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Latest News

- ▶ **TIPO to hold briefings on IPR affairs for 2018, starting from July 3. Registration is now open.**

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- ▶ **TIPO field offices to hold IP awareness classes at SMEs and industrial parks**
- ▶ **Workshop on Copyright CMO Licensing Practices: Must-knows for Copyright Users held on June 19**
- ▶ **An information session on copyright issues involved in teaching and relevant real-world cases held by TIPO on June 27**
- ▶ **TIPO publishes the English language version of its 2017 annual report**

TIPO News & Events

Enforcement

- ▶ **TIPO announces its updated list of designated goods and services for trademark application and trademark searches**
- ▶ **The list of examples of items that do not require a disclaimer for trademark registration was revised and published, and came into effect on June 5, 2018**
- ▶ **TIPO publishes draft amendments to the Patent Act and collects feedback from the public**

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The briefings will cover three major topics; they are: introduction of highlights of the draft amendments to the Patent Act; the analysis of evidence for the examination on the invalidity of patents, covering written evidence, physical evidence, and information on the Internet; as well as an introduction to the Taiwan Global Patent Search System (GPSS). In addition, there will also be Q&A sessions on general IP topics for the industrial sector and IP agents at the end of each briefing. Registration is now open and TIPO welcomes participants from all circles.

For more information, please visit:

<https://activity.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=37092&ctNode=817&mp=1>



TIPO field offices to hold IP awareness classes at SMEs and industrial parks

To help SMEs gain a better understanding about IP issues involved in the process of commercialization and production, and to support them in their application of IPs as well as their access to IPR protection information, field offices of TIPO have started running IP awareness classes for SMEs and industrial parks for the year of 2018. The service is free of charge and tailor-made courses are available at request.

Businesses will be able to choose one of the following types of courses:

1. On-site classes: provided by TIPO field office directors on venues designated by SMES.
2. Video classes: provided by senior TIPO officials specializing in patents, trademarks, copyright, or trade secrets, to SMEs at TIPO field offices through video calls.

Under the scheme, in March, the Hsinchu field office talked to local businesses about the advantages and disadvantages of expanding their patent portfolios of utility models; while the Kaohsiung field office introduced itself, what services it provides, classes it offers, and its support for SMEs, at an opening ceremony of a cultural and creative industry cluster—which was also a presentation event showing results of promoted vendor exchanges—held by the National Pingtung University. In May, the Tainan field office held a patent promotional event for local SMEs, while the Kaohsiung field office talked about IP protection and IP application at the Neipu Industrial Park. These customized patent classes have all been very well received by local businesses.

For travel directions to and contact details of TIPO branch offices, please visit:

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/lp.asp?CtNode=7467&CtUnit=3617&BaseDSD=7&mp=1>



Workshop on Copyright CMO Licensing Practices: Must-knows for Copyright Users held on June 19

Business owners have a tendency to play music in their business establishments as it is an effective way to attract clients. However, some of them just have no idea that they are required to obtain a license before they can play music at a public venue, while some others simply do not know how to get a license. To help users gain a better understanding about this, TIPO held the Workshop on Copyright CMO Licensing Practices: Must-knows for Copyright Users on June 19, introducing to micro business operators (including owners doing business in high street premises or of individual stores)—who usually have a tendency to play music in their business venues—as well as owners of performance venues topics such as the collective management organization (CMO) system in Taiwan, how it works, licensing practices, as well as how to obtain legal copyright licensing and why it is important. Representatives of major CMOs in Taiwan have been invited to share their experience in licensing copyright with users through face-to-face dialogue. By so doing, it is hoped that more users will be encouraged to obtain a license before making use of copyrighted works.



An information session on copyright issues involved in teaching and relevant real-world cases held by TIPO on June 27

It is not uncommon for teachers to make teaching materials by making photocopies of other people's copyrighted books or articles, or by making use of articles or images created by others, or materials provided by publishers in their teaching. And these are all activities that involve the use of various types of copyrighted works. To improve teachers' knowledge about copyright matters, TIPO held an information session on copyright issues involved in teaching and relevant real-world cases at the Dadun Cultural Center in Taichung on June 27. In the event, Assistant Professor Chang Chung-hsin of the School of Law of the Soochow University was invited to talk about possible copyright matters involved in teaching and share relevant real-world cases, in the hope of helping participants gain a better understanding about copyright while promoting intellectual property rights protection on campus.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=670303&ctNode=7127&mp=1>



TIPO publishes the English language version of its 2017 annual report

TIPO has focused its work on improving IP quality, supporting the industry, and promoting international exchanges in the year of 2017. By so doing, it has improved the value of IPs in Taiwan, provided better IP services to SMEs, and worked with international partners across a wide range of issues.

