPO-INPI pilot cooperation in PPH.

In June, then-Assistant Commissioner Zhang Maoyu visited Argentina and Chile and signed the MOU on data exchange and the MOU on PPH pilot program with the respective offices.

In November, SIPO held the Heads Meeting between SIPO and the National Institute of Industrial Property of Brazil (INPI) and signed cooperation MOU to launch the pilot program on PPH cooperation between the two offices.



The Heads Meeting between SIPO and the National Institute of Industrial Property of Brazil (INPI).



Deputy Commissioner Xiao Xingwei visited Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (IMPI) and signed the cooperation work plan for 2017 and 2018.

In December, SIPO held a training workshop for Latin-American countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Peru and Ecuador, which further expanded the cooperation between SIPO and IP authorities of Latin America.

(9) Exchanges and Cooperation with Oceanian Countries

In March, Premier Li Keqiang witnessed, during his visit to Australia and New Zealand, the signature of the cooperation MOU between SIPO and the IP Australia and the cooperation arrangement between SIPO and the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand.

In December, Commissioner Shen Changyu visited Australia and New Zealand and signed the work plan 2017-2018 with IP Australia and held the IP roundtable in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand.



A delegation from SIPO, headed by Commissioner Shen Changyu, visited IP Australia in December.

6 Training Support to Developing Countries

SIPO actively explored for new models in providing training support to developing countries and helped developing countries to utilize the IP system in the process of economic development and jointly facilitated the improvement and development of the international IP rules.

In July, SIPO held the China-ASEAN Intellectual Property Management and Utilization Seminar.

In November, SIPO organized the Asian Regional IP Seminar.

SIPO sent examination experts to the Saudi Patent Office, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Patent Office and the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office to carry out training missions.

7 Cooperation in Patent Examination

SIPO pressed ahead with pragmatic cooperation in patent examination. It continued to expand the PPH cooperation network and officially launched the China-Egypt PPH pilot program, and signed PPH cooperation agreements with IP authorities of Czech Republic, Chile, the Eurasian Patent Office, the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization and Brazil. Users of the Common PPH Request Form increased to 19. SIPO steadily pushed forward the examination cooperation within the frameworks of WIPO, IP5 and bilateral cooperation and comprehensively promoted the training of international examination professionals.

8 Cooperation in Information Technology

SIPO carried out cooperation in data exchanges with 26 countries, regions and organizations. It had bilateral and multi-lateral exchanges and cooperation with 21 countries, regions and organizations, of which 9 were newly established cooperation partners and 6 among the Belt and Road countries. The Office pushed forward the legal status program under IP5 and the priority exchange program under ID5. The official users of the Cloud Patent Examination System were expanded to 3 (Peru and Saudi Arabia were added in the list) and trial users to 39 (including 11 new users). The advance users of the Patent Search and Analysis System increased to IP authorities of 23 countries and regions (including 5 new users).

9 Cooperation in Patent Documentation

15 revision proposals became WIPO's revision items with SIPO's facilitation, of which 8 were adopted. SIPO also actively participated in the IP5 cooperation and had in-depth discussion with IP5 offices with regard to classification in emerging technical fields and facilitated the inclusion of image data and reference data into the scope of application of the IP5 patent information policy. It also published authoritative materials on Chinese patent documentation.

10 Exchanges with Industry and Relevant Associations

SIPO maintained close exchanges with global industry and IP associations. In 2017, SIPO's senior management met with delegations from the US Chamber of Commerce, the American Chamber of Commerce in China, the Japan External Trade Organization, the International Association for the Protection Of Intellectual Property, the delegation of Danish Corporate Counsel, the German Engineering Federation, AstraZeneca and Bosch, etc.



Deputy Commissioner He Zhimin had a meeting with the representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce in Beijing.