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2018 Cross-strait Patent Forum

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The attending guests from mainland China included Deputy Director-General Xu Cong of the Patent Office of the National Intellectual Property Administration(CNIPA), Vice President Ma Hao of the All-China Patent Agents Association (ACPAA), and Deputy Director Liu Jian of the International Cooperation Department of the CNIPA. On the Taiwan side, participants included Secretary-General Tsai Liensheng of the Chinese National Federation of Industries (CNFI); TIPO Director-General Hung Shu-min, and former Premier Chang Sancheng attended the occasion to give a themed speech. A total of 400 patent professionals across the strait zealously took part.

Since 2008 till its 11th term this year, the Cross-strait Patent Forum has been held every year across the strait, with Taiwan and mainland China taking turns being the host. In this way, the two sides have been able to exchange ideas fully in the IPR field. This year's topics for discussion include "Al visions and strategies," "patent policy and strategies in an Al era," "patent examination for new technologies," "opportunities and challenges of patent agencies in an Al era," "global patent strategies for new technologies," "international patent litigation strategies for new technologies," and "challenges and strategies of the patent litigation of new technologies." Experts with practical experiences all shared their remarkable thoughts at the forum, and most of the participants noted that the event was worth attending because they had benefited a great deal.



Modified classification of goods and services comes into force on January 1, 2019

The Nice Classification, 11th Edition, Version 2019 as modified by the World Intellectual Property Organization recently came into force on January 1, 2019. In response, TIPO released modified classification of goods and services based on the Nice Classification, in hopes of providing references for trademark applicants.

On the modified classification of goods and services, please see the "Combined List of Changes Made to the Class Headings and Explanatory Notes of the Nice Classification, 11th Edition, Version 2019" and "Comparisons between Version 2018 and Version 2019 of

For more information, please visit TIPO's webpage at: https://www.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xltem=665008&ctNode=7573&mp=1



Statistics section of the Taiwan Patent Search System launched in December 2018

TIPO's Taiwan Patent Search System offers full-text patent search function for the TW patents, prosecution status and legal status. To improve service quality, TIPO recently set up a statistics section to provide users with customized statistics.

At the statistics section, depending on individual needs, a user may set a time range and certain conditions (such as patent type, application type, applicant name, applicant nationality, and IPC) to look at patent files. The related statistics will then be shown in forms of charts and figures. This allows the user to get a picture of grated patents in Taiwan and IP distribution trends. Finally, the user may output the charts for value-added purposes. TIPO encourages all to utilize this new service.



TIPO held 25 information meetings aimed at increasing the strengths and value of patent in 2018, to strengthen competitiveness of businesses

Since 2014, to assist businesses in grasping hold of patent application and development trends in chosen fields such as fin-tech, biomedicine, telecommunications, and precision machineries, thereby improving patent application quality, TIPO has conducted analyses on patent applications with businesses supported by government plans, such as the Taiwan Industry Innovation Platform Program and the A+ Industrial Innovation R&D Program. Our patent examiners have provided practical training on patent application, patent search and analysis, specification reading, and patent infringement to the selected businesses.

This year, 25 information meetings were held, assisting 14 businesses. A total of 754 people attended the meetings, with an average satisfaction rate of 89.32%. TIPO hopes that by so doing to increase the strengths and value of patent, TIPO can help to cultivate high-quality IP talents for industry, and to raise the awareness of the innovation, protection, and exploitation of IP right of businesses. In this way, businesses may gain a better understanding of the latest technological developments and patenting trends in the country, thereby gathering more strengths and value for IP research and development. Eventually, the businesses may bring these altogether with their current management and R&D strategies to be more competitive in the market.



Thumbs up for IPR Service Group

To enhance and advocate IP protection, TIPO gathered IP experts and scholars to organize the IPR Service Group to fulfill the related needs of all trades, while arranging speeches and tours across the country. Through on-site interactions, TIPO aims at introducing more IP knowledge to the public. In 2018, a total of 204 such events were held, as attended by 15,134 counts of people. The level of overall satisfaction was high.

Statistics show that schools and public agencies care much about "copyright for producing online teaching materials" and "copyright for performances and fine art." Companies and private groups on the other hand address more on issues related to "copyright protection and fair use of works." The lecturers explained copyright regulations through selected cases, helping the attendants to realize that copyright is not only closely related to everyday life, but can also serve as solid support to their businesses. Most of the attendants noted that the activities were truly beneficial.

New events are scheduled to kick off at the end of March 2019. Those in need are encouraged to keep an eye on TIPO's latest updates at www.tipo.gov.tw



In recent years, the number of patent applications has seen a significant growth, due to rapid economic developments around the world. Thus, the globe's IP offices are all actively signing Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) programs to share examination results, thereby ultimately reducing the patent backlog.

There are two types of PPH, Normal PPH and PPH MOTTAINAI. Normal PPH is a framework which enables an application, whose claims have been determined to be allowable/patentable in the Office of First Filing (OFF), to have the corresponding application filed in the Office of Second Filing (OSF) advanced out of turn for examination while at the same time allowing the OSF to exploit the search and examination results of the OFF. PPH MOTTAINAI is an enhanced version of the PPH program which enables an application, whose claims have been determined to be allowable/patentable by the Office of Earlier Examination (OEE), to undergo an accelerated examination at the Office of Later Examination (OLE), regardless of which office an application was first filed with.

So far, TIPO has a Normal PPH with the United States (effective since Sept. 1, 2011), and has signed PPH MOTTAINAI with Japan (effective since May 1, 2012), Spain (effective since Oct. 1, 2013), South Korea (effective since April 1, 2015), Poland (effective since August 1, 2017), and Canada (effective since Feb. 1, 2018). The number of PPH applications is the highest between Taiwan and Japan, at 3,065, followed by 2,512 between Taiwan and USA.

On average, in 2018, it took 36.4 days for an applicant to receive an Office Action (OA) and 122.1 days to receive examination results of a PPH case. Roughly 90% of the PPH requests have been approved; the rate is much higher than that of general patent applications. This shows that PPH has effectively improved the examination process.

Indeed, the IP offices in the world have suffered from lack of examiners for long years, and as a result the examination processes becomes slower. PPH can bring benefits to both sides involved; thus, TIPO will actively formulate PPH cooperation frameworks with international counterparts. By so doing, we look forward to assisting applicants in expanding their patent portfolios around the world. Please find the introduction to PPH and related application documents at the TIPO website: https://www.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp? xltem=335512&CtNode=7556&mp=2



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Please contact us if you have any suggestion or question about our monthly news. We will make corrections or write back to you as soon as possible.

Our email address is: ipogp@tipo.gov.tw .



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