For example, in terms of examination efficiency, the average first-action pendency and the average disposal pendency for invention patents have dropped to 9 and 16 months, and those for trademarks have dropped to 5 and 7 months, respectively, the best over the past five years. As for examination quality, TIPO has published guidelines on patent examination quality review, and launched the Patent Examination Quality Review 2.0, a project dedicated to further improving the framework for patent examination quality reviews while introducing the Patent Application Face-to-face Interview 2.0 project, in the hope of cultivating patents of even better quality.

In terms of its support of SMEs, TIPO, along with its branch offices, have provided tailor-made classes to SMEs to equip them with the basic knowledge of IP matters and how to improve patent quality. Moreover, information sessions were held for IP professionals to improve their competence in design patent. TIPO also published trend analysis on important industries. By doing so, TIPO aimed to provide the industries with the professional and just in-time support they needed to expand their IP portfolio around the world.

As for international exchanges, TIPO's MOU on Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) with its Japanese counterpart has been extended for another three years. In addition, an MOU on IPR enforcement cooperation has been signed with the US; an MOU on PPH cooperation signed with Poland, and an MOU on the mutual cooperation in the field of deposit of biological material for the purpose of patent procedure was signed with the UK, showing TIPO's multidimensional cooperation with many international partners.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=671774&ctNode=7127&mp=1>



TIPO announces its updated list of designated goods and services for trademark application and trademark searches

To better reflect reality, TIPO revised its list of designated goods and services for trademark application, adding 59 new items, removing 10, and revising 14 category names and additional remarks. The new list will come into effect on July 1, 2018.

The updated list will also apply to the e-application system for trademarks (the exact date of the update of the system will be announced by the Information Management Office of TIPO). TIPO would like to urge future applicants who are going to apply for the registration of their trademarks through the e-application system to download the latest list and have a look, so that they use the revised wording of goods and services in their applications—which should be in line with contents on the e-application system—allowing them to enjoy a NT\$300 fee discount.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=670756&ctNode=7127&mp=1>。



The list of examples of items that do not require a disclaimer for trademark registration was revised and published, and came into effect on June 5, 2018

The list of example of items that do not require a disclaimer for trademark registration was firstly published on May 2, 2012, and it came into effect on July 1 of the same year. Since then, TIPO has gained extensive real-world experience in deciding what non-distinctive elements might raise doubts over the scope of trademark rights during a trademark application examination. With the experience, lately, TIPO revised the list of examples of each class of designated goods/services that do not require a disclaimer, in the hope of offering a clearer guidance to TIPO trademark examiners as well as trademark applicants alike.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=670158&ctNode=7127&mp=1>



TIPO publishes draft amendments to the Patent Act and collects feedback from the public

In response to domestic economic de-regulations, the adjustment of international norms, and in order to further improve patent examination practice, TIPO has drafted amendments to the Patent Act, and held two public hearings on them on December 21, 2017, and January 15, 2018, respectively. Results of updates of the draft amendments were later put online on May 17, 2018.

Major revisions proposed in the draft amendments include: adding relief measure of failure to claim the priority of an earlier application filed in a foreign country or with a WTO member; extending the practice of division of invention application to utility model and design applications as well as their request period; extending the period for making a request for substantive examination of an invention application; specifying the period of time utility model applicants can request for an amendment; conducting examination of utility model patent amendments to prevent applicants from enlarging the scope of their claims; and extending the protection period for design patents.

To make the draft amendments more comprehensive, TIPO welcomes opinions from the public. Please feel free to send your thoughts or ideas about the draft amendments to TIPO by mail or email by July 16, 2018.

For details of the current version of the draft amendments, please visit:

<https://www.tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=669103&ctNode=7452&mp=1>



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