

Message from the Commissioner



Shen Changyu, Commissioner of State Intellectual Property Office

The year 2014 marked new opportunities for the development of China's Intellectual Property undertaking. The 4th Plenary Session of the 18th National Party Congress put forward the requirement that we shall promote legislation in key areas, improve the property system that stimulates innovation, IP protection system, and system and mechanism for promoting the transfer of the outcomes of scientific research. IP has been becoming a key pillar for innovation-driven development and the major contents of promoting the rule of law on a comprehensive basis.

Throughout the year, under the strong leadership and 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 National Party Congress, the 3rd and the 4th Plenary Sessions; SIPO went deep in studying a series of important speeches delivered by General Secretary Xi Jinping; earnestly implemented the policies and decisions of the State Council. With comprehensively deepening reform and supporting the implementation of innovation driven strategy as the main theme, the promotion of the in-depth integration of IP and economy as the main line, and the strengthening of IP protection and utilization as the major focal point, the national IP system has identified the new target of building the country with strong IP competence. New progresses were made at various fronts.

Intellectual Property was deeply integrated into the national development strategy. *The Action Plan for further Implementing the National IP Strategy (2014-2020)* was drafted, then delivered and approved by the Standing Committee of the State Council, and circulated by the General Office of the State Council. The annual promotion plans for the implementation of both national IP strategy and patent strategy were essentially completed. *The Several Opinions on Supporting the Development of Micro-businesses with IP* were printed and circulated. We also actively participated in the top-level design of the national innovation-driven development strategy. In cooperation with relevant Ministries and Departments, we have formulated *the Several Opinions on Further Implementing the National IP Strategy to Promote the Economic and Social Development of Central China Area, and the Opinion on Promoting Systematic Innovation with Great Efforts to Provide Excellent Scientific Financing Services*.

The patent legal and policy system was further improved. Relevant work by the National People's Congress on the inspection of the enforcement of Patent Law was successfully completed, and great efforts were made to solve the key problems listed in the inspection report and the deliberation opinion. The work on the amendment of the Patent Law and the formulation of the Regulations on Service Invention was brought forward with concerted efforts, and regulations such as *the Patent Examination Guideline* were revised. We have also been actively engaged in theoretical and practical studies on the building of the country with strong IP competence and the IP system with Chinese characteristics, and as a result, preliminary ways and measures on building up IP competence were brought forward.

The quantity and quality of patents made coordinated development. Based on the concept and theory of "Mapping out with the numbers of patent and the quality prevails", we have constantly enhanced the quality and efficiency of patent examination. As a result, both the numbers and the quality of patents were enhanced, and the structure of patent applications became more optimized. Within the year, the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) has received a total number of 2,361,000 patent applications for invention, utility model and design patents, among which there were 928,000 invention patent applications, increased by 12.5% year on year; the number of utility model application and design application were 868,000 and 565,000



respectively. SIPO received 26,000 PCT international applications, increased by 14.2% compared with the previous year. Also throughout the year, the examinations of 1,890,000 applications for three kinds of patents were concluded, registering a year on year increase of 16.4%. The number of concluded invention patent applications was 431,000, increased by 22.9% compared with the previous year.

Prominent Profit was made in Patent Transfer and Utilization. The building of National IP Operation Public Service Platform was kicked off in Beijing, and pilot platforms with special features were constructed in both Xi'an and Zhuhai. IP financing through pledging was further promoted on a comprehensive basis. Throughout the year, the amount of financing through patent pledge reached 48.9 billion Yuan RMB, increased by 92.5% compared with the previous year, and benefited 1,850 micro businesses. The work regarding patent insurance made new breakthrough, and operations covering the patent execution insurance, patent infringement liability insurance, IP comprehensive liability insurance, and IP pledge financing insurance were put into practice. 798 innovative micro enterprises made patent insurances, and the insured amount reached 134 million Yuan RMB.

The efforts of IP protection were constantly strengthened. The new concept of mutually complementing and effectively cohesion of both judicial protection and administrative protection were brought forward. *The Guideline on the Identification of Patent Infringement and the Behavior of Patent Pass-off (trial)* was promulgated. The Coverage of the 12330 National IP Hot-line was further expanded, and the project of enhancing the capacity of patent administrative enforcement was implemented. The dedicated campaign on patent enforcement of safeguarding of rights was carried out in the area of e-commerce. For the whole year, 24,500 cases of patent administrative enforcement were handled, registering a increase of 50.9% compared with the previous year. The degree of social satisfaction over patent protection was further enhanced.

The level of IP management and service was further improved. The Pilot of all-round reform on national IP protection and utilization in SINO-Singaporean Guangzhou Knowledge City was initiated. 28 new IP demonstration cities and 16 new IP demonstration parks were approved, and 35 pilot enterprises for national

patent operation were identified. The National Technical Committee on the Standardization of Knowledge Management was established to actively promote the national standard of the Norms on the Management of IP in Enterprises. The experimental system of patent data services was opened, and it was the first time for SIPO to provide free domestic and foreign basic patent datum. *The Several Opinions on Promoting the Development of Patent Representation Industry* was promulgated, and the qualification examination system for patent agents was improved. Within 2014, 4,777 people passed the qualification examination. The number of practicing patent agents reached 10,442, and that of patent agencies reached 1,088.

IP international cooperation and exchanges were deepened on all fronts.

We coordinated and promoted the set-up of WIPO China Office. IP cooperation in various fields were strengthened, and 29 new multilateral and bilateral cooperation agreements were signed, bringing the total number of acting international cooperation agreements up to 142. The Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan related IP cooperation affairs were properly handled. Throughout the year, 9 training classes targeting the developing countries were organized, and pilots for Patent Prosecution Highways among IP5 and with UK, Iceland, Sweden and Israel were kicked off.

The team building of cadres and talents was effectively strengthened.

The Several Opinions on Strengthening the Team Building of Patent Examination was formulated and promulgated, presenting the requirement from six aspects on the building of the examiners team, namely, recruitment, training, utilization, management, development and stability. 127 new national IP leading talents and 120 high-level talents were selected. Currently, the total number of SIPO's staff is 12,913.

In the year 2014, the IP cultural environment was further optimized, and the national IP awareness further enhanced. A series of publicity activities such as the building of the country with strong IP competence, the implementation of national



IP strategy and IP Publicity Week have exerted very positive impact. The party building and office cultural construction were also strengthened, and the whole IP system manifested very sound momentum of unity, harmony and progress. The construction of the Party conduct and of an honest and clean government, and the anti-corruption work were brought forward; various measures on the Mass-line education and practice were implemented; and the outcomes of work style construction have brought new driving forces for the development of IP undertakings.

The year 2015 will be the concluding year for the 12th Five Year Plan, a key year for deepening all-round reform, the opening year for promoting the rule of law, the starting year for implementing the Action Plan of further Implementing the National IP Strategy, and an very important year for scheming the 13th Five Year Plan. Under the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee and the State Council, we will firmly implement the spirit of the 18th National Party Congress, the 3rd and the 4th Plenary Sessions, and the Central Economic Working Conference, and earnestly implement the decisions and deployment of the State Council. We will take supporting the "New Normal" of economic development as the main line, promoting the level of IP protection and utilization as the key work, to further unit our efforts in implementing the National IP Strategy, and make breakthroughs for building the country with strong IP competence, so as to make even more contributions to the realization of two "one hundred year's targets" and the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese People.

